

Why are we Munduruku here?

Early this morning (Sunday, July 16) we, the Munduruku people of the upper and middle Tapajós River and the lower Teles Pires River, began a peaceful occupation of the São Manoel Hydroelectric Plant construction site. We number 200 indigenous people—among us chiefs, women, shamans, leaders, warriors, and children—and we are here representing 138 Munduruku villages to assert our rights.

This action was proposed during the second meeting of Munduruku women, “Aya Cayu Waydip Pe,” which took place May 8-10 in Santa Cruz village, Jacareacanga (Pará). The principal problems discussed during this meeting were all matters resulting from the construction of the Teles Pires and São Manoel dams.

Our sacred sites *Karobixexe* (the Seven Falls Waterfall) and *Dekuka’a* (Mountain of the Monkeys) have been violated and destroyed. Our rivers, the Tapajós and the Teles Pires, are dying. Our rights, which are guaranteed by the Federal Constitution and which only came to exist in that document after much indigenous blood had been spilled, are being violated. Not even our right to prior consultation has been respected.

We cannot forget our relative Adenilson Kixi Munduruku, murdered in November 2012 by the Federal Police in Teles Pires village during Operation Eldorado. We demand justice!

After hearing the concerns of Munduruku women we decided to be here peacefully in the site of the São Manoel dam, out of pain and sorrow. We are not invaders here. The only invaders are the government and the companies responsible for these dams being constructed in the Teles Pires River.

We, the Munduruku people, are here in one of our most sacred locales. We know that our struggle is legitimate, as we are fighting for our rights that have been clearly violated by the construction of these dams. We hope that our list of demands will be answered, and we will not leave until this happens.

All aid in support of our struggle is welcome.

SAWE!

The Munduruku People
July 16, 2017