

Brazilian Indigenous Group Fights Mega-Dam with Symbolic Protest



Brasilia, June 16 (RHC)-- Indigenous people deep in the Brazilian Amazon are literally staking their claim to their ancestral territory in a symbolic action aimed at giving visibility to their years-long land struggle and ramping up their fight against a controversial hydroelectric mega-dam project slated for a local river.

The action, led by the Munduruku people in partnership with Greenpeace, will mimic the process usually carried out by the federal government in the case of legal land recognition — a right that the Amazonian group is still waiting to be formally granted — by posting landmarks around the periphery of the claimed Indigenous territory.

“This an important battle not just for the Munduruku people, but for everyone around the world since we are talking about one of the biggest forests that still exist on the planet,” said Munduruku chief Juarez in a statement released by Greenpeace on Wednesday.

The demonstration comes as the Munduruku and other groups continue to fight to block the construction of a massive dam, known as São Luiz do Tapajós or SLT, on the Tapajos River, one of the main rivers that feed the Amazon River.

According to Greenpeace, the proposed mega-dam would indirectly drown over 540,000 acres in deforestation through flooding of its massive New York City-sized reservoir.

Aside from local actions, the global campaign against the Tapajos River dam includes calling on international corporate backers to pull their support for the project or refrain from being involved in supplying component parts for its construction.

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