



Armstrong Wiggins, as Director of the Indian Law Resource Center, Washington, DC Office, supervises the work of the Center dealing with human rights, standard-setting, and multi-lateral development Banks. Mr. Wiggins was born in Nicaragua and is a Miskito Indian from the village of Karata, Nicaragua. Mr. Wiggins was the Founder of the Indian Organization called ALPROMISU and was the Coordinator of Municipal Affairs of the East Coast for the government of Nicaragua. He was also the national representative of the

regional Indian organization MISURASATA. Mr. Wiggins was arrested twice during both the Somoza and Sandinista regimes and became a political prisoner because of his work to promote human rights for his people in Nicaragua. In 1981, Mr. Wiggins was forced into exile. It was at this time that he began working for the Center as the director of its Central and South America Program. For the past two decades he has worked on numerous human rights cases involving indigenous peoples throughout the Americas, including the Yanomami in Brazil, and the case against Nicaragua in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 1984, which lead to changes in the constitution of Nicaragua for the recognition of indigenous rights and the creation of autonomous indigenous regions in Nicaragua. He worked on the case for the Maya in Belize. Then on behalf of the Center, Mr. Wiggins played a leading role in the precedent setting Awas Tingni case within the Inter-American system. He has also played a critical role in the Center's standard setting work with the United Nations and the Organization of American States, particularly regarding the Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.