

Língua Estrangeira: INGLÊS

Miners ‘mutilated’ in Brazilian massacre

By Mohammed Abbas

19 April 2004

Brazilian police began the grim task of recovering the mangled corpses of 26 diamond prospectors, allegedly massacred by Indians on reservation in the remote north-west of the country.

They were allegedly killed in a pitched battle between the prospectors, who had come to mine diamonds illegally on Indian land, and Cinta Larga Indians in the dense jungle of the Roosevelt reservation in Rondonia state, an area believed to be South America’s richest diamond region.

“Many of the bodies have been partially eaten by wild animals and all are decomposed after more than 10 days in the jungle,” said Roberto Lustosa, at the Federal Indian Bureau.

A spokesman for the National Indian Foundation said the Indians retaliated with small calibre rifles, arrows, spears, knives and other weapons when heavily armed prospectors shot at them.

But an official from the Rondonia State Prospectors Union said 50 heavily armed Indians had surrounded some 200 unarmed miners and opened fire on them while they worked.

“According to the union register, we believe 64 people have been killed ... and another 15 who are not part of the union. It was a massacre,” the union spokesman said.

Press reports said the victims, whose bodies were spread over an area with a 1km radius, had been clubbed to death and then hacked to pieces, while others said they were beheaded.

Last week’s bloody clash is believed to be the worst in a series of battles between Indians and the hundreds of miners drawn to the protected reservation by stories of big diamond finds.

Demand from South Africa and Belgium is said to be fuelling the illegal trade.

The Roosevelt reservation has long been a point of conflict between Indians and miners, who are periodically pushed off the reservation by authorities, only to move back again. Authorities have not been able to drive the miners off for good because of the reservation’s size and the thick, impenetrable jungle.

However, Indians have been known to allow miners on to their land for a fee and, last month, police arrested 14 people, including an Indian leader, from an alleged diamond smuggling ring accused of mining stones in the reservation.

Police are searching for more bodies from the clash on the 2.1 million hectare reservation.

The worst previous confrontation between miners and Indians took place in 1993 when gold miners killed 16 Yanomami Indians, including women and children.

Adapted from:

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/story.jsp?story=512804>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NEXT 2 (TWO) QUESTIONS

- 1 - BASE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT PROVIDED.
- 2 - USE CLEAR, OBJECTIVE AND COMPLETE ANSWERS.
- 3 - ANSWER QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 **IN ENGLISH ONLY**; ANSWERS IN PORTUGUESE **WILL NOT** BE ACCEPTED.

PRIMEIRA QUESTÃO

Based on the text, mention one factor that has delayed a solution to the conflict between miners and Indians.

SEGUNDA QUESTÃO

Based on the text, describe at least two differences between the 1993 and 2004 massacres.

INSTRUÇÕES PARA AS PRÓXIMAS (2) DUAS QUESTÕES

- 1 - RESPONDA SEMPRE DE ACORDO COM O TEXTO.
- 2 - USE RESPOSTAS CLARAS, OBJETIVAS E COMPLETAS.
- 3 - RESPONDA ÀS QUESTÕES 3 E 4 **EM PORTUGUÊS**; RESPOSTAS **EM INGLÊS** NÃO SERÃO ACEITAS.

TERCEIRA QUESTÃO

Based on the text, compare the statement of the spokesman for the National Indian Foundation to the statement of the representative of the Rondonia State Prospector Union.

QUARTA QUESTÃO

According to the text, how are the details of the massacre presented in the press report?

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