

# *Chilean activists and social movements protest against U.S.-backed group Prosur*

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Santiago de Chile, March 23 (RHC)-- Chilean social and political organizations held demonstrations Friday against the Forum for the Latin American Progress and Development (Prosur), a meeting convened by right-wing Latin American governments which are coordinating actions to dissolve the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and consolidate the U.S. interventionist agenda against Venezuela.

The rejection of Prosur was accompanied by demonstrations against Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, who attended the forum. So far, along with Bolsonaro, Chilean President Sebastian Piñera and Colombia's Ivan Duque have appeared to be the main promoters of this new block of regional integration whose structure has not been defined yet.

"The Prosur summit takes place amidst an imperialist offensive in Latin America, which is headed by Trump and supported by presidents such as Piñera, Macri, Duque and Bolsonaro, who is linked to the killing of Marielle Franco, a Black activist, lesbian and leftist councilor murdered a year ago," the Women's Organization March 8th said and added: "We denounce that the governments promoting Prosur have spared no resources or alliances for militarizing their territories."

Prosur is expected to be a forum without permanent headquarters or secretariat, that is, it resembles the Pacific Alliance, a trade agreement which encompasses Chile, Mexico, Peru and Colombia.

Neither have Prosur's long-term goals been established, although its spokesmen said that the new body will promote a "pragmatic" and "non-ideological" integration among countries, a vision which has been called into question by experts in the region. given the fact that it is being by right-wing governments who are in a public coalition against Venezuela and in favor of most U.S. interventionist policies against Venezuela, Cuba and other progressive governments in the region.

The first Prosur meeting in Chile was attended by the presidents of Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.

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