

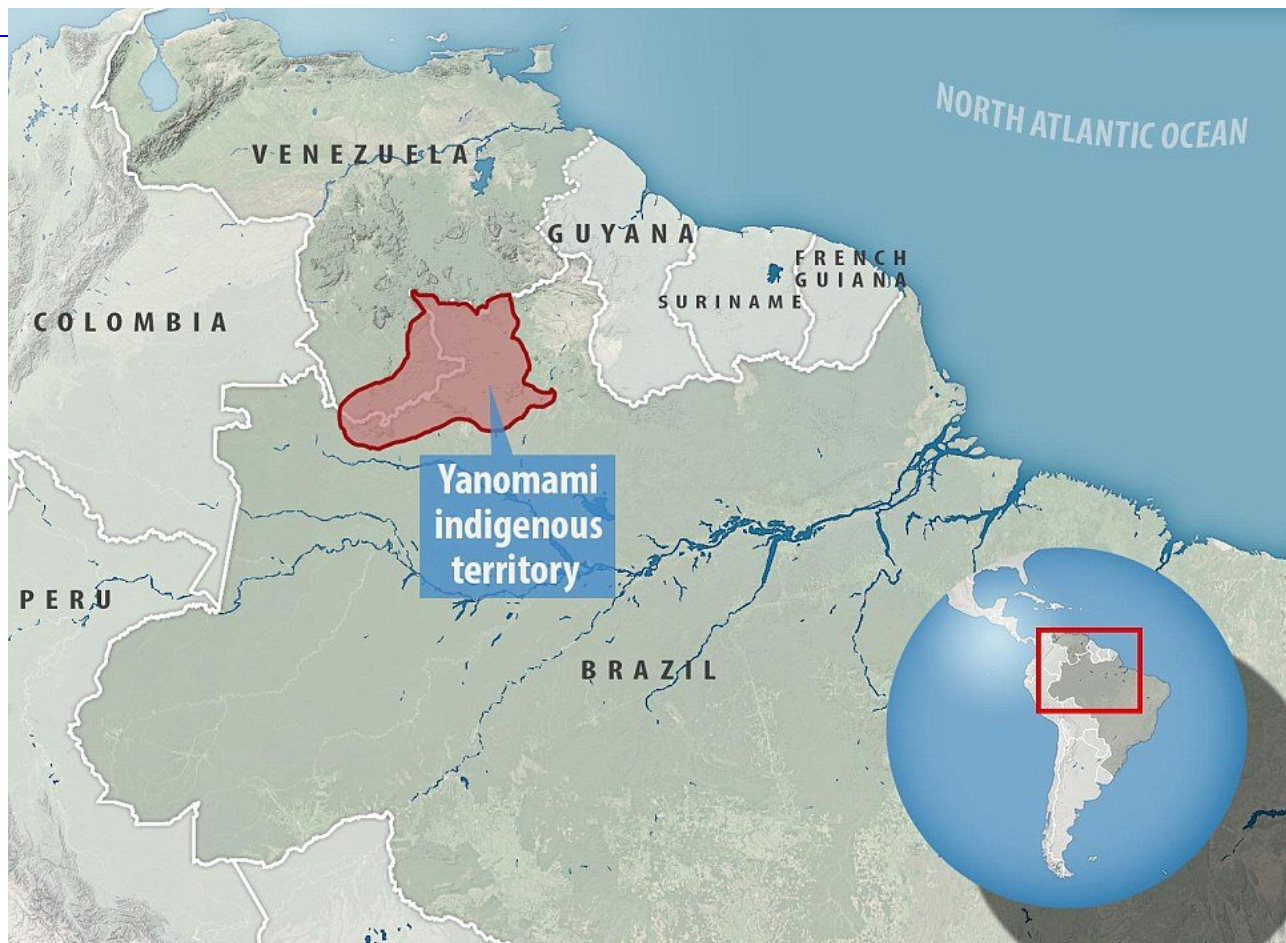


# Yanomami Tribe of South America

## Why in News

The Yanomami tribe has launched a global campaign to expel 20,000 gold miners from their land amid the coronavirus pandemic.

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## Key Points

- The Yanomami live in the **rainforests and mountains of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela**, and are, according to Survival International, the **largest relatively isolated tribe in South America**.
  - Guarani, Kaingang, Pataxó, Hã Hã Hãe, Tupinambá, Yanomami, Tikuna and Akuntsu are popular tribes of the Amazon basin. **Amazon** is a river of South America and its basin is the **largest tropical rainforest in the world**.
  - **Survival International** is an international human rights advocacy based in London (UK), which campaigns for the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples around the world.

- The tribe **numbers around 38,000** today, and its members **live in contiguous forested territory** of around 9.6 million hectares in Brazil and 8.2 million hectares in Venezuela.
- They live in large, circular houses called **yanos or shabonos**, some of which can hold up to 400 people.
- The Yanomami consider all people to be equal, and do not have a chief. Instead, all decisions are based on consensus after long discussions and debates.
- They are **speakers of a Xirianá language**.
- A Brazilian indigenous leader **Davi Kopenawa** who secured the land rights of the Yanomami people was awarded the [Right Livelihood Award-2019](#), also known as **Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize**.

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