

**Davi Kopenawa Yanomami on Napoleon Chagnon and *Noble Savages: My Life Among Two Dangerous Tribes – The Yanomamö and the Anthropologists***

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All of you *napëpë* [non-Yanomami] pay attention. I, a Yanomami, am going to send you my words.

For us, we Yanomami who live in the forest, the anthropologist Napoleon Chagnon is not our friend. He does not say good things, he doesn't transmit good words. He talks about the Yanomami but his words are only hostile. He is angry and says, 'The Yanomami are bad, the Yanomami fire arrows at one another because of women. The Yanomami beat one another.' Napoleon Chagnon has always thought that.

Young American men and women think, 'Napoleon knows a lot and transmits true words – the Yanomami are very bad'. I am not happy about this.

We are Yanomami, a forest people, it's good to be a forest people. We were born as forest people, when the *napëpë* were not near. We were living as forest people. We are a people who live in the forest. *Omama* (the Creator) himself created us. We are children of the forest, we grew up as human beings in the forest and for me this is good.

I am speaking these words to you so that Survival International can send them to the United States and the young people of Europe. We respect anthropologists, those who work in indigenous land, but Napoleon Chagnon behaved in an irresponsible way.

He said about us, 'The Yanomami are savages!' He teaches false things to young students. 'Look, the Yanomami kill each other because of women.' He keeps on saying this.

But what do his leaders do? I believe that some years ago his leader waged a huge war – they killed thousands of children, they killed thousands of girls and boys. These big men killed almost everything.

These are the fierce people, the true fierce people. They throw bombs, fire machine guns and finish off with the Earth. We don't do this...