

President of Chilean Constituent Assembly repudiates death of Mapuche



From the Constituent Convention they say that the militarization and the State of Exception decreed in the provinces of Arauco, Malleco and Cautín contributes to much more violence. | Photo: Twitter @elisaloncon

Santiago de Chile, November 5 (RHC)-- The president of the Constitutional Convention of Chile, Elisa Loncon, repudiated Thursday the death of a Mapuche community member in the commune of Cañete, Bío Bío region, and accused the Chilean State of what happened.

Loncon, who is also of Mapuche origin, strongly repudiated what she called a racist, violent policy of the State and the Government, which is affecting the communities of these native peoples.

The president of the Convention appeared accompanied by the representatives of the seats reserved for indigenous peoples, while she added that the Convention is working to establish plurinationality, a framework in which the rights of the native nations are respected.

So far, according to local media, it is not clear whether there were one or two dead.

While the Minister of the Interior, Rodrigo Delgado, says that there are two community members who died on Wednesday in the province of Arauco after being shot, the National Institute of Human Rights reported that only one person died.

At the same time, the family of one of the men who was presumed dead indicated that he is in serious condition in the Regional Hospital of Temuco.

Following the declaration of a State of Emergency in the regions of Bío Bío and La Araucanía, Loncon said that what happened was part of what he had warned the government about the outcome of this type of measure.

He also regretted that the government of Sebastián Piñera did not listen, for which he held it responsible for the death of this person. Likewise, he said that the militarization of the area will not solve the problems of the native peoples.

During the last hours, testimonies spread through the media and social networks point out that the Mapuche community members who were shot at in Cañete were attacked by the security forces while they remained there peacefully.

These testimonies deny the thesis spread by military commanders and government officials that civilians aboard a car, presumably Mapuche, attacked a Carabineros post and this forced the security forces to shoot at them.

Meanwhile, the Bío Bío Prosecutor's Office ordered the Investigative Police (PDI) to carry out an investigation into the incidents of Wednesday in Cañete, which occurred during operations by the Carabineros and the Navy in the framework of the state of emergency for the Southern Macrozone.

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