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Boa Vista – Roraima, 18 May 2011

YANOMAMI AND YE'KUANA LETTER

Minister of Health, **Alexandre Padilha**

Special Secretary for Indigenous Health, **Antônio Alves de Sousa**

We Yanomami and Ye'kuana are writing this letter to send directly to the Special Secretary for Indigenous Health in Brasília and to the Minister of Health.

The Yanomami and Ye'kuana peoples are against the nomination of Andréia Maia Oliveira, since the politicians of the Roraima state have nominated Andréia Maia Oliveira as coordinator of the Yanomami and Ye'kuana Health District. We are very angry... the politicians did not carry out consultations in Brasília nor did they consult the leaders in the Yanomami territory. We do not know what the authorities are up to behind closed doors, when it comes to the health situation.

We also want to strengthen indigenous health policy because decisions about the forms of health care must have the backing of the Yanomami and Ye'kuana people, this accommodating for the specificities in our health care to which we have the right, according to the Constitution of 1988.

We Yanomami and Ye'kuana have Joana Claudete as a great ally in health care in the Yanomami territory. Considering the health disaster in the Yanomami territory, we fear that the health service will be greatly impaired if Joana Claudete is not kept on as Health coordinator for the Ye'kuana and Yanomami since she already has a long-standing relationship with indigenous health, as well as being qualified in anthropology, nursing and laboratory work.

The Yanomami are protesting in the states of Roraima and Amazonas where the Yanomami population of about 19,000 people is located, who depend on the health care policy.

We Yanomami and Ye'kuana do not accept the nomination of someone who has no understanding of our health care conditions. The Secretary must understand these, as this is a health service for a population with numerous complications related to recent contact with surrounding society, as recognized by the Brazilian State.

The Secretariat thus continues to threaten the health of the Yanomami and Ye'kuana, whether by negligence in health care or by not consulting the Indians about the changes in indigenous health policy, according to the specificities of Brazilian law and international agreements ratified by Brazil, like ILO Convention 169.

Therefore we demand that any changes made in management positions that impact health care in the Yanomami territory are preceded by a consultation of the people involved in indigenous health care policy, in this case Ye'kuana and Yanomami in Amazonas and Roraima states.

Marcelo Lima Lopes and Romero Juca continue to threaten Ye'kuana and Yanomami health in Roraima state.

Again we would like to express our opposition to the attitudes taken around the appointment of Andréia Maia Oliveira to coordinate the Yanomami and Ye'kuana health district (DSEY).

The nomination of Joana Claudete das Mercês Schuertz must be honoured, as she is the person who has the competence and commitment for this work with the Yanomami and Ye'kuana peoples; she is like our mother and has years of experience in the health service, she is very qualified.

Throughout Brazil Indigenous Health Districts have changed and coordinators for the DSEYs have been appointed. Why in the state of Roraima has the coordinator of the Yanomami and Ye'kuana indigenous health district not been appointed?

Sincerely,

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Hutukara Yanomami Association's Health Coordinator

Mauricio Toma Rocha

Vice President of the Hutukara Yanomami Association

Enio Mayanawa

Hutukara Yanomami Association's Education Coordinator