

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
COMISSAO INTERAMERICANA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS  
COMMISSION INTERAMERICANE DES DROIT DE L'HOMME

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006, USA

April 1, 2011

To:  
Sociedade Paraense de Direitos Humanos  
Avenida Governador Jose Malcher  
1381, Nazaré, Belém, Pará, Brazil  
Email: sddh\_didh@hotmail.com

**REF: Indigenous Communities of the Xingu River Basin, Pará  
MC-382-10  
Brazil**

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to address you on behalf of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) with reference to your request for precautionary measures on behalf of the Indigenous Communities of the Xingu River Basin, Pará, Brazil.

On this occasion, it is appropriate that I inform you that today, the IACHR addressed the State (Government of Brazil) in virtue of article 25 of its Regulations in order to request the adoption of urgent measures to protect the lives and personal integrity of members of the following indigenous communities of the Xingu River basin: Arara of the Volta Grande do Xingu; Juruna of the Paquiçamba, Juruna of Km 17; Xikrin of Trincadeira Bacajá; Asuriní Koatinemo; Kararaô and Kayapó of the Kararaô indigenous territory; Parakanã of Apyterewa; Araweté of Ipixuna; Arara of the indigenous land Arara, Arara of Cachoeira Seca, and the indigenous communities living in voluntary isolation from the Xingu basin. Concretely, the Commission requested of the Government of Brazil:

"Therefore, the IACHR requests the Government of Your Excellency to immediately suspend the licensing process for the Belo Monte hydroelectric project and prevent the implementation of any material works of implementation, until the following minimum conditions are met:

1. Fulfill the obligation to perform consultations in accordance with the American Convention on Human Rights and the jurisprudence of the Inter-American system, in terms of consultations that are free, prior, informed, in good faith, and culturally appropriate, with the goal of reaching an agreement, and in compliance with all other requirements set out above in relation to each of the affected indigenous communities, which are beneficiaries of these protective measures.
2. Ensure that, in order to carry out such prior consultation processes, to ensure the informed character of the consultation, that benefited indigenous communities have access to a Social and Environmental Impact Assessment of the project in a format that is accessible in terms of its length and its translation into their respective native languages.

3. Adopt vigorous and comprehensive measures to protect the lives and personal integrity of the members of the indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation of the Xingu River basin, whose presence was acknowledged by the Brazilian State itself, as well as their collective existence as indigenous communities.
4. Adopt vigorous and comprehensive measures to prevent the spread of diseases and epidemics among indigenous communities to be benefited from these precautionary measures, as a result of the implementation of the Belo Monte hydroelectric project, as well as with regard to those illnesses caused by a massive population influx.

Moreover, it was requested that information on the compliance with these precautionary measures be submitted (by the government) within 15 days, and that such information be periodically updated. After hearing the observations of the parties, IACHR decides whether it is appropriate to extend or suspend these measures.

The Commission publishes on its website ([www.cidh.org](http://www.cidh.org)) a summary of the precautionary measures that have been adopted. In that summary, the identity of the beneficiaries of the precautionary measures will appear, with the exception of the names of children, adolescents and victims of sexual violence. If the beneficiaries of these precautionary measures would prefer that their full names not be disclosed on the website they must inform the Commission immediately in writing.

Signed:

A. Santiago  
Executive Secretary, IACHR