

# BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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Brazil has reached the official mark of more than 500,000 people killed by COVID-19 in a scenario in which the government of Jair Bolsonaro acts deliberately so that nothing is done to combat the pandemic. In the face of the health, political and economic crisis in which our country is plunged, thousands of people took to the streets to protest against the government and its genocidal policy. There were 427 acts spread across the Brazilian territory, which brought together more than 750,000 students, workers, trade unionists, youth, retirees and patriots to fight for the overthrow of this government supported by the military, by the cowardice of parliamentarians and by the bourgeoisie who profit more than ever in this tragedy. Even with the COVID CPI in the Senate proving the various government crimes during the pandemic, there are still those who prefer to leave the Bolsonaro mob's exit only in the 2022 elections. Opportunists and revisionists try to limit the just demonstration of the masses against the government to take electoral advantage for later, while the deaths continues increasing. Demonstrations must be supported and the interests behind the president and the ongoing genocide increasingly denounced.

## HALF A MILLION DEATHS



## 2020 was another year marked by repression and violence in the Brazilian countryside

The daily news shows us the considerable increase of conflicts and violence in the Brazilian countryside. This year, the illegal arrest of four peasants in Rondônia and the repression of the state apparatus against the League of Poor Peasants (LCP), as well as the attacks of prospectors against the indigenous peoples of Mundukurus and Yanomamis, were some of the clear examples of the renewed repression and violence of the latifundium, in collusion of the government forces and the armed forces, which had in 2020 a year marked by the increase of conflicts.

According to the report “Conflicts in the Field 2020”, organized by the Documentation Center of the CPT - Dom Tomás Balduino (Cedoc), last year there were 2,054 occurrences of conflicts in the field, involving almost 1 million people. In addition, there were 1,576 occurrences of conflicts by land, which is equivalent to a daily average of 4.31 conflicts per land, which involved 171,625 Brazilian families, in a context of severe pandemic. These numbers were the largest ever recorded: at least 81,225 families had their lands and territories invaded in 2020.

The numbers of land conflicts and invasions of peasants, quilombolas and indigenous people lands broke records of the historical series initiated by the CPT since 1985. There were 914,144 involved in the struggle for land in 2020.

Water conflicts have also registered a record number of murders, highest number in a decade-long ascending curve. The murders occurred in the so-called Abacaxis River massacre in August 2020, related to a conflict involving sport fishing tourism, illegal mining, drug trafficking and the use of firearms, in a scenario where local communities are threatened.

The indigenous people became increasingly victims of violence. Seven indigenous people were killed in 2020, and the indigenous peoples represent a significant percentage in the number of victims of death threats. The number of indigenous families

who saw their lands invaded by land grabbers and prospectors doubled, from 40,042 in 2019 to 81,225 in 2020.

Of course, this is explained by the ongoing offensive against the demarcated territories sponsored by the Bolsonaro government. The suspension of the homologation of indigenous lands and the measures taken by government agencies have enhanced conflicts in indigenous areas, widely encouraging deforestation and criminal fires.

The survey also indicates that in the last decade, machismo and misogyny were also a factor in the repression of the peasant struggle. According to the CPT, “in ten years, 446 women were threatened with death, with squatters (90), quilombolas (60) and landless workers (49) gathering the largest contingent of threatened. There were 37 rapes in a decade, the main victims being Quilombola and indigenous woman. Thirty of these rapes were committed against children and adolescents of the quilombola community Kalunga, in the state of Goiás. Those involved in these rapes were farmers, prospectors, members of the municipal legislature, businessmen. Ninety-eight women have been arrested in the last ten years in the context of conflicts in the countryside, in the waters and in the forests. The prisons were determined mainly for landless women (66 of the total)”.

The figures of the survey confirm once again that the field is a fundamental trench of the struggles of the Brazilian people, which is faced in the current situation with the reactionary advance carried out by the ruling classes, under the Bolsonaro government and the military that supports it, creating conditions for the latifundium and the bureaucratic bourgeoisie to expand more and more the overexploitation of the workers of the countryside and the city to serve the interests of their imperialist masters. It is urgent to extend solidarity and support to all peasant struggle movements facing this scenario.





# The America cup in Brazil pandemic

## - CONMEBOL - COPA AMERICA

After seeing the America Cup without a host country after the withdrawal of Colombia and Argentina, and receiving the denial of other countries like Chile, the entity that dominates South American football appealed to its minor partner, the Brazilian Confederation of Football (CBF) and rely on the “denialism” of the Bolsonaro government to hold the superfluous tournament in Brazil.

One of the justifications to bring the America Cup to Brazil, in addition to the permissiveness of the authorities, was the fact that the country has several idle World Cup stadiums, as Mane Garrincha, in Brasília, Amazon Arena, Pernambuco Arena and Dune Arena, in Natal. The Conmebol consultation was received positively by the government and thus was confirmed.

After the denial of some states to receive the tournament, the chief minister of the Civil House of President Jair Bolsonaro, General Luiz Eduardo Ramos, reported on Twitter that the Copa América will be held in Cuiabá, in Mato Grosso; Goiânia, in Goiás; Brasília, in the Federal District; and Rio de Janeiro, capital.

