

CONSIDERATIONS
FROM THE **KUÑANGUE
ATY GUASU** AGAINST
THE PATRIARCHAL
SYSTEM AND RACISM:
medieval violence and
religious extremism in
Mato Grosso do Sul (MS),
Brazil



Kuñangue Aty Guasu (Kaiowá and Guarani Women's Council), through this event, has come to denounce all sorts of violence in our territories against young girls, youngsters, women and Nhandesys (traditional masters). Thus, demanding these criminal actions to be continuously inquired/investigated. Our medicine and ceremonial houses, where we take care of our culture is systematically being criminally burnt down. The Neopentecostal churches (namely, Assembleia de Deus ["God's Assembly"] and Deus é Amor ["God is Love"]) incite hatred against our culture, especially against the Kaiowá and Guarani women by making racist speeches against Nhandesys and Nhanderus (female and male shamans). Just like in the times of the Holy Office and witch-hunt, they preach that the indigenous elder women and men are sorceresses and responsible for the deaths and diseases that hit our villages. This gives people the feeling they are entitled to assault our bodies, as well as our medicine and ceremonial houses. This is creating scenarios of medieval violence and religious extremism, like stoning people and constant death threats. This hatred speech has promoted the increase of violence in our territories and, thus, a wave of rapes and femicides. It's urgent to protect the indigenous and activist women who defend human rights and fight against this kind of violence.

The big leaders of Evangelical places (churches) located in our territories need to take responsibility for the demonisation followed by violent attacks against our traditional way of living, because they are responsible for building the personal values of their believers. We demand they stop immediately with religious intolerance and religious racism. We demand that they respect our traditional places and the way we are organized, the way we are and exist.

The Federal Constitution of 1988 grants us the fundamental right to religious freedom. This was expressly assured once again for this freedom is part of the recognized fundamental rights. In Inciso VII (clause VII), article 5, it's stipulated that no one will be deprived from their rights for the reason of religious belief, philosophical or political conviction, except if one invokes them to exonerate oneself from the legal obligation imposed upon everyone and if one refuses to comply with the legally established alternative action.

We also called for the judicial power and other organizations, social movements, universities, etc., to face this structural religious racism together. Public institutions are responsible for fighting against religious intolerance

crimes, as well as those who are in possession of every tool to investigate, sentence and fight violence. Therefore, we question why nothing has been done. Why do we keep on living through this brutal violence? Why are our rights as citizens disrespected by the institutions that are responsible for assuring our rights?

Who will investigate the ceremonial house fires in Mato Grosso do Sul [Brazil]? What shall we do regarding this racism and structural persecution against our principles? How do we protect our native patrimony? Till this day, no church territory has been burnt down. No minister nor believer has been persecuted, or threatened.

Till when?

