

Protests against G-20 Summit in Germany

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Tens of thousands of people took to the streets today in Hamburg to protest against the upcoming G-20 summit, which will take place in Hamburg on 7 and 8 July.

The concentration was organized by a group called 'Protest Wave G20' and had as objective to claim for the protection of the climate, social justice and democracy.

According to many reports, Protestants sought to convert the center of that city, located in northern Germany, into a sea of flags with messages in several languages, as well as populate canoes with banners on the Alster River.

After the march, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel made statements in her weekly podcast, in which she said that world leaders should focus on achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth, rather than their own prosperity.

The German president also said that the G-20 would deepen on issues claimed by protesters such as the distribution of wealth and depletion of resources, along with related issues such as climate change, free markets and consumer protection.

This was the first major demonstration of about 30 that the German authorities hope will occur in opposition to the meeting of heads of government of the first 20 economies of the planet.

Although multiple opposition organizations clarified that, they do not criticize the summit, but the politics of the participating countries.

However, the German police prepared a device with at least 21,000 troops to ensure security and will establish a perimeter of 38 square kilometers. Any agglomeration of people in that area will be prohibited during the meeting.

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These drastic measures aim to avoid events such as those in Frankfurt during the opening of the new headquarters of the European Central Bank in March 2015, when law enforcement agents attacked Protestants with tear gas and fire.

They also seek to prevent escalations of violence, similar to that of Genoa at the G-8 summit in 2001, which caused the death of a 23-year-old man by a police patrol.
