



Circuit riding nurse shares drink of water with Yanomami children.

## Yanomami chief demands punishment of gold miners, others for indigenous murders

*This is the text of a letter written by Chief Davi Kopenawa Yanomami immediately after learning of the massacre of more than 70 of his people at the hands of illegal gold miners in Brazil:*

Funai Indigenous Post  
Demini, Amazonas, Brazil

August 19, 1993

I wish to inform the world that the murder of my people continues. A large number of Yanomami, including men, women and children, have just been killed by garimpeiros in villages in the area of Homoxi and Xidea.

This has already happened several times since the first massacre in Paapiu in 1987—but no one has

ever been arrested or even punished for these acts.

I am deeply angered that they want to kill all my people. I want the Brazilian government to take the necessary measures now for the definitive withdrawal and removal of all the garimpeiros still working in the Yanomami's lands.

The criminals responsible for these murders must be tried and put in prison. Not only them; the gold mining contractors and the politicians who support the garimpeiros and encourage them

to fight the Yanomami must also be put on trial.

All the Yanomami are very worried by this massacre because it could happen to them too—in Catrimani, in Demini, in Toototobi, in Posto Yano, in Araca, and in other remote villages which have no Funai post, religious mission or National Health Foundation representative.

These are my angry words over what has just happened.



Yanomami villages consist of a single circular structure with a large central yard.