With the delay of the vaccination process caused by the deliberate action of the Ministry of Health and the president, as demonstrated by the facts and discussions underway in the CPI of Covid in the Senate, so far, less than ¼ Brazilians received the first dose of the vaccine against the new coronavirus; and yet the second dose was applied in only 10% of the population.

In addition to the political absurdity around Brazil hosting the tournament, the government’s “demand” for the entire process to follow all such “health protocols” is laughable. Brazilian football returned to its activities last year, after a few months of paralysis in the beginning of the pandemic. Even under justification of

following such protocols, the news showed the lack of security for the activities. There were not few outbreaks in clubs, which still had to perform the games, even with embezzlements of several contaminated players.

A survey of UFPB researchers on COVID-19 cases during the 2020 Brazilian Championship demonstrates how ineffective the CBF protocols are: the disease infected 48% of A Series players. The survey was conducted with 625 players from 20 clubs, with an average age of 25 years. In total, 302 athletes tested positive in the RT-PCR exam made by the clubs.

According to virologist Marcelo Moreno, a researcher at the Department of Physiology and Pathology at UFPB, the study shows that the risk of becoming infected with the virus is 13 times higher for football players compared to the general population.

It is clear that the realization of the America Cup meets only two interests: the guarantee of contracts and profits of CONMEBOL and CBF, who has just had its president accused of sexual and moral harassment, in addition to the use by the Bolsonaro government to try to distract from the fundamental problems of the political, health and social crisis in which the country is plunged and save its increasingly low popularity.

That is why the America Cup in Brazil is completely unacceptable and we must fight against it.

It is not and will not be the last time that the Brazilian people should rise up against sporting events held against their interests. At the time of the announcement of the Football World Cup and the Olympics in our country, popular committees were articulated to organize the struggles against the realization and denounce all rights violations to meet the demands of FIFA and the IOC.



# The urgent and necessary defense of the public post service against privatization

ECT (Brazilian Post and Telegraph Company), popularly known as Correios, is one of the most valuable assets of the Brazilian people, created to fulfill the state's obligation to ensure that postal services were offered throughout the national territory, for all Brazilians. Present in 5,556 Brazilian municipalities (99.75%), the Correios delivered in 2019, per day, more than 21.7 million postal objects, more than 1.3 million orders, more than 18.5 million messages and more than 1.9 million other objects. For this, the Post Office has 99.5 thousand employees, mostly postal workers (53.5 thousand) and attendants (19 thousand) who heroically work to realize these numbers, proportional to the size of our country.

The Correios has a monopoly of dealing with letters, postcards and mail pouches to ensure that the right to access these services is above profit and market needs. Apart from monopolized services, Correios also works with packages (those of virtual shops, for example), direct marketing, logistics, convenience services (such as the issuance of documents), financial (through Postal Bank), international services and logistics for the government (such as the distribution of medical supplies to the public healthcare system and teaching materials and exams from the Ministry of Education for example).

To accomplish this essential work, the Post Office workers struggle against a number of difficulties: the successive dismissal plans and the lack of new employees, the cutting of labor rights and the breaking of agreements with workers, the closing of own agencies to privilege private franchised agencies, state underfunding and budget crackdowns caused by parasitic bureaucrats in alliance with foreigners deteriorate the company and burden employees, worsening the quality of the service the company provides to the people, following the old script of degrading the service to the point where it is impossible for its normal operation to then hand it over for free to private interest.

The American imperialist offensive that presses for the privatization of companies like the Post Office throughout Latin America occurs since the end of the

80's through the neoliberal economic policy, with an eye on the immense profit that the decentralization of the postal services would represent, in the expectation of finding a destination for financial capital to reproduce and ensure that control of the most important resources of the region remain under imperialist control, allowing foreign companies to eat the most lucrative slices of the national market, raising prices to secure profits in dollars and abandoning unprofitable regions to its own fortune. The examples of the result of these privatizations are many: the cities of Brumadinho and Mariana can talk about the Vale do Rio Doce mining company, the price and quality of telecommunications services can talk about Telebrás, the state of the railways can talk about RFFSA, the price of LPG tank talk about Liquigás, the price of fuels can talk about the privatist offensive on Petrobras, and so on... There has never been and will never be privatization that improves the prices and quality of services or that has developed our productive forces at the level of the countries of imperialist capitalism.

The interest of large foreign companies in monopolizing certain more profitable areas and abandoning the less profitable areas will replace a nationally integrated system with a decentralized system, where each company has autonomy to work differently from its peers from other regions. We will lose the ability to perform a coordinated national logistics operation, having to rely on the simultaneous work of several independent and uncoordinated operators to ensure even the services that the state itself is obliged to offer to all Brazilian. The increase of independent private operators opens more security loopholes for anyone interested in the information circulating in the postal system, a serious threat to national sovereignty that is part of the objectives of imperialist countries such as the US.

During 2020, the attacks on the Post Office unified the largest trade union representations of the company's workers, Fentect and Findect, in a militant strike movement that mobilized the majority of workers and set a schedule of struggles to drive resistance to the privatist offensive.





