



Deaths as a result of conflict and massacre in the Yanomami Indigenous Land, increase in murders and slave labor mark the year 2021

The Yanomami Indigenous Land (TIY) is one of the territories most severely affected by illegal mining. Legally demarcated in 1992, the TIY is the largest in Brazil in terms of area, with 9.6 million hectares, and is home to the Yanomami and Ye'kwana peoples. There are also eight records of indigenous groups in isolation, of which one has already been confirmed - being known as the Moxihatëtëa. Mining activity has been expanding rapidly in the country since at least 2012, with a significant impact on the Amazon Rainforest.

In 2020, the CPT Documentation Center – Dom Tomás Balduino had recorded 9 deaths as a result of rural conflicts, most of them in the state of Amazonas (6). **In 2021, 109 deaths were recorded as a result of conflicts, which means an increase of 1,110%. Of the total, 101 deaths were recorded in the state of Roraima. All of them from Yanomami indigenous people.** All caused by the action of miners. Since 2020, the Hutukara Association has warned authorities of the risks of escalating violence in the TIY regions where mining has been expanding. **According to data obtained by the TIY's Illegal Mining Monitoring System, the Uraricoera river channel is the region most affected by the activity, concentrating 45% of the area degraded by illegal mining in the territory.**

The massacre

Apiaú is another region that has been threatened by the presence of illegal mining. In November 2021, a delegation of leaders informed Hutukara about the deterioration of community living conditions in Serrinha village, with the spread of alcohol and drugs brought by miners who use the community as a dormitory. **On the same occasion, the leaders reported on the murder of three indigenous people from the Moxihatëtëa¹ group in isolation around August 2021. An indigenous person who would have witnessed the event described that the massacre was motivated by the isolated attack against the “Faixa Preta” mine, located a few kilometers from the camp area.**

Violence against the person: 75% increase in murders

In 2021, violence against the person was brutal. Only in the states of the legal Amazon there were 28 murders, 80% of the total. The action of “on-demand pistols” and “agromilitias”, as well as public agents, **caused 35 murders due to rural conflicts in Brazil in 2021.** Of this total, **33 people were men and two were women.**

Among these occurrences, **two of them correspond to massacres, one being the massacre of indigenous people in the Yanomami Indigenous Land, and the other, three landless people or “campers” murdered at the Acampamento Ademar Ferreira, in August 2021, in the state of Rondônia.** In the same period, **there were also 27 assassination attempts and 132 death threats.** In addition to these data, **75 physical assaults with various injuries, a countless number of intimidation and humiliating**

¹ The CPT considers a massacre any occurrence of violence against a person in which 3 or more people are murdered.

attempts at subjugation were recorded, and 13 instances of torture practiced mainly by private agents designated as “farmers”.

We highlight that in 2022, still in partial data, there are already 14 murders in rural conflicts. The majority occurred in the state of Pará (4 murders), where the first massacre in rural conflicts of the year was recorded, in the municipality of São Félix do Xingu. On January 9, the bodies of José Gomes, known as Zé do Lago, his wife Márcia Nunes and their daughter Joane Nunes, were found on the family property. They lived there for over 20 years, developed forest preservation work and maintained a turtle breeding project. They were known and recognized for the environmental work they performed. The land occupied by them is within the jurisdiction of Land Institute of the Pará state (ITERPA) and is part of the Environmental Preservation Area (APA) Triunfo do Xingú, a conservation area with more than 1.5 million hectares. After three months, we still do not have a position from the State regarding the investigations of the case.

In total, 100 people were arrested in 2021, an increase of 45% from the previous year. Of these, 30, almost a third of the total, were arrested in a conflict in Rondônia, on November 17th. Almost half of those arrested in 2021 were in the state of Rondônia.

Rondônia was the state with the highest number of murders (11). Maranhão follows with 9 murders, and then Roraima, Tocantins and Rio Grande do Sul, each with 3 murders. Among the victims, 10 were indigenous, 9 landless, 6 squatters, 3 quilombolas, 2 settlers, 2 small landowners, 2 babassu coconut breakers and 1 ally. **The number of landless people murdered increased by 350% from 2020 to 2021, from 2 to 9, in the same way the number of squatters increased by 500%, from 1 in 2020 to 6 in 2021. number of tortured, from 9 to 13, an increase of 44% and of victims, which increased from 54 to 75, an increase of 39%.**

Five LGBTI+ people are victims of violence in the countryside, according to an unprecedented survey by Cedoc-CPT

The data on violence against the person, published in the publication *Conflitos no Campo Brasil 2021*, present, for the first time, information regarding the sexual orientation and gender expression of victims of violence in the countryside. In 2021, five LGBTI+ people were victims of violence in the countryside, as already shown in the data published in the report. The violence cited are: humiliation and imprisonment; murder; intimidation and torture. The categories that suffered violence were two - indigenous and landless -, with four of these victims identified as landless and one indigenous - a woman and four men.

