

IWGIA

INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
FREDERIKSHOLMS KANAL 4A - DK 1220 COPENHAGEN K - DENMARK

IWGIA IS A NONPOLITICAL AND NONRELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION
CONCERNED WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF ETHNIC GROUPS
IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES
N e w s l e t t e r

May 1972

This Newsletter is being distributed along with IWGIA-DOCUMENT no. 4, Rupert R. Moser: The Situation of the Adivasis of Chotanagpur and Santal Parganas, Bihar, India; and IWGIA-DOCUMENT no. 5, John H. Bodley: Tribal Survival in the Amazon: The Campa Case.

The next document in our series is a joint publication with AMAZIND, Geneva, and therefore will be designated AMAZIND/IWGIA DOCUMENT no. 6, René Fuerst: Bibliography of the Indigenous Problem of the Brazilian Amazon Region (1957-72). It will be distributed along with IWGIA DOCUMENT no. 7, Bernard Arcand: The Urgent Situation of the Cuiva Indians of Columbia before the end of June.

Earlier, we announced that W. Coppens: Invasion into the Territory of the Makiritare (Yekuana) Indians of Venezuela, would be published soon. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to delay this report for political reasons.

Our next Newsletter will contain more detailed information about our present activities and plans, which include the presentation of plans for various assistance projects to interested organizations and institutions. Both the Danish and the Norwegian governments have declared their intention to assist oppressed ethnic groups, particularly the South American Indians. We hope to be able to cooperate with government agencies on such projects. In this connection we should be very grateful to receive information on and description of projects which our members know of.

We also intend to give some publicity to publications and organizations concerned with the situation of various ethnic groups.

We are still in great financial difficulties. We shall therefore have to stop the distribution of DOCUMENTS and Newsletters to individuals and institutions which have not payed their membership fee or which do not return the enclosed Reply Letter.

Group of Jurists

IWGIA has declared that one of its principal objectives is to organize the expertise of social scientists. Consequently we were very

interested when the ombudsman of the Swedish Sames (Lapps), Tomas Cramér, himself a lawyer, proposed that IWGIA organize a group of jurists and others to deal with the juridical problems of oppressed ethnic groups. International cooperation in this field, which includes the problems of legal rights to resources, treaties, the alienation of land, the enforcement of the legal standards of the stronger society, unlawful police and court procedures with ethnic groups, the disregard of human rights, etc., may have very valuable practical and principal consequences.

There are already several jurists in our membership file. However, this group could well be enlarged. We therefore urge our members to inform jurists and lawyers whom they think might be interested in these problems about the proposed group, and at the same time inform the Secretariat. We would like to have the names, addresses and information about the fields of special interest of jurists and others who wish to participate in the work of this special body under IWGIA.

Later on we shall make a list of those who are interested and send it to them along with any programmes for the work of this body which may be submitted. The list could facilitate communication within the group, and result in practical assistance and new reports which may be published as IWGIA-DOCUMENTS.

The members of the Secretariat of IWGIA are not jurists, so that it would facilitate our work if some individual or group would be willing to take the responsibility for organizing the activities of this body. It might be a good idea to organize this proposed body of jurists as a specialized agency under IWGIA, as was done with AMAZIND in Geneva, concerned with the documentation of the indigenous problem of the Amazon region.

Declaration of Barbados

We have received from M. Christian Delorme a long critical note on the Declaration of Barbados. While agreeing with the principles and recommendations of the Declaration, M. Delorme develops some of its main themes and suggests the possibility of an evangelical Christianity which would respect the cultural and social values of the missionized populations. The article ends on a practical note: M. Delorme hopes that the U.N. will soon start a pilot project for the protection of the indigenous groups of South America. Knowing the reluctance of South American countries to "admit" the existence of "Indians" within their national boundaries, he hopes that France, Great Britain, or Holland will make the necessary proposal to the U.N. and that such a project can be established in Guyane, Dominique, or Surinam.

M. Christian Delorme, Mouvement 'Atipaya', 15, rue de Bonald,
69 - Lyon 7e, France,

REPLY LETTER

Please return this page as soon as possible to:

The Secretariat of IWGIA,
Frederiksholms Kanal 4 A,
DK-1220 Copenhagen K,
Denmark

A check for U.S. \$ 3.00 (personal membership) or U.S. \$ 6.00 (institutional membership), payable to the Secretariat of IWGIA, Copenhagen, is enclosed, will be sent later
(Scandinavians can use giro nr. 179900))

Name: Profession:

Address:

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I want:

A personal membership

An institutional membership

To start a local group (If yes, further information and questions will be sent to you).

I have documentary evidence of incidents of
from the following regions

The Secretariat is requested to send Newsletter and Documents to:

Name Name

Address: Address

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