

Synopsis

THE RESISTANCE OF THE MAPUCHE

Special legislations, restored anti-terrorist law, trials in which the witnesses do not testify hooded, 10-year convictions without evidence for setting a « terrorist fire », families persecuted by police officers... this is not Chili of the old times of dictatorship but 2007.

Yesterday, as they were victims of the reprisal of the junta led by Pinochet, the members of the concertation in power denounced the violation of the human rights. Today, they are using its legacy, military and judicial arsenal against the Mapuch communities.

There are eight indigenous people on the Chilean territory of which 85 % are « people of the earth », litteral translation of *Mapu-che* ; an important minority which traditional is located in the south of river Bío Bío, a region baptized by the conquistadores Arauco.

Despite an untamed resistance to the Spanish then to the Chilean settlers, the Mapuche surrendered in 1883 after the « War of the Pacific ». During the 20th century, the Mapuche remained in the darkness. Parked, debased, they stopped being an self-sufficient, inpedant people to become an oppressed ethnic minority.

With the return of democracy, the hope that resuscitates in the communities is soon replaced by a feeling of treason. Many emigrate toward the « misery belts » that surround the cities of Temuco, Concepcion, and especially Santiago.

In the beginning of the 90's, the time of reconquest sounds to the rallying cry « Marichiweu ! » (We will succeed ten times !)

For the past decade, Mapuch organizations have claimed political and territorial rights according to many strategies but always in a pacific way. The answer of the authority , rushed by the liberal economic model, was to criminalize their claims : 400 people were prosecuted, around ten leaders are imprisoned.

The tragedy of the Mapuch people was denounced in several reports of the FIDH (June 2004), Amnesty International, Human Rights but remains ignored in the natiolan medias and is unrecognized by the international medias.

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