Slave labor: highest number of people rescued since 2013

In 2021, labor inspection rescued 1,726 people. This is the highest number since 2013. An increase of 113% compared to 2020. There were 169 cases of slave labor in rural areas in 2021, an increase of 76% compared to the previous year. The state of Minas Gerais leads with 51 cases and 757 people rescued. Then comes the state of Pará, with 27 cases, and Goiás with 17.

Of the total number of people rescued from this criminal practice, **64 were children and adolescents, which corresponds to an increase of 121% over the previous year.** The Southeast and Center-West regions concentrated the largest number of minors enslaved, 19 each. These two regions also account for the highest numbers of cases of slave labor, workers in the complaint and those freed in 2021. In the Southeast region, 59 cases were recorded and 919 rescued, while in the Midwest there were 37 cases and 415 rescued in 2021.

Attempts to destroy the living conditions of rural people increase

In 2021, 2,143 families were evicted, **an increase of 12% compared to 2020**. Likewise, there was an **18% increase in the number of families expelled in 2021**. The number increased from 469 in 2020 to 555 in 2021. More than 71 million hectares were or are in conflict situations, equivalent to 8.35% of the national territory. **Indigenous lands constitute the overwhelming majority of these lands, which have suffered aggressive actions of eviction and violent intrusions**, corresponding to 81% of areas in a situation of social tension and conflict. The so-called landless workers constitute the second identity category with the most areas under bloody pressure and conflict, seconded by squatters. The total number of families affected by the occurrence of land conflicts during 2021 reflects the upward trend of the last five years, corresponding to 164,782, of which 17,706 are threatened with judicial evictions.

Regarding the data on the number of families involved in conflicts over land in the last ten years, the spectacular increase in the number of families who have suffered invasion of their lands since the beginning of the current government (2019-2021) stands out: nothing less than 206% more than in 2018. Regarding the occurrence of conflicts over land in Brazil in the last biennium, among the first five states with the highest numbers (Pará, Maranhão, Bahia, Mato Grosso and Rondônia), four are in the Legal Amazon. **In 2021, the Amazon recorded 52% of conflicts over land in Brazil and 61% of the number of families involved**. When looking at the number of disputed areas, the scale of the conflicts shows the whole reason for the disputes over land and territories in the region.

In the Amazon Rainforest, there were also 64.5% of threats of expulsion, 63% of contamination by pesticides, 78% of illegal deforestation, 87% of expulsions, 81% of land grabbing, 82% of invasions, 69% of gunshots, 73% of omissions/connivance by the State and 70% of violations in the conditions of existence.

Resistance

The actions of occupations and repossessions had a significant increase in 2021. In total, they went from 29 in 2020 to 50 in 2021, an increase of 72%, and from 1,391 families in 2020, to 4,761 families in 2021. An increase of 242% .

The Southeast region was the main responsible for this increase. It went from 4 occupations/retakes in 2020 with 207 families, to 19 in 2021, with 3,386 families. An increase of 375% in cases and more than 1,535% in the families involved. This leap is explained by the coordinated action of the Frente Nacional de Lutas Campo e Cidade (FNL) in the state of São Paulo last year, resuming this type of action with great enthusiasm after the decline in 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Conflicts over water in 2021: cases increase in the North and Northeast regions of the country

In 2021, 304 water conflicts were recorded in Brazil involving 56,135 families, according to data from CPT's Cedoc. There was a slight drop in the number of cases and families involved compared to the previous year. In 2020 there were 350 conflicts with 56,292 families. However, attention is drawn to the increase in cases in the North and Northeast regions.

The North region had an 18% increase in conflicts over water and a 54% increase in the number of families involved in these conflicts. The Northeast region had a 41% increase in cases, but there was an almost half reduction in the number of families involved.

It is important to highlight that: **the state of Bahia showed an increase of 208% in cases, being the state with the highest number in the year**, but there was a reduction in the number of families involved. The state of Pará had a 52% increase in cases, being the second state with the highest number, with a 105% increase in the families involved. The state of Maranhão had the biggest increase in the year 2021, with 830% in the number of cases and 58% in the number of families involved. It is also worth mentioning the state of Roraima, where in 2020 there was no record of conflicts over water and in 2021 there were 6 cases involving 8,155 families. This leap is due to the record of mining conflicts in the Yanomami territory.

Bahia had the highest number of mining-related water conflicts – 43 (39 of them in the São Francisco River Basin). Even when we analyze the data from Brasil, we notice that the trend continues and 30% of conflicts over water were provoked by international mining companies, 19% by business sectors, 14% by farmers, 10% by the installation of hydroelectric plants, 9% by government entities (federal, state and municipal) and 8% for the activities of miners.

Regarding the main people affected in conflicts over water, the predominance of traditional communities in the center of those affected by such conflicts stands out, constituting the most affected subjects: 19% of riverine people, 14% of quilombolas and 17% of indigenous peoples.

More information:

Cristiane Passos – +55 62 99307-4305

Mário Manzi – +55 62 99252-7437

Amanda Costa – +55 62 99309-6781

Andressa Zumpano – +55 62 99453-9629