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Indians hold CVRD employees as hostages

Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) informs that:

- 1) Indians from the Guajajara community, based in the state of Maranhão, kidnapped four CVRD employees on Tuesday (Feb 7th) at around 6.30pm (Brazilian time). The employees have been taken hostages since then. CVRD rejects such violence which disrespects the human rights of its employees.
- 2) The Indians have taken such action to press the presidents of the National Foundation for Indians (Funai) and the National Health Foundation (Funasa) to sit at the negotiating table to meet their demands. The Guajaras have no claims against CVRD. The Indian leaders are demanding better health care from the National Health Foundation (Funasa);
- 3) CVRD shares with the families of the kidnapped employees their concerns. This is a violent and unjustified crime committed by the Indians;
- 4) As previously informed, on Tuesday (Feb 7th) at about 9.20am (Brazilian time), about 200 Indians from the Guajajara community threw tracks at the Carajás Railway (Carajás Railroad) and invaded the railroad, blocking and interrupting the transport of cargo and passengers;
- 5) CVRD promptly informed the police and asked for a court injunction, also with the aim of protecting the assets which CVRD operates as a rail services concessionaire. The judge of the 4a Vara Federal da Seção Judiciária de São Luís (MA) granted the injunction determining: (i) the reintegration of possession; (ii) that the invaders would not practice any violent act or illegal possession, under the risk of paying a daily penalty fare of 100,000 reais; (iii) that the federal and military police will guarantee the protection of the railroad and allow for the public service transport to be resumed;
- 6) CVRD hopes the authorities will take the necessary measures to free its employees safely and fast as well as restore the order.

More information



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