



## SHAM ELECTIONS, NO SOLUTION TO THE PEOPLE

In November 2020, municipal elections for the posts of mayors and city councilors will be held in Brazil. These will be the first elections since the 2018 presidential elections, on which Jair Bolsonaro was elected as president.

Even though many groups of the Brazilian reaction appeal to the people for him to “cherish the right to vote” and to “elect reliable politicians”, the laboring masses know quite well that the bourgeois elections will bring no solution to their problems. The rates of electoral abstention, null and white votes do not cease to increase election after election.

Brazil is emerged into a deep economic depression since 2014. Six years of permanent unemployment and distress for the Brazilian people. We are already at the fourth ballot since then, with all sorts of opportunists and demagogues lying to the people, shouting that once elected, they will bring

about improvements for the living conditions of the laboring masses. Despite all promises of change, what was granted to the people rather than more unemployment, more exploitation, more oppression, more starvation, and more brutality? Even though the purchase power of the masses has collapsed, the cost of living skyrocketed, and the Brazilian laborer finds itself, nowadays, poorer, and more oppressed.

The reactionaries blame the own people for this situation. They say Brazil is in such conditions because the masses elect corrupt politicians and do not know how to vote. They hide the fundamental fact that the elections in this bourgeois-landlord State only exist to obscure who really rules the country, to hide that the backbone of the power of the big bourgeoisie and the landowners is not the parliament, but the armed detachment, the monopoly of violence.

The sham elections are there to obscure the

basic causes of the overwhelming problems of the Brazilian people.

Given that the cost of living has skyrocketed, who among the candidates of the current elections will tell the truth that this problem has as its root the imperialist rule over Brazil? Who is it going to tell that, thanks to the prevalence of foreign capital over the very lifelines of the national economy, our country remains vulnerable to the soaring prices every time the national currency devaluates?

Who is it going to tell that, thanks to the im-

perialist rule, by annually remitting tens of billions of dollars of super-profits to their headquarters abroad, the foreign companies are virtually preventing Brazil from generating millions of jobs?

Who is it going to tell that, whoever wins the elections, this situation will only perpetuate in case the masses do not carry on a national-democratic revolution to overthrow their local and foreign oppressors?

These are the truths we need to tell the Brazilian masses at this moment of sham elections.

# **The reformist path for the opposition against Bolsonaro**

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It is not possible to understand the harsh situation of Brazil, marked by the economic crisis, emergence of suppression and fascism, lack of a revolutionary political orientation for the working masses, and depoliticization of the debates on the burning issues of our country, without either understanding the role fulfilled by opportunists, reformists and revisionists.

Thanks to the wrong political orientations and parliamentary cretinism from parties like PT ("Toilers' Party"), PCdoB ("Communist Party of Brazil"), PSOL ("Socialism and Freedom Party"), and others, the Brazilian reaction has managed to impose historical defeats over the laboring masses, which made it possible for the big bourgeoisie and the landlords to intensify the exploitation of the people and boost their profits.

But what were these political orientations? Let us see since the 2018 presidential elections, which marked the victory of Jair Bolsonaro as president.

The 2018 elections had peculiarities if compared with the previous elections, that is, because of its even more sham feature, and because the military fascists had a more prevalent role by bluffing and staging open threats of military coup in case the ballots did not point out for the victory of Bolsonaro. At the very beginning of the electoral campaign, a judicial farce has led to the arrest of Lula, the candidate with the major voting intentions, and thus taking Bolsonaro to the first place in the voting surveys. Furthermore, there were widespread reports of companies receiving millions of reais to massively spread fake news in social medias, directly benefiting Bolsonaro.

During the electoral campaign, Rede Record TV Channel has given exclusivity for Bolsonaro to speak in public, at the expenses of the other candidates. Ho-

wever, nothing was done by the Brazilian "Justice". The reactionaries were out to carry on a terror campaign against a reformist and weakened Left. After the victory of Bolsonaro at the second turn of the elections, reactionary Bolsonarite hordes came to attack MST's villages and even indigenous peoples' territories.

Nevertheless, the reformist trend, headed by PT, PCdoB, and others, has upheld the "legitimacy" of the elections in a moment where the Brazilian people was deeply outraged with the economic and political crisis. They assumed the role of "upholders of the Democratic State". Bolsonaro, on the other hand, spread an "anti-Establishment" demagogic speech.

After Bolsonaro's election, reformist leaders have issued statements to "respect" the results of the ballots, because Bolsonaro was "elected by the people" (even though he was elected only by one third of the voters, with the remaining two thirds voting for Fernando Haddad, or abstaining, null and white votes), and the path to defeat him would consist in forming up a parliamentary opposition and wait for the next elections.

The path of the reformists virtually consisted in sabotaging the people's struggles and praying for the economic crisis and the corruption scandals to weaken Bolsonaro's popularity, thus bringing about an environment to file an impeachment request. None of that has happened, and the reformist parties are still deeply demoralized.

