

Rigoberta Menchú: A Voice for Indigenous Rights

Rigoberta Menchú grew up in a poor Indigenous family in Guatemala during a time of violence and injustice. From a young age, she saw how Indigenous communities were treated unfairly by powerful landowners and the government.

Instead of (1) _____ (stop resisting or surrender) to injustice, Menchú decided to continue speaking out. When authorities tried to silence activists, she encouraged people to (2) _____ (resist or defend themselves against an attack). She also refused to (3) _____ (stop defending a position because of pressure) when her life was in danger.

Menchú chose to (4) _____ (support and defend someone or something) the rights of Indigenous people. She helped communities (5) _____ (accept and deal with a difficult reality) such as discrimination, poverty, and violence.

The government often tried to (6) _____ (force someone to leave a place) activists from their homes and communities. However, Menchú continued to (7) _____ (accept a difficult challenge and try to deal with it) powerful political forces.

Later, she decided to (8) _____ (take responsibility or take action when needed) and speak on the international stage. She began to (9) _____ (become involved in an activity) human rights campaigns around the world.

Over time, international pressure helped the government (10) _____ (reduce the intensity of something) some of its harsh policies, bringing more attention to the struggles of Indigenous people.

In 1992, Rigoberta Menchú was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work defending human rights and promoting social justice.