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Brazil: Prospectors Continue Efforts To Access Indigenous Reserve

by Erika Harding
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On Aug. 13, Dinarte Nobre de Madeiro, an Amazon state Yanomami spokesperson, said that about 500 gold prospectors are renewing efforts to invade the Yanomami indigenous reservation on Brazil's northern border with Venezuela. According to Nobre de Madeiro, the prospectors have refurbished a number of clandestine landing strips within the reservation. Nobre de Madeiro said the prospectors' efforts intensified in June, due to a decrease in Air Force monitoring of the territory. In 1990, more than 5,000 miners were evicted from Yanomami land and hundreds of secret landing strips were destroyed during a Federal Police operation called "Operation Yanomami". The National Foundation for Amazon Indians has invested more than US$500,000 in demarcating the borders of the reserve, while the National Health Foundation has spent more than US$250,000 to treat Yanomamis for malaria and tuberculosis, spread by the prospectors. (Source: Agence France Presse, 08/13/92)

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