

DÁRIO VITÓRIO

KOPENAWA YANOMAMI

Dário Vitório Kopenawa Yanomami was born in 1982, in the village of *Watoriki* (Windy Mountain), also known as *Demini*, in Amazonas state in Brazil. He still lives there.



He is the eldest son of Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, a leader known throughout the world for his defence of the rights of the Yanomami people. Dário follows in his father's footsteps, and started his fight at a young age when, in 1999, he became a teacher in his community, spearheading an intercultural, bilingual education project with a strong emphasis on valuing the written Yanomami language. In 2004 he became the head of the school in his community, and at the same time joined the board of the recently created Hutukara Yanomami Association, of which his father is president.

Dário was a participant in the training course for Yanomami teachers run by CCPY. He has been on exchange visits to other indigenous peoples in Brazil, visiting Amapá state (1999), the Xingu Park (2002), the Makuxi and Wapixana in Roraima state (2002 and 2004) and indigenous peoples in Acre state (2006). He has also participated in the assemblies of COPIAM (Commission of Indigenous Peoples of Amazonas, Acre and Roraima) in 2000, and OPIR (Organisation of Indigenous Teachers of Roraima) in 1999 and 2007.

In 2002 he was part of a group of Yanomami teachers who, together with representatives of CCPY, travelled to Boston in the USA for a series of conferences in schools and universities. In 2003, in Paris, he gave talks to French students during the opening of the Yanomami Exhibition at the Fondation Cartier. During the same trip he travelled to Italy at the invitation of Survival International Italy where he met with politicians and students.

