

The women's voices resounded through the evidence previewed

In the hearing courtroom of the Supreme Court of Justice the third audience of the Sepur Zarco oral and public debate took place. This day began with the projection of a video containing the testimonies of the women survivors as preliminary evidence, which were accepted by Investigative Judge Miguel Ángel Gálvez (of Tribunal B of Greatest Risk).

In spite of opposition by the defense, they were not able to prevent the women's voices from resounding in the courtroom, and in the first preliminary evidence Doña Catarina declared, *"The blond was the person who brought the soldiers to our community"*.

"What I am saying is true, I am not lying here before you", with this statement Doña Catarina Rax in the second testimony described before the judge the cruel manner in which she was treated by the army, and as she was raped multiple times by the soldiers, the aggressions that she suffered made her decide to flee to the mountains. ***"I thought that there my children would survive and what happened was that they died of hunger there"***. While living in the mountains, Doña Catarina narrated that they lived in miserable conditions, they did not have food nor places to protect themselves from cold weather.

After Doña Catarina's testimony, the court listened to another witness, Mateo Rax Maquín, who during his testimony described how the soldiers came to his community and raped the women whose husbands had been disappeared, accompanied by Heriberto Asij, known as the blond Asij, whom he clearly pointed out while seeing Heriberto's face in the Courtroom; *"there he is"*, Mateo affirmed.

The last testimony of preliminary evidence was by Matilde Choc, who informed how soldiers submitted her to sexual violence in her own house. Doña Matilde, like Doña Catarina, decided to hide in the mountains together with her mother and children, *"When I came down from the mountains I had nothing left, soldiers had burnt my house and my harvest"*, Matilde affirmed.



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