

BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

Issue #10 March/2021



SOCIAL TURMOIL, BLATANT GENOCIDE

It is patently impossible to dissociate the present crisis from the decades of neo-liberalism that have resulted in the scrapping of Brazilian healthcare and social security systems. Nevertheless, there are also no doubts that pandemic would not reach its present stage if it were not for the sinister plans of Jair Bolsonaro and the fascist military of intensifying contradictions among reactionary classes, if it were not for the quackery of this fascist clique in denying pandemic, in posing medications that are provenly inefficient as elixirs for Covid-19, and without the persisting intents of Bolsonaro in hindering the gather up of economic conditions to carry on lockdowns. Thus, Bolsonaro has been attempting to dissociate his image from the present economic crisis, labelling it to state governors that are responsible for lockdown decrees. There are no doubts that the sham lockdowns, with no appropriate conditions to carry them on, have been consisting in forcing the masses to starve to death. Therefore, Bolsonaro has been playing demagogically and in a terrorist way with the desperate of the masses for the loss of their jobs and their businesses, thus intending to maneuver this just feeling under an electoral way.



99 YEARS OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL AND THE HISTORICAL NECESSITY TO REBUILD IT

DOCUMENTARIES AND MOVIES ON THE BRAZILIAN REALITY. As we stated in our first issue, released in June 2020, the Brazilian Revolution International Bulletin is a monthly publishing by the Communist Reconstruction Union (CRU), that aims to form up an international web of solidarity with the struggles of the Brazilian people and with the perspectives of resuming the Brazilian revolution, acquainting the friends of the Brazilian people from abroad about the features of the Brazilian society and on how its people has been struggling against imperialism and local reactionary classes. To attain the aim set by the Brazilian Revolution International Bulletin, the CRU has been writing articles on different subjects about our reality. To deepen this work, we took the initiative to translate, to English and Spanish languages, subtitles of documentaries about the Brazilian reality and about the struggles of our people, broadcasting them from this current issue of the Bulletin. The reader will be able to see them on the page 7 of each issue.

99 years of the founding of the Communist Party of Brazil and the historical necessity to rebuild it



Almost a century ago, on March 25, 1922, the founding of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCB, “Partido Comunista do Brasil”, in Portuguese) was the first move to merge the Marxist-Leninist theory with the combative Brazilian labor movement, that was developing since the 1917 strikes.

The PCB has developed under the harsh underground and suppressive conditions imposed by the Brazilian reactionary state and its successive rulers. Only three months after its founding, the then reactionary Arthur Bernardes government bans the Party.

Besides, since its establishment, the PCB has suffered from grave ideological and political shortcomings. Almost all its founders came from the ranks of the Anarcho-Syndicalist labor movement, and with no due ideological remoulding, PCB had yet no conditions of fulfilling its role of vanguard detachment of the Brazilian proletariat: even though the Party was established in 1922, for instance, the first Portuguese edition of the Manifesto of the Communist Party would only appear in the year of 1924, in form of leaflets, in the newspaper “The Cosmopolitan Voice” (“A Voz Cosmopolita”, in Portuguese). Before that, only a handful of intellectuals who could understand French, with a deep contact with foreign literature, could manage to have access to the content of Marx and Engels Manifesto of the Communist Party.

In 1924, Party leader Octávio Brandão, an outstanding Communist, writes the work “Agrarianism and Industrialism”, which despite its ideological, political, and programmatic shortcomings, has made itself to be the very first attempt to make a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the Brazilian society and revolution.

In 1935, PCB would carry forward what would be one of the main struggles of that time. One year before, in 1934, under the leadership of the Communists and other democratic forces, it was established the National Liberation Alliance (ANL, “Aliança Nacional Libertadora”, in Portuguese), an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, and anti-fascist united front. On No-

vember 1935, ANL would gather its forces to carry on an uprising aiming at overthrowing the government of Getúlio Vargas and at establishing a National People’s Revolutionary Government. Nevertheless, with no due consolidated mass work, and relying on the low-ranked military of urban areas, with no correct understanding on how to carry on an armed revolution in a semicolonial and semifeudal country, the ANL-led uprisings would be defeated in the cities of Recife and Rio de Janeiro. In Natal city, the uprising has managed to resist for four days before being defeated by the intervention of federal troops.

