**Brazil: Risk of bloodshed in the Amazon unless government protects Indigenous peoples from illegal land seizures and logging**

 **ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND AND TESTIMONIES**

In addition to the three territories researched by Amnesty International, other Indigenous territories in Brazil also face increasing pressure from illegal intruders. In February 2019, the non-governmental organisation Repórter Brasil reported the existence of at least 14 demarcated Indigenous territories with recent invasions or intrusions from illegal intruders.

Indigenous territories are protected by Brazil’s laws and international human rights law. The Constitution recognizes Indigenous peoples’ rights to the land, its use and natural resources. Illegal land seizures and logging inside Indigenous territories constitute crimes under federal law. Brazil has ratified ILO Convention 169 which guarantees indigenous peoples the right to free, prior and informed consultation over projects that affect their lands and rights.

## The Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau territory

Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau territory comprises an area of 1,867 thousand hectares in Rondônia state, northern Brazil. The process of demarcation of the territory was concluded in 1991. The Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people with a population of 200 live in six villages in the northern part of the territory. In April 2019, Amnesty International visited two of the villages close to the locations of recent intrusions and interviewed community members.

Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people told Amnesty International that on 11 January 2019 they confronted about 40 invaders, who were armed with sickles and machetes, cutting a path into their territory about two kilometers away from one Indigenous village and just beside the road they use to enter and leave their territory. When told to leave, the intruders allegedly replied that more intruders would be coming and threatened to kill the Indigenous children.

Another intrusion into Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau territory took place in early April 2019. Local media reported intruders saying they entered the Indigenous territory under the assumption the government would divide up the territory and allocate titles to them. Local media reported the presence of more than one thousand intruders in the Nova Floresta area, while FUNAI communicated to local indigenous people that the intrusion likely involved 500 intruders. The actual number of illegal intruders involved in the April 2019 intrusion is uncertain.

Soon after the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people denounced the invasion to authorities, FUNAI and federal police officers went to the start of the path which had been cut by the illegal intruders but did not arrest anyone. In late April 2019, a new operation conducted by FUNAI, Federal Police, IBAMA and ICMBio arrested two people.

## The Karipuna territory

The Karipuna Indigenous territory comprises an area of 153 thousand hectares in the municipalities of Porto Velho and Nova Mamoré (Rondônia state) and was demarcated as such in 1998. The Karipuna are a Indigenous people with 58 members and the only village lies on the banks of the Jaci Paraná river. Beside the village, there is a plantation where they grow manioc, pumpkin, sweet potato, banana and corn.

Karipuna leaders told Amnesty International that the closest paths into their territory are two kilometers away from their village and they had been recently re-cleared. The presence of intruders, even during the rainy season, coupled with death threats they received few months ago, limit their activities such as hunting and collection of cashews. They fear the risk of conflict as illegal intruders get even closer.

A 26-year-old Karipuna leader said:

“We are few to do the surveillance and we don’t have police powers. It is very risky and we are already being threatened. If government doesn’t act, we might lose our territory, it might be the end of the Karipuna. I don’t know if there are new paths*,* because we don’t patrol so often to avoid contact with intruders. They are armed with guns.”

Despite an interim court decision from June 2018 ordering federal and state authorities to implement a plan to protect the territory with a minimum of 10 days of surveillance per month, government patrols have been severely curtailed.

## The Arara territory

The Indigenous territory Arara is located in Pará state, northern Brazil. Demarcated in 1991, the territory with 274 thousand hectares is home to about 400 Arara people living in six different villages. Four of them lie along the Iriri river, while two others are in the northern limits of the territory, adjacent to route BR-230, also known as the Trans-Amazonian highway*.*

Arara people told Amnesty International in December 2018 illegal intruders began opening new paths into their territory fromalong the highway and marking plots of land with their names. The plots were separated by a few hundred metres. Confronted by FUNAI’s agents in an operation in late December 2018, they reportedly told the agents that Bolsonaro will authorize the sub-division of the land and logging.

After reports made by FUNAI, in January 2019 IBAMA and Federal Police flew over the Arara territory and identified three new sites of deforestation. Another attempt of illegal land seizure was identified in a more remote location of the territory in February 2019. At that time, Arara people submitted a letter to the Public Prosecutor’s Office denouncing the invasions and requesting government support to avoid a conflict. According to Arara people and authorities, illegal land seizure has been temporarily halted by government intervention, while illegal logging remains a problem.

During a visit to the territory in April 2019, Amnesty International researchers saw pathsand roads used for illegal logging. They also heard a chainsaw being used nearby as they walked along one of the paths. Arara people told Amnesty International illegal logging continues to take place in the territory. According to a 43-years-old Arara man:

“FUNAI used to go with us to inspect sometimes. The last mission was in February. Since then, they didn’t provide more. We denounced and they [FUNAI] claim they don’t have resources. If measures are not taken, there will be more land seizures”.