

Indigenous women camp outside Brazil's Supreme Court

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Some 4,000 women from 150 Brazilian native peoples participated in this Second March of Indigenous Women in the midst of an unsafe climate and escalating tension in the country. | Photo: @CoiabAmazonia

Brasilia, September 10 (RHC)-- Thousands of indigenous women camped this Thursday in front of the Federal Supreme Court (STF) waiting for this body to reject the ruralist thesis that ends the demarcation of their lands.

Made up by representatives of 150 Brazilian native peoples, this is the Second March of Indigenous Women that follows the route that leaves the camp located in the National Foundation of the Arts (Funarte) and the Planetarium, in the Monumental Axis, and heads to the Plaza of the Three Powers. Previously, they left last September 7, during the Independence Day demonstrations.

The women are grouped under the National Articulation of Indigenous Women Warriors of Ancestrality (Anmiga) and have the support of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB).

However, this Thursday's demonstrations have a risk. According to the executive coordinator of Apib, Sonia Guajajara, Anmiga leaders are evaluating the scenario after the speeches of the president, Jair Bolsonaro, which intensified the institutional crisis between the powers.

"The women did not go out today as planned because they decided that the most important thing would be to save lives. They would not leave the children in the camp and that is mainly why they made this decision," said the member of Tierra Indígena Alto Rio Negro from San Gabriel de Cachoneire, Braulina Baniwa.

The headquarters of the STF was surrounded since this Wednesday by Bolsonaro supporters. The entrance gate to the Chamber of Deputies is closed. Even, the Legislative Police was summoned to be in large numbers of troops in front of the building and on the sides.

As part of the voting schedule of the Supreme Court for this Thursday is to address the issue of indigenous property and the rights of native peoples, sweeping and its configuration; anthropological studies; exclusive usufruct and permanent possession; private titles in indigenous lands and environmental protection in indigenous areas.

In the midst of the tense climate, the Primavera Indigenous Camp was a safe haven. The nearly 4,000 women held prayers, chants, rituals and prayers to strengthen their struggle. "You can see the strength of the women in the singing, dancing and culture. This is a reunion based on life, on healing, on affection", said Braulina Baniwa, who stressed that the importance of this camp is in making visible their specific women's agenda.

Several truck drivers also arrived in Brasilia, supported by rural farmers who insist on the impeachment of the Supreme Court judges.

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