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Noticias de Quilmes

### **Assembly members will continue fighting beyond the ruling by The Hague**

One week away from the start of the hearings at the International Court of Justice, from Gualeguaychú this afternoon they ratified that they will continue fighting “to impede dirtied and polluted industries from bringing their waste and garbage here”.

A week away from the start of the hearings at the International Court of Justice of The Hague, the Gualeguaychú assembly members again lead yesterday an important protest rally against Botnia’s Finnish pulp mill, and ratified they will not abandon the protest even in the case of an adverse ruling.

Under the slogan “The truth cries out, away with Botnia”, the protest march to the General San Martín International Bridge was unified under a claim to the international tribunal so that it orders the “dismantling” of the Finnish plant, while at the same time repudiated those opinions voiced from Uruguay stating that the Court will issue a “Solomonic” ruling that will allow resuming the bilateral conversations.

"Whatever the ruling we will continue fighting to impede dirtied and polluted industries from bringing their waste and garbage here", the assembly members pointed out in the declaration read on the international bridge at the end of the protest rally.

They even added that their major certainty is that “Botnia pollutes”, so the only way of resolving the conflict is that it be dismantled”, so with this assertion they brought discredit on the proposal by the government’s presidential candidate of Uruguay, José Mujica, who proposed that Botnia should invest in tourism projects in Gualeguaychú in exchange for the ending of the blockade in route 136.

"There is no compensation of any type or kind that pays for what is being permanently caused on a depletable resource and all that lives or dwells in it and thanks to it. There will not be any possible solution while Botnia stays where it is", stressed the assembly members, which maintain a road blockade in the international bridge for close to three years.

While waiting for the diffusion of the evidence that the Argentine government will submit before the high court of the UN, the assembly members asked the judges of The Hague that they “do not prioritise the profitability of multinational companies over the healthy and dignified life of entire communities”.

The most severe accusations by the assembly members were addressed to president Tabaré Vázquez by having “relinquished the people to Finland and Botnia”, while they again demanded the government of Cristina Kirchner that it

“put obstacles in the way” of the operations of Botnia by applying the Customs Code and the “political decision” of committing itself with a national law on wood and woodlands.

"The children will not grow up fully breathing hydrogen sulphide and you, Madam President, will also be responsible of whatever happens from now on. Today more than ever we demand: Justice at The Hague, for Botnia to go away", concluded the assembly members.

The gathering was slow but relentless and, even when the proclamation was well advanced, cars, vans and buses kept coming with neighbours that, like an ant trail, came and went with their families.

Well past noon, on the head of the bridge an ecumenical prayer was read, led by Mauricio Landra, Catholic and parish priest of the Cathedral of San José de Gualeguaychú and other pastors and religious ministers.

"Some have said to us that we should not meddle, that the Church and other religions should dedicate to their own affairs. But this is also ours! Because this is also the land of our families and friends, the land that many of us work from dawn till dusk, and also the land that we want to leave as heritage", pointed out Landra before the multitude that listened in absolute silence.

The next presentation of Argentina before the International Court will take place during the oral hearings at The Hague convened between 14th September and 2nd October, whilst the final verdict is expected for March or April 2010.