After the 1935 Uprising, Vargas regime has intensified its suppressive offensive that would lead to an almost dismantle of PCB, that would only manage to reorganize in 1941, after the famous Mantiqueira National Conference, which established the National Commission of Provisional Organization (CNOP, “Comissão Nacional de Organização Provisória”, in Portuguese).

At the decades of 1940 and 1950, PCB would lead important struggles, like the peasant wars of Porecatu, in the state of Paraná, Southern region of Brazil, and Trombas e Formoso, in the state of Goiás, Central-West region of Brazil. It is also important to mention the role of the PCB in the development of Peasant Leagues at the sugarcane producing areas in the Northeastern region of Brazil.

In 1958, the opportunist leadership headed by Luís Carlos Prestes would announce the famous “March 1958 Declaration”, which marks the endorse of PCB towards the revisionist positions of Nikita Khrushchev, that were set after the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union of 1956. In 1961, the Party would change its name from “Communist Party of Brazil” to “Brazilian Communist Party”, as well as substantially modifying its Program and Rules, removing references to proletarian internationalism, to the Soviet Union, and to Marxism-Leninism, thus becoming a legal party and running for elections.

In 1962, proletarian revolutionaries led by outstanding leaders like Maurício Grabois, Pedro Pomar, Lincoln Oest, José Duarte, and João Amazonas, would state the “Charter of the Hundred” (“Carta dos Cem”, in Portuguese), in which they oppose PCB’s revisionist deviation. Afterwards, Prestes and his group manage to expel them from the Party.

The revolutionary proletarians who opposed Prestes pro-Soviet revisionism re-establish the Communist Party of Brazil in 1962, with its original name and the new initials PC do Brasil (or PC do B), to differentiate themselves from the now revisionist PCB. The year of 1962, therefore, marks the first historical split in the Brazilian Communist movement, between the Marxist-Leninist PC do Brasil and the revisionist PCB.

PC do Brasil would soon adhere the anti-revisionist camp led by Socialist China. At the end of the 1960s, in the work “People’s War: The Path for Armed Struggle in Brazil”, PC do Brasil commits itself to the task of carrying on the protracted people’s war, as the only path for overthrowing the military-fascist rule that was established in the country after the 1964 Coup D’Etat.

Since 1968, PC do Brasil would lead a guerrilla warfare in Araguaia area, northern Goiás state (which is the current state of Tocantins), Central-West region of Brazil, as a preparation for the start of the people’s war. Nevertheless, around the year of 1975, the well-known Araguaia Guerrilla Warfare would be defeated by the 25.000 troops of the military-fascist regime.

Despite its anti-revisionist stand, PC do Brasil also suffered from many shortcomings on how to carry on protracted people’s war in Brazil. After its

defeat in Araguaia, PC do Brasil would go through a process of ideological decay, until becoming only one more among the many Brazilian bourgeois electoral parties.

Because of the defeats suffered by the Communists over the decades, due to their own shortcomings and due to surrender to reaction, the apparent “political emptiness” would be fulfilled by the reformist-led “Toilers’ Party” (PT, “Partido dos Trabalhadores”, in Portuguese), which is up to the current days the opportunistic machine that prevails in the mass movements in Brazil like a straitjacket, hindering mass struggles in Brazil from moving forward to a revolutionary path.

Therefore, after so many years of defeats and prevalence of wrong behaviors in the mass movements, the establishment of the Communist Party, the vanguard detachment of the Brazilian revolutionary proletariat, remains an unfinished task. If the Brazilian masses have suffered so many defeats over the last years, there are no doubts that the absence of the vanguard detachment of the proletariat is its root cause.

The huge scattering of the Brazilian Communist movement – there are five parties and dozens of groups who claim themselves as Communists in Brazil – is a consequence of the strength of revisionism and the absence of a common understanding on what path should be followed by the Brazilian Revolution. The Communist Reconstruction Union (CRU), that upholds and takes Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, is opened to discuss and to fight for the unity around what path should be followed by the Brazilian Revolution.

Long live the 99th anniversary of the Communist Party of Brazil and the struggle for its rebuilding!



social turmoil, blatant genocide

Covid-19 pandemic is out of control in Brazil. On March 24, 2021, our country has surpassed the figure of 300.000 deceased by Covid-19. According to extremely underestimated figures, there are 12.3 million infected.

