



*Together for Life,  
Dignity and Human Rights*

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## **Urgent Appeal**

### **To the**

Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people.

### **For the consideration of the**

Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons

### **Third eviction of the Cerrito Community (Paraguay)**

The community of Cerrito belongs to Ava Guarani People, located in Paraguay in the district of Minga Porâ.

On May 19, 2022, at 5:00 a.m., under a thick fog and intense cold, a large police forces, allegedly under the orders of the prosecutor Juan Daniel Benítez Miranda, from Ciudad del Este, silently arrived at the community of Cerrito and completely surrounded it. The police first proceeded to capture three motorcycles and a vehicle to prevent people from escaping. We should add that all the means of transportation were not in a good condition. Once they grabbed our means of transportation, they began to shoot guns in the air and at the same time they started busting into houses, with the weapons in hands, causing panic among the families, especially among children and women. While the natives wanted to leave their houses in haste, the police forces seized their identity documents, indigenous identity cards and cellular phones and then they forced them by shouting and shooting guns in the air to run into the forest and disperse them. Once the indigenous community was forced to flee, police forces brought a large tractor with a shovel and destroyed all the houses, the temple of Jeroky aty, covering all their belongings with earth. They also killed all the domestic animals, plugged the water wells, and acting violently caused as much damage as they could. Therefore, the entire community is displaced, without any help or support.

Two indigenous persons, (*the names of the persons are known to us, however, they are still in prison therefore we cannot get the consent from them*) who were caught filming the destruction were arrested. The prosecutor has never shown any court order or any other document

justifying the police action. Once the violent operation was over, some of the members of the police forces mocked and taunted the indigenous people. Allegedly, one of the agents was heard saying in Guaraní: "this way they will learn", and "they already know who they are messing with", and other. The property on which the indigenous community is ancestrally settled is registered in the name of German Hutz (we mentioned about him in the report from December 8, 2021).

All these repetitive situations occur due to total absence of the state authorities through the agencies responsible for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

We ask the Special Rapporteur that, in the capacity of his mandate, intervene by the government of Paraguay to stop these illegal operations and allow the Cerrito community to live in peace with enjoyment of all their rights.

Pastoral Indígena Espíritu Santo

For VIVAT International  
Andrzej Owca, representative  
Geneva, June 8, 2022.