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Mr. Minister of Justice Márcio Thomaz Bastos  
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Berlin, 12.12.2006

Dear Minister Márcio Thomaz Bastos,

Through this letter, we would like to express our support of the Indigenous Tupinikim and Guarani nations of Espírito Santo in their fight to demarcate their land. According to anthropological reports published by GT 1299/2005, that reaffirm the conclusions of GTs 0783/94 and 087/98, the indigenous lands – called “Tupiniquim” and “Comboios” - , are 18,070 hectares.

On the 12th of September, FUNAI sent the two files (“Tupiniquim” and “Comboios”) to the Minister of Justice, so that he can write two new demarcation acts. The moment arrived to correct the error of ex-Minister of Justice Iris Rezende, proven by the Federal Public Prosecution Service of Espírito Santo in May 2005, and publish two new demarcation acts for 11,009 hectares of Tupinikim/Guarani lands.

Besides, any more delay in this conflict would be unacceptable, such as demanding more studies, once already four have been realized since 1994 and all affirm the rights of the Tupinikim and Guarani. Also, we are very concerned with the present situation in the region, because Aracruz is realizing a defamatory campaign of the Aracruz Celulose company, disseminating the racial prejudice against the indigenous communities.

We also would like to remember the commitments assumed by your excellency and the president of FUNAI during a public meeting in the State Parliament of Espírito Santo on 09/02/2006: demarcating the Tupinikim/Guarani lands as soon as possible, without exceeding the established legal time limits.

We have no doubts about the rights of the Tupinikim and Guarani and are confident about the uncompromising position of the government in defense of the Federal Constitution and of the rights of the native peoples, defended in International Agreements such as Convention 169 of the ILO, ratified by Brazil.

We reiterate our support to the Tupinikim and Guarani cause in Espírito Santo.

Sincerely,

Peter Gerhardt, Robin Wood  
Monika Nolle, ARA  
Christian Offer, ecodevelop  
Hermann Edelmann, Pro Regenwald  
Reinhard Behrend, Rettet den Regenwald  
Lydia Bartz, urgewald