# STOP SOCIAL REGRESSION; CONQUER A DIGNIFIED LIFE

**rumos  
da luta**

The young Brazilians, until about thirty years ago, when trying to get a job, generally succeeded. If they had reasonable schooling, they would find a job with a defined salary and some labor rights.

From time to time, even with a good education, young people are being forced to accept sub jobs, practically without rights.

We do not mean that everything was going well for the workers until the 1980s. There were many problems, illiteracy was much greater and general access to Education and Health services was much lower. However, the advances that have taken place since then are far greater on paper than in practice, and in many aspects, we have regressed. Why?

Technological progress, for the workers, has meaning larger and more intense journeys and not the other way around, as it could be. The labor legislation that protected the workers is being eliminated. From a system of education largely precarious, privatized and geared to the interests of the bourgeoisie, the young proletarians can only partially participate, since, as children, they need to divide the time of studies with working days, domestic or not.

Access to health services is also quite partial for the working class, since people in our class, in general, only seek this service when they

are already sick, even because the living conditions we have led to illness and not its prevention. In this area too, there is a huge regression and the treatment of the coronavirus pandemic by governments is there to demonstrate.

The SUS - Unified Health System - important achievement of popular struggles in our country, has suffered since its inception with the boycott by governments that seek to push people to private health groups. Without the SUS and the dedication of its workers, the most impoverished portion of the people would not have any health care.

Let us not go into too much detail here in describing so many setbacks in the area of culture, leisure, public transport and in so many other spheres, essential to a healthy life. A considerable part of the Brazilian people simply do not have access to them. Why?

The answers we give to these reasons depend on the solution of the problems we face. As we have already had the opportunity to write right here in this space, some naturalize the social tragedy, placing the blame on the people who would suffer them by their own disability. Others supernaturalize this tragedy and place hopes on a reconciliation of the human being with the divine. Nor should we forget the role of academia in this process of justifying the setbacks of recent decades. Much has been written and still written

about the end of the “centrality of work” in the productive process, about the end of the “Fordism commitment” and things like that.

We think differently and we understand that what triggered the enormous social setbacks was a reversal in the relationship of political and social forces in favor of the bourgeoisie, as recorded elsewhere.

“At the end of the 20th century, the victory of capitalist counter-revolution determines the end of the socialist bloc. This was celebrated by the bourgeoisie, who announced the end of the class struggle; the end of ideologies; or even the end of history! According to the supporters of this new world order, including a significant portion of the left, we would enter an era of peace and progress. None of this happened and the consequences did not waited”.

Henri Aleg described part of these consequences in “The Great Leap Behind”, stating that in the former USSR, in a short time, life expectancy fell ten years. Malnutrition, in a world that produces more and more food, threatens much of humanity. More than half of the Brazilian people are at risk of starvation, but privatizations and attacks on workers’ rights continue. Emergency aid has been reduced and public money, for the most part, is directed to pay interest to speculators who lend to the government, under the applause of many.

From what has been said so far, it follows that, if capitalism had a more human face throughout the 20th century, it was not on its own merits, but because it was forced to do so by a strong international communist movement, which organized revolutionary parties in each country, to carry out the revolution. The bourgeoisie in this period had to give up the rings in order not to lose its fingers, but when it was free of this embarrassment, it tries to recover everything it gave up.

It is precisely this profound social regression that has forced the proletariat of all countries and the other exploited strata of the people to develop heroic struggles, such as those that took place in the 1990s and since then. Struggles against the end of labor rights and against privatizations and denationalizations, against imperialist occupations and interventions, against threats and interference to the sovereignty of the peoples.

In 2019, in the wake of this resistance, we had real insurrections in Chile and Ecuador. Last year the Indian proletariat organized a general strike with wide repercussion. This year it was the turn of the Paraguayan people to rise up against the oligarchy that runs the country, the same is true in Haiti. In recent days, the Colombian people also stood up against a government

package that would further worsen their already precarious conditions.

In Brazil, we also developed an important resistance to the end of retirement for workers, which is the practical consequence of the reforms underway in our country.

We must salute and support these struggles with all our strength. However, in our opinion, they still run into the limit of being defensive struggles, detached from the struggle for revolution that puts the possibility of structural changes that, in fact, improve the living conditions of the majority of the people. Such struggles clash in the domestication of various so-called communist parties, in the policy of the reformist parties that discourages the workers, disorganizes them, lowers their level of consciousness and in the role that fulfills the reformist trade union centrals.

Nowadays, the revolutionaries have before them the challenge of rebuilding their party, and together with the patriotic sectors of Brazilian society, to develop the struggle of resistance against the attacks we have suffered, linking it with the struggle for the reduction of the working day without reduction of wages, for agrarian reform, for equal pay for equal work, for the nationalization of banks and other monopolies. Without these measures, it will not be possible to reorganize the economy to meet popular needs.

Brazilians and Brazilians who will live to see the two hundred years of the independence of our homeland must make a commitment to fight for the second and definitive independence, honoring the memory of the best children of Brazil, who fought at other times for us to have a dignified life, many with the sacrifice of their own lives. Let’s be worthy of the story.

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