Brazil currently faces a national collapse of its healthcare system, with thousands of people presently waiting in the rows for beds of intensive care units. In São Paulo state, Southeastern region of Brazil, more than 130 people have died from Covid-19 when waiting for beds of intensive care units up to March 19.

It is patently impossible to dissociate the present crisis from the decades of neoliberalism that have resulted in the scrapping of Brazilian healthcare and social security systems. Nevertheless, there are also no doubts that pandemic would not reach its present stage if it were not for the sinister plans of Jair Bolsonaro and the fascist military of intensifying contradictions among reactionary classes, if it were not for the quackery of this fascist clique in denying pandemic, in posing medications that are provenly inefficient as elixirs for Covid-19, and without the persisting intents of Bolsonaro in hindering the gathering up of economic conditions to carry on lockdowns.

Thus, Bolsonaro has been attempting to dissociate his image from the present economic crisis, labelling it to state governors that are responsible for lockdown decrees. There are no doubts that the sham lockdowns, with no appropriate conditions to carry them on, have been consisting in forcing the masses to starve to death. Therefore, Bolsonaro has been playing demagogically and in a terrorist way with the desperate of the masses for the loss of their jobs and their businesses, thus intending to maneuver this just feeling under an electoral way.

In 2020, when the R\$ 600 (USD 105) emergency relief was being paid for almost 70 million Brazilians, the Brazilian GDP has dropped 4.1%. What is to be expected with the recent return of an emergency relief with values between R\$ 150 (USD 26) and R\$ 350 (USD 61), to be granted to up to 20 million Brazilians, rather than an even worse economic crisis in the year of 2021? Brazil is also facing the pandemic of famine, and the official rate of unemployment is about to reach 16%.

On March 08, 2021, the Minister of the Supreme Federal Court Edson Fachin has nullified the lawsuit that has led to the sentence and imprisonment of Lula in 2018. Even though the accusation against the ex-President Lula is remaining, his political rights were restored, and he no longer hides his intentions of running for 2022 elections. That brings new facts for the Brazilian political situation. One cannot help not to suspect that this is about one more maneuver of reactionary classes from hindering the Brazilian masses from revolting, and to turn the masses' dissatisfaction to the path of elections. With the return of Lula to the Brazilian political arena, Bolsonaro demagogically turns himself in favor of mass inoculation, and even moves to establish a sham "anti-pandemic emergency committee". Other reactionary strata, on their turn, go on to uphold a so-called "third path" between Lula and Bolsonaro.

Therefore, the Brazilian political situation is extremely complex. Amidst such complexity, the mass struggles gain back momentum. Oil workers are managing to stage the largest national strike over the last 25 years. In the countryside, the masses have been resisting the displacements carried on by the landowners.

Any attempt of reactionaries in safeguarding the rotten and exploitative system will have no other consequence rather than dragging it to the crisis even more.





OIL WORKERS STAGE NATIONAL STRIKE

One of the great marks of the struggles of the Brazilian toiling masses in the month of March 2021 was the national strike carried on by oil workers, that are headed by the United Federation of Oil Workers (FUP, “Federação Única dos Petroleiros”, in Portuguese). The first step to organize the strike was taken on March 05, in the state of Bahia, Northeastern region of Brazil. Over the next days, oil workers of many other states of the country would follow the example of their comrades of Bahia and would also stage the strike.

There are many reasons that explain why oil workers have massively adhered to the strike called by the FUP.

At a time when Brazil surpasses the mark of 300.000 deaths by Covid-19, and the country's healthcare system faces a national collapse, with many states already facing lack of oxygen and the deaths of hundreds of people waiting for beds of intensive healthcare units, the trade unions led by FUP have been registering growing cases of infection by Covid-19 in refineries and oil platforms. At Gabriel Passos Refinery, located in the state of Minas Gerais, Southeastern region of Brazil, for example, more than two hundred workers were infected by Covid-19 in the month of March alone. This situation of soaring infections has been aggravated by abusive agglomerations imposed by PETROBRAS' directorate at maintenance stops, when the number of workers crowded in the same workplace triples. There-

fore, there is a demand for PETROBRAS to fulfill sanitary rules.

