

Guarani Community is evicted from the roadside by the state power in Eldorado do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

On the first day of July of 2008, an Mbya Guarani community was evicted by Military Brigade from an encampment situated at the side of the Estrada do Conde road, municipality of Eldorado do Sul, near the city of Porto Alegre, in Rio Grande do Sul.

Police of the Military Brigade (State Police of RS), accompanied by the Justice Official Bruce Medeiros, effecting the eviction on the first day of July of 2008. By Mandate of Reintegration of Possession (Process 165/1.08.0001027-9) taken to court by FEPAGRO – Agricultural Research State Foundation (Fundação Estadual de Pesquisa Agropecuária) and granted by Judge Luciane Di Domenico, of the Judiciary Power of the State of Rio Grande do Sul in the of District of Eldorado do Sul.

The situation is grave, in that the Guarani encampment was outside of the area indicated in the judicial order, or rather, OUTSIDE of the FEPAGRO property, which clearly invalidates the judicial action itself. The Military Police, together with the employees of FEPAGRO collected the artisan crafts and destroyed the Guarani habitation structures, without authorization of the FUNAI or the Federal Police, the only organs with the competence for dealing with indigenous question, according to article 231 of the Federal Constitution. By requesting the presence of these institutions, the Guarani leader Santiago Franco was not respected and, due to his insistence, was handcuffed and dragged by force to a Police vehicle, leaving the women and children of his family abandoned.

In addition to this statement of irregularities the fact that the order of the eviction and reintegration of possession had been issued having as precedent and defendant a group of the Kaingang ethnicity who had previously been removed from the location, being employed in detriment to the Guarani group that had not been found interior to the area cited in the order.

Throughout the hydrographic basin of lake Guaíba (where diverse cities are found, among them, Porto Alegre and Guaíba) is replete with indications of Guarani occupation, some being of some thousands of years, others having existed since the beginning of the decade of 1920. In one archeological study from the decade of 1975, the the archeologist Sergio Leite points to the existence of an archeological site in the area of the FEPAGRO. According to Cacique Santiago himself, “my ancestors lived here, we have proof that this land is Guarani”.

Summoned by the Guarani themselves at the moment of the action, researchers from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul recorded what occurred on video.

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