The reformist and electoral path will bring no solutions for the Brazilian people, neither it will defeat fascism. It is necessary for us to follow a new path of forming up a democratic and revolutionary political trend, that puts in the day order the defense of the nationalization of foreign capital and land reform.



# General Augusto Heleno confirms ABIN's spying



The current Chief-Minister of the Institutional Security Secretary (GSI), Augusto Heleno, has publicly confirmed in his official Twitter account that the Brazilian Agency of Intelligence (ABIN) has monitored abroad those “evil Brazilians” – thus considered by Bolsonaro’s neocolonial government – who attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Madrid, Spain, in December 2019. According to the mad minister, ABIN had the “legal competence” to take part in “events in Brazil and abroad”, and kept going: “Strategical issues should be monitored by qualified employees, especially when they involve sordid and liar international campaigns, backed by evil Brazilians, that aim at harming Brazil.”

The recognition of this fact by Augusto Heleno shows that the fascists who presently run the Brazilian State are openly carrying on the closure of the political regime, and gradually developing conditions for setting up a fascist dictatorship in Brazil. ABIN’s political performance is no secret to anyone, therefore, the “revealing” of the mad general does not surprise those who know the true colors of the Brazilian bourgeois-landowner State.

## **But who Augusto Heleno really is?**

Augusto Heleno has a singular biography. He is one of the most reactionary figures of the already reactionary Jair Bolsonaro’s government. As one

of the deeds of his long career as a serviceman of US imperialism and gendarme of the people’s masses, let us mention the massacre in Haiti: from June 2004 to September 2005, Augusto Heleno has led the sadly known “Operation Minustah”, a “peace” mission brought about with the approval of the United Nations Security Council, to “restore order” in Haiti. Brazil would assume the post of leading country in this mission. Heleno was its military commander, and, during this period, he harshly oppressed the Haitian masses by leading “Minustah” and the reactionary Brazilian army.

Furthermore, the government organ currently run by reactionary Augusto Heleno, GSI, has had a big repercussion during 2013, when it was widely reported that employees linked with the same organ were involved in monitoring and persecutions against activists who took part in the massive protests which stormed the Brazilian urban centers during that year. GSI employees have used even social medias to monitor organizations and infiltrate them: this was conducted not only against urban mass movements, but also against peasant movements, judging by the denounces of monitoring and persecution against the Landless Rural Toilers’ Movement (MST).

Nevertheless, it will not be the secret police who will grant bread to the Brazilian people and make him forget the hunger he feels.





# No to the crackdown against the Poor Peasants' League!

Over the last days, the Poor Peasants' League (LCP, initials for the Portuguese "Liga dos Camponeses Pobres"), an important mass movement linked with the struggles of the Brazilian rural populations, is being subject to a major suppressive crackdown by the landlord class and the Brazilian reactionary government, even with open statements by Jair Bolsonaro.

Recently, Jair Bolsonaro has shared in his Twitter account a recording in which armed peasants expelled policemen who were threatening their families, showing the recording as an "evidence" against the LCP, attempting to show this mass movement as a group of "radicals" and "outlaws". However, the recording had nothing to do with the LCP.

Deeply linked with the economic and political work among the rural masses of Rondônia state, Northern region of Brazil, LCP arouses about 600 landless peasant families (2.4 thousand people) which, in Nova Mutum Paraná district, Porto Velho municipality, occupied in 2016 a big idle 57 thousand hectares latifundia, formed up through land-grabbing. Over this idle landed estate, the peasants erected Tiago dos Santos village, thus named to celebrate, and remember the peasant Comrade Tiago dos Santos, martyred in the anti-feudal struggle.

The suppressive campaign against LCP was intensified on October 03, when military policemen were murdered in an area allegedly nearby the villa-

ge. The big local mass media backed by landowners has immediately blamed the LCP for the killings.

Two days later, the landgrabber Antônio Martins and his brother made a request on state Justice to evict the families. Since October 08, the state Military Police has started the evil "Ordo Operation", mobilizing 300 heavily armed policemen to attack the village and carry on a virtual blockade against the area. Since October 10, offensives are being carried out against the peasant families, and there are widespread reports of assassinations and kidnappings being practiced not only against the farmers which inhabit the village, but as well as against other masses who support the anti-feudal struggle.

The hundreds of children of the village ran out of milk since many days ago, and the blockade imposed by the police have prevented the commercialization of the harvest and the entry of goods inside the area.

It is necessary for us to attack Jair Bolsonaro and his clique for directly arousing violence against the peasants. Bolsonaro's family is seemingly directly involved with the suppression: on October 09, Flávio Bolsonaro (Jair Bolsonaro's son) has personally visited the district where the policemen are blocking the village.

Long live the anti-feudal struggle!

Down with the reactionary suppression against the Poor Peasants' League!