PETROBRAS' directorate intend to privatize Landulpho Alves Refinery, in the state of Bahia, selling it off to Mubala Capital, an investment fund from the United Arab Emirates. There is also an intention of privatizing Petrobras Biofuels. Workers fear massive layoffs and loss of rights with the privatization. Thus, the national strike has a demand against the sell-off of PETROBRAS' assets for foreign capital.

In other states, there are growing denunciations of rising labor accidents at refineries, oil platforms, and other workplaces, besides the rising moral harassment made by the managers, who have been compelling workers to toil at abusive work rhythms due to the retirement of many workers, with no hiring of new employees to replace them. Besides, many terms of recent collective labor agreements are not being fulfilled. The national strike, therefore, shows the dissatisfaction of petroleum workers with the low pays, bad work conditions, and the disrespect shown by the managers of PETROBRAS. There are demands for the fulfillment of collective agreements, for the hiring of new employees, and many others.

Oil workers are mobilized for the strike in the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, Espírito Santo, Amazonas, and there are still perspectives of oil workers from other states to join the strike. There is no lack of reasons for that.



Crackdown against freedom of speech in Brazil

With the deepening economic and social crisis in Brazil, just like in other countries of the capitalist world, local ruling classes are clearly placing their bets in the trend towards fascism as a possibility to overcome the crisis. Trend towards fascism, on its hand, brings about an even bigger trend for a crackdown against freedom of speech and freedom of thought.

The regime of Bolsonaro and reactionary military have been trying to raise, in Brazil, an environment of ideological obscurantism and political terror to shut down all forms of opposition, even the ones carried on by liberals and reformists.

The maneuvers of Brazilian reactionary classes against the freedom of speech, nevertheless, are much earlier than the rising of Bolsonaro. In June 2013, as a way of suppressing the mass demonstrations that stormed Brazilian urban centers, the reformist-led "Toilers' Party" (PT, "Partido dos Trabalhadores", in Portuguese) government has enacted the evil "Antiterrorism Law", that was sanctioned in 2016.

In March 2021, Brazil was the stage of grotesque attempts against the freedom of speech.

São Paulo University professor Larissa Bombardi is internationally known for her research on the application of pesticides in Brazilian agriculture. She has been denouncing for years the harmful impacts of pesticides on the health of farmworkers and the Brazilian population in general. Since some months ago, she has been receiving death threats that has been making her change her routine and her daily routes. Death threats had made her cancel her attendance in an academic event in Chapecó city,

Santa Catarina state, Southern region of Brazil. In March 2021, with growing constraints, she was compelled to leave the country to safeguard her security.

In the beginning of March 2021, the youtuber and digital influencer Felipe Neto was absurdly denounced for supposedly attempting against the "National Security Law", another evil law, older than the "Antiterrorism Law", by calling Jair Bolsonaro a "genocide" in an Internet recording. Even though judge Gisele Guida de Faria has suspended the investigations against Felipe Neto on March 18, 2021, due to the unfunded charges, the National Security Law is still being used to arbitrarily shut down opposition against Bolsonaro. In the same March 18, 2021, five activists were arrested for erecting, in Brasília, in the Square of Three Powers, a slogan that carried a drawing of Bolsonaro with the words "Genocidal Bolsonaro". The arrest of the activists was carried on under the pretext of National Security Law.

On March 03, 2021, João Junior, a resident of Uberlândia city, Minas Gerais state, Southeastern region of Brazil, was detained after writing the following comment in his Twitter account: "Folks, Bolsonaro will be arriving in Uberlândia by tomorrow. Who wants to become a national hero?" The young man was alluding, on a playful way, to the assassination attempt suffered by Jair Bolsonaro in 2018, when he was still carrying on his electoral campaign. The detention of João Junior was used as a pretext to drag twenty-five more persons to Uberlândia, residents of many other states, to testify at the Federal Police. These persons, who are critic to Jair Bolsonaro's government on a way or another, are also being constrained by the evil National Security Law.

DOCUMENTARIES



In 1999, when Rio de Janeiro registered 46 violent deaths every 100.000 residents (in New, in the same year, there were five deaths every 100.000 people), a documentary has rattled the city by giving blatant figures. **“News of a particular war”** turns its camera to the drug dealers, the policemen, and the residents, who have though with an impressive truthfulness about the daily disputes in the city’s shantytowns. Directed by João Moreira and Kátia Lund, this film shows both sides of the conflict, and the many lives between them in Rio. Besides, