

# IWGIA

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

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IWGIA IS A NONPOLITICAL AND NONRELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION  
CONCERNED WITH THE OPPRESSION OF ETHNIC GROUPS  
IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

## Newsletter no. 13

January 1976.

This newsletter is being distributed along with IWGIA-Documents No. 20 Bernardo Berdichewsky: The Araucanian Indians in Chile, and No. 21 Nemesio Rodriguez: Oppression in Argentina: The Liataco Case.

We regret very much that we have not been able to send out any reports for a very long time. The main reasons for this delay have been other activities which we have been involved in and our difficult financial situation.

### What does IWGIA do when it does not publish documents?

Some of those who are members of IWGIA seem to think of us only as a publishing house. Of course, we have given at all times high priority to the organizing and publishing of documentation on the situation among oppressed indigenous peoples. However, this is only the proverbial, visible tip of the iceberg. The tiny number of people doing the voluntary work which makes it possible to keep the organization going, are, in addition, involved in a wide range of problems related to the plight of the indigenous groups. The last two years a considerable part of our limited resources have been channelized into the preparation of a number of important conferences.

In November 1973, the Arctic Peoples' Conference was organized in close cooperation between Greenlandic organizations in Copenhagen and IWGIA. IWGIA Document No. 14 by professor Douglas Sanders was published at that occasion. Since 1972 we have tried in our modest way to assist Chief George Manuel, President of the National Indian Brotherhood, Canada, in his unfailing efforts to bring together representatives of the Fourth World, the ethnic minorities.

In June 1975 we were assigned the job of organizing the Policy Board Meeting, held in Copenhagen, in preparation of the planned International Conference of Indigenous Peoples. A member of the Secretariat of IWGIA used 5 months, from June til the end of October 1975, as coordinator of documentation for the International Conference of Indigenous Peoples,

held in Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada, October 27-31, 1975. We wish to express our warm thanks to those who helped to bring together the necessary reports before the opening of the conference.

IWGIA's financial difficulties:

First, to correct any possible misapprehensions: IWGIA has at no time received any financial aid from the Danish State, and has only occasionally received grants from Norwegian and Swedish official bodies. The repeated writing of applications to national and international organizations most often turned out to be a waste of time.

Besides publishing expenses and the high translators' fees, IWGIA also has made financial contributions to the Policy Board Meeting and to the International Conference of Indigenous Peoples. It goes without saying that we regard these conferences as events of the highest importance in the long struggle for the indigenous peoples.

Now it is up to the members of IWGIA to decide if they wish to support IWGIA in its work in cooperation with indigenous groups, which is much more than the publication of documents. We will, of course, continue to do all we can to publish as many documents as possible. But we will also try to assist indigenous groups and their organizations in all possible ways. That means that we cannot promise to deliver a certain number of pages of high quality paper in return for each dollar of the subscription fee.

It should also be remembered that we are dependant on colleagues in faraway countries. Too often manuscripts promised to a certain date, never turned up. That is another important reason why our publications often appeared with considerable delay.

If IWGIA is to continue with the clearly expressed aim for its work, we have to raise our subscription fees in the following way, effective from 1st January, 1976:

A personal subscription: US \$ 10 (50 Danish kroner)

An institutional subscription: US \$ 20 (100 Danish kroner)

This also implies that we find it necessary to change from the 'document series-system' to an anual subscription system.

We urge all who wish to support us to send their fee as soon as possible!

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The Yanomami:

IWGIA Document No. 22, Jacques Lizot: 'The Yanomami in the Face of Ethnocide', will be published in March 1976.

### The World Council for Indigenous Peoples:

After a most intensive session of reporting on the situation in their respective areas, delegates from 19 countries to the International Conference of Indigenous Peoples (October 27-31, 1975, Port Alberni, B.C., Canada), unanimously decided to form a World Council for Indigenous Peoples.

Ethnic groups from the following countries/areas were represented at conference: Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii (USA), Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Nicaragua, Mexico, USA, Canada, Greenland, (Denmark), Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The man who formed and fostered the idea to organize the ethnic minorities of the world, and who has been fighting hard for many years to see it come through, Chief George Manuel, was elected President of the World Council. Sam Doloria, director of the American Indian Law Centre, was elected Secretary General.

The structure of the new organization is presently based on the 5 regions, each represented with one member in the executive. The President, George Manuel, is also the representative of North America. Julio Dixon, Panama, is the representative of Middle America. Clemente Alcon, Bolivia, is the representative of South America. Neil A. Watene, New Zealand, is representing the Aborigines of Australia and the Maori of New Zealand. Aslak Nils Sara, Norway, represents the Inuit of Greenland and the Sami people of Finland, Norway and Sweden.

It has been decided that the World Council for Indigenous Peoples soon will take over the status of non-governmental organization under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, held up to now by the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada.

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### Venezuela: Good news from the Yekuana (Makiritare)

From the author of IWGIA Document No. 9, Professor dr. Walter Coppens, Caracas, Venezuela:

"Interested readers may remember IWGIA Document 9, which reported the 1969-1970 invasion of an extensive section of Yekuana (Makiritare) territory in Venezuela. The invasion affected the Parú area, located close to the confluence of the Ventuari and Parú rivers, opposite the Cacuri savanna.

The Yekuana themselves took the initiative to denounce the ongoing invasion and-as soon as their matter became public-received the support of a great majority of Venezuelan anthropologists and ecologists.

Now, almost five years after the Parú-Cacuri invasion was brought to attention of the highest political authorities of the country, we are glad to inform the international community which has supported the case, that the Venezuelan government has attended the Yekuana claim. Owing to the diligence displayed by the National Agrarian Institute, the Yekuana have been awarded title to 30,000 hectares (75,000 acres) of land in Cacuri-Parú, thus including the invaded area. On October 12, 1975, a Yekuana delegation from Cacuri received its official title from the President of the National Agrarian Institute.

Thus comes to an end an episode of joint action by Indian population and concerned social scientists, which shows the effective Venezuelan concern for its ethnic minorities.!!

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CADAL (Anthropological Centre for Documentation on Latin America), which provisionally shares IWGIA's headquarters, informs IWGIA members of the following items:

Colombia:

Since January 1975 a new periodical is published in Colombia it is called UNIDAD INDÍGENA (Indigenous Unity).!! It is the periodical of the indigenous communities of Colombia and is financed by the communities themselves.

'Unidad Indígena appears as an answer to the development of our movement and in accordance with our need for a periodical of our own in which we can justly and correctly present our needs and the ways in which we try to solve them. We need our own periodical because of the fact that, even though articles and books are frequently published about us, they nearly always offend our dignity and deny our rights. We are also presented as ignorant savages or picturesque animals that are no good except for decorating museums or attracting tourists. In Unidad Indígena we will speak with a voice of our own as what we really are: men, women and children of flesh and blood, with our own dignity, our own language, our own religions, our own land, and, above all, with our unshakable decision to write, organize ourselves and fight to defend all these things against the exploiters of today who want to go on robbing us of what is ours!! (UNIDAD INDÍGENA No.1, January 1975, Colombia).

To make this experience continue, which in its first (9) issues has proved to be of great importance as an agglutinative element for the Colombian ethnic minorities, it is necessary to support it financially since their own resources are scarce.

To this effect, IWGIA members can subscribe to this periodical (12 numbers a year at the rate of US \$ 25.-)

UNIDAD INDÍGENA  
Apartado Aéreo 32395  
Bogota D.E.  
Colombia

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### COLOMBIA

ANUC (Asociación Nacional de Usuarios y Campesinos), the National Tenant and Peasant Association, has sent us their public protest declarations of July 21st and September 17th, 1975, in which they give a detailed report on the repression unleashed against the peasants and the wrongful and violent campaign which the landowners have organized in order to destroy the Colombian indigenous movement. These two public protests may be requested from:

ANUC  
Apartado Aéreo 16.653  
Bogota D.E.  
Colombia

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### BOLIVIA

'MINK'A', Centre of Peasant Coordination and Promotion, founded by Quechuas and Aymaras in Bolivia and which faithfully represents the interests of these ethnic groups, is undertaking a campaign to raise funds in order to grant scholarships to members who want to study sociology or anthropology in Peru and/or Mexico. Those interested in this campaign are requested to get in touch with:

MINK'A  
Casilla 6106  
La Paz  
Bolivia

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### The Minority Rights Group's Publications

(24) The Palestinians (price 45p.), (25) The Tamils of Sri Lanka (price 45p.), (26) The Untouchables of India (price 45p.).

PARAGUAY: THE MARANDU PROJECT CLOSED BY THE POLICE

STAFF MEMBERS ARRESTED AND TORTURED. INTERVENTION BY DANISH AND NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS, AND BY MANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

In the early morning of December 1st, 1975, the important humanitarian work carried out by the Marandu Project among the Indians of Paraguay, was brutally interrupted by the Paraguayan police through the arrest in Asunción of the leader of the project, Miguel Chase Sardi, and his assistant, miss Marilyn Renhfeldt. They were both brought to the Departamento de Investigaciones for interrogation, Later in the day the police seized the files of the project, and the truck used in the work. -- Later in December three other members of the project staff were arrested: Mauricio Schwartzman, Victorio Suarez and miss Gloria Estrago.

The authorities have not been willing to give an official explanation for the imprisonment of our colleagues, except for the usual police statement that "proof of subversive activities" had been found.

On January 19th it was confirmed directly from Asunción that all the arrested persons were still in prison, except for miss Renhfeldt, who was released by the police shortly before Christmas.

In the beginning of January IWGIA received detailed and very alarming reports from absolutely reliable sources, that at least three of the arrested colleagues had been tortured by the police. We cite from one of these reports: " X was tortured, his ribs were broken, one ear inflamed and a lot of other complications as a consequence of the torture".

IWGIA appealed to the Governments of Norway and Denmark on December 17th and 18th, and the following days we contacted a number of international organizations. After detailed reports on the use of torture were received, we again urged the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and Norway to act in the matter. On the 16th of January the Norwegian and the Danish Governments instructed their ambassadors in Buenos Aires to ask the ambassador of Paraguay to convey to his Government the deep concern of their respective governments for the fate of the arrested, and the hope that the Marandu Project will be reopened.

The International Commission of Jurists, Geneve, Amnesty International and Survival International, London, INDIGENA, Berkeley, and WIZA, Holland are among the many organizations that cooperate in an international campaign for the release of the Marandu staff.

WE URGE ALL TO CONTACT THE PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES AND TO INFORM THE PRESS OF THIS SERIOUS MATTER !

Copenhagen, January 21, 1976. .The International Secretariat of IWGIA.

REPLY LETTER

Please return this page as soon as possible to:

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

Name:..... Profession:.....

Address:.....

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I want:

- A personal subscription for 1976-US \$ 10 (50 Danish kroner)
- An institutional subscription for 1976-US \$ 20 (100 Danish kroner)

I want:

- IWGIA Document, 3rd series no.18-21, .....  
(US \$ 6.00 for individuals and US \$ 10.00 for institutions)
- IWGIA Document, 2nd series no.11-17, .....  
(US \$ 6.00 for individuals and US \$ 10.00 for institutions)
- IWGIA Document, 1st series no.1,3,5,-10,.....  
(US \$ 4.00 for individuals and US \$ 6.00 for institutions)

The following IWGIA Documents .....(see price list)  
A check for US \$ ..... (or the equivalent in other currencies),  
payable to The Secretariat of IWGIA, Copenhagen, is enclosed.....  
will be sent later.....

(Scandinavians may use postal giro no. 179900.....)

I have documentary evidence of incidents of.....  
in the following areas.....

The Secretariat is requested to send an information sheet on IWGIA to:

Name:.....Name:.....

Address:.....Address:.....

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