# CRIMINAL SYCOPHANTS OF US IMPERIALISM



There is not a single month which Bolsonaro's regime and its clique of bastards do not show off repeated demonstrations of sycophancy towards US imperialism at the expenses of the wet and blood of the Brazilian masses. On September 19, the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ernesto Araújo, has welcomed in Roraima state, Brazilian North, Mike Pompeo, US State Secretary, who, between September 17 and 20, 2020, made a "tour" in Latin American satellite countries, besides Brazil – Colombia, Suriname, and Guyana –, to allegedly reaffirm the commitment of the United States' government in "upholding democracy" and "strengthening security against regional threats" – that is: to intensify the imperialist war threat against Venezuela at the very eve of the United States elections.

Ernesto Araújo has fulfilled his role of US imperialism sycophant, and siding with Pompeo, he openly reaffirmed recognizing Juan Guaidó's "government" (?), not Nicolas Maduro's, as the true representative of the Venezuelan people, even though it was the latter who was actually elected.

Meanwhile, between September 8 and 22, 2020, the Brazilian reactionary army has carried on a curious war simulation military exercise against Venezuela, on which it has spent R\$ 6 million (1.06 million USD) only in fuel, transport and flight hours. The Ministry of Defense has refused to report the total expenditure with the operation.

Not enough happy in burning millions of reais in a moment when Brazilians are starving and unemployed, neither in welcoming the US State Secretary like a submissive dog, the federal government has decided to decrease its indecency some more in the month of October 2020.

As we all know, nowadays, almost all countries

find themselves in the race to develop Covid-19 vaccine, so they can eventually immunize their populations. Recently, the Chinese pharmaceutical company Sinovac Biotech has developed, jointly with the Brazilian Butantã Institute, a vaccine for Covid-19. On October 20, general Eduardo Pazuello, Healthcare Minister, stated that he had the intention to purchase 40 million doses of such vaccine. Nevertheless, he was immediately unauthorized by the own Bolsonaro, who has been threatening to use his authority to block the purchase of the vaccines for two simple reasons: 1) reactionary São Paulo's governor, João Dória, finds himself amidst an intense political contention against Bolsonaro, and has managed to capitalize for himself the "merit" for developing the vaccine. Blocking the purchase of the doses would be a way to weaken Bolsonaro's political rival; 2) the vaccine was developed in cooperation with a Chinese company.

The psychopath Bolsonaro does not hesitate to drag even more Brazilians to the grave, in case it brings him more personal political-electoral benefits and bring about one more opportunity for him to show the world how puppet of US imperialism he really is. He aligns himself for the United States in the US-China capitalist contention, even though it may mean the death of even more Brazilians by a disease which has already killed 155.000 of our compatriots.

After all this, Bolsonaro shows to the Brazilian people, on October 19, a "trade agreement" signed between the United States and Brazil, which shall "boost bilateral trade", as a great victory for him.

We leave the question: what can this "agreement" grant to Brazil, rather than more unemployment, in a moment when the Brazilian exports to the United States are shrinking due to Trump's protectionist measures?



## Supreme Federal court passes measure to boost privatization of oil & gas industry

On October 01, the Brazilian Supreme Federal Court has taken a decision according to which, from now on, it will be possible for the government to privatize subsidiary companies that belong to the big State-owned company Petrobras (“Petróleo Brasileiro S.A.”, or in English “Brazilian Oil S.A.”) without the previous approval of the National Congress.

Such decision was taken after a series of judicial controversies that hindered the government from stepping forward in privatizing Petrobras’ assets. Recently, the government has announced the privatization of two oil refineries, Landulpho Alves Refinery, in Bahia state, and Presidente Getúlio Vargas Refinery, in Paraná state. However, the board directors of the Chamber of Deputies and the Federal Senate have filed a lawsuit against the federal government, accusing it of going over the decisions of the Legislative Power. Therefore, after the decision taken by the Supreme Federal Court on October 01, the pro-business stand is self-evident.

After this decision, the reactionary federal government will be able not only to hand over the mentioned oil refineries in the states of Bahia and Paraná, but also to boost the privatization of many other assets whose alienation was stagnated due to the same judicial controversies. Thus, big State-owned subsidiary companies like “Nova Transportadora do Sudeste (NTS S.A.)” (or in English, New Southeastern

Transport Company S.A.), which controls the major Brazilian pipeline network, and “BR Distribuidora”, the major fuel trader of the domestic market, will be handed over, respectively, to the imperialist Canadian capital and the private stock market.

The privatization of oil & gas industry has been rapidly moving forward in Brazil since 2013. Selling it off to foreign capital shows the tendency of the latter to hinder industrialization in semi-colonial lands. Once handed over to foreign capital, factories and other industrial facilities are suddenly shut down or unstructured.

Nowadays, Brazil has a daily production of about 3 million barrels of oil, but the national industrial capacity to refine it is of only 2.4 million barrels of oil a day. Thanks to the privatizations, however, the Brazilian oil refineries are operating with only 60% of their industrial capacity, and more than 1 million barrels of oil a day are no longer being refined locally, thus leading to a rising unemployment and leaving the local market more vulnerable to the Dollar currency fluctuations. About 20% of the gasoline consumed in Brazil is imported, and it is estimated that this rate will increase to about 40% during next months, thanks to the privatizing measures.

The more Brazil impoverishes itself, the more the imperialist corporations super-profits’ increase.