

# Awá – the Campaign

As well as Survival, other organizations have campaigned either for the Awá specifically, or all Indians affected by the Greater Carajás Project. In Brazil, the Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI) has taken a leading role, together with the indigenous organizations network COIAB, the Comissão Pró-Índio de São Paulo, the Centro de Trabalho Indigenista, and the Instituto Socioambiental. The Brazilian government's indigenous affairs department (FUNAI) has pressed for Awá land to be protected. Internationally, CAFOD has supported education projects with the Awá.

Some of Survival's actions are emboldened below.

## 1950s

Invasion of ranchers and loggers following new BR322 road.

## 1951-1953

A Survival founder, Francis Huxley, works with the Ka'apor tribe, recording accounts of their uncontacted Awá neighbours.

## 1967

Iron ore found in Carajás hills.

## 1971

**Survival invited by Brazilian government to report on Indian situation.** A Survival founder, Robin Hanbury-Tenison, visits Gavião tribe and reports serious health problems. He recommends no roads should go through uncontacted Indians' territory.

## 1973-76

FUNAI contact missions. Of 56 individuals contacted in 1976, over half die within 4 years.

## 1978

Gunmen attack uncontacted Awá, killing several and capturing a boy. His father, Karapiru, escapes and spends 10 years alone until walking into a Brazilian village. Later, he is reunited with the only other survivor, his son.

## 1979

Group of Awá poisoned by invaders: 7 killed.

## 1982

The EC makes its first loan outside Europe, the largest investment in the Carajás Project (US\$600 million). **Survival calls on EC to reconsider and impose conditions to protect Indians.** Mining giant, CVRD, and FUNAI agree US\$13.6 million grant, demanded by World Bank as a condition of its US \$300 million loan. Less than 2% given for Indian protection.

## 1985

Carajás railway inaugurated, Awá land opened to colonists and loggers. Working group recommends 276,000 hectares be demarcated for Awá.

## 1987

**Survival launches Greater Carajás Project campaign in UK parliament, publishing *Bound in Misery and Iron – The Impact of the Grande Carajás Programme on the Indians of Brazil*.** Survival lobbies Brazilian government, EU and World Bank.

## 1988

FUNAI announces 147,500 hectare Awá territory, less than 60% of recommendation. CIMI launches campaign, 'Land for the Awá'. World Bank admits 'The Awá are endangered... as regards their survival... [including] assault and murder by non-Indians.' European Parliament agrees that the Awá are endangered and, 'little has been done to protect the Indian communities...'

## 1989

Survival holds vigils at Brazilian embassies on Awá and others harmed by Carajás Project.

## 1990

Manaus meeting of 100 scientists declares Awá region a conservation priority.

## 1991

**Survival publishes action bulletin entitled *Nomadic tribe faces extinction*.**

## 1992

**Survival visits Awá. FUNAI orders demarcation of Awá land, but a court says a ranch has right to remain inside.** Government proposes further reduction of Awá territory to 118,000 hectares.

## 1993

**Survival publishes action bulletin, *Government inaction condemns Awá*, and successfully lobbies World Bank to make demarcation of Awá land a condition of its loan to Brazilian mining company.** Railway blockaded and FUNAI hostages

held by Indians, including Awá. Mining company promises to fund demarcation. Hostages are released unharmed. Prof. Terence Turner (later Survival board member) testifies on Awá situation to US congressional hearing, saying, 'The Awá face extinction from the invasion of ranchers and settlers.' **Survival calls for demarcation of Awá territory to the UN. Brazil government responds, stating demarcation will be finished by November.** It isn't.

#### 1994-96

Prof. William Balée testifies to US Congressional Committee about destruction faced by Awá and neighbouring tribes. British MP tables parliamentary question on demarcation. Survival protests at Brazilian embassies about plans to reduce Awá and other Indian territories, and funds medical work with the Awá and Ka'apor and Tenetehara neighbours.

#### 1999

Brazilian government lists 240 illegal occupations of Awá territory.

#### 2000-01

**Survival visits Awá and publishes urgent bulletin, *Uncontacted Indians face extinction*, the book, *Disinherited – the Indians of Brazil*, which highlights Awá situation and a report on the world's most vulnerable tribes, including the Awá.** It highlights World Bank and EU broken promises.

#### 2002

UN special rapporteur highlights Awá case at Council on Human Rights. **Survival visits Awá and publishes urgent bulletin, *Brazil nomads face extinction*; supporters send thousands of letters to a Brazilian judge.** Survival advises BBC TV report. Survival and Brazilian organizations launch joint campaign for land demarcation. **Brazilian judge orders demarcation of Awá territory.**

#### 2003

**Survival delivers over 40,000 signatures to Brazilian embassies, urging government to implement plan to protect Awá area.**

#### 2005

**Awa territory registered and ratified on 19 April, Brazil's 'Indian Day'.**

#### 2007

Brazilian anthropologist concludes Awá still facing genocide.

#### 2009

FUNAI finds signs of uncontacted Awá in the Araribóia territory. **Survival publishes urgent bulletin, *Uncontacted tribe faces annihilation*, asking supporters to write to Judge Madeira to remove invaders. Judge visits Awá territory saying, 'We are dealing with a real genocide.' He rules all invaders must leave in 180 days.**

Ranchers appeal; the ruling is suspended. Illegal logging increases. Awá territory suffers highest level of deforestation of all indigenous territories in Amazon. **Arco de Fogo/Aturawaka Operation ordered to remove invaders in Awá and other indigenous territories.**

#### 2010

Nearly one third of Awá territory now destroyed. FUNAI reports illegal towns and roads inside. Survival visits Awá. Mayor of logging town Zé Doca claims tribe does not exist. Dozens of Awá respond by camping in front of town hall, and CIMI launches 'We exist' campaign. Awá go to capital to ask for action from Attorney General.

#### 2011

FUNAI's Bruno Fragoso states on TV, 'If rapid emergency measures are not taken, the future of this people is extinction.' **Survival and 20 organizations and experts write to President, urging action. Brazil's environment agency closes sawmills and arrests loggers. Survival visits Awá.**

#### 2012

Brazilian TV reports sawmills are only 5 kms from Awá land; wood is confiscated. A Judge's ruling that invaders must leave Awá territory is published. Brazil's Indian agency says it will maintain a permanent presence in one Awá area, to ensure Indian land respected.

#### **Survival launches new campaign with short film and appeal on the Awá.**

Within days of launch, Minister of Justice receives over 10,000 emails from Survival supporters. Awá make unprecedented trip to Brasilia to push for their land to be protected. FUNAI's President informs Survival that the Awá are top priority and an eviction operation is being planned. Survival visits Awá.

#### 2013

Loggers operating just 3km from Juriti community. Over 55,000 messages sent to Minister of Justice. **Survival's 'Awáicon' movement engages hundreds of supporters worldwide. Survival and Brazilian NGO CIMI send urgent petition to Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** which requests information from the Brazilian government about the Awá. Operation Hiléia shuts down sawmills operating near Awá land. Globo, Vanity Fair and the Sunday Times publish big features on Awá with photos by Sebastião Salgado. President Dilma Rousseff's Chief Cabinet Minister warns eviction of loggers on Awá land will be a difficult battle. Loggers and ranchers protest at eviction orders. Minister of Justice promises eviction operation by the end of 2013. Judge Madeira rules that all non-Indians in the Awá indigenous territory must be notified that they have 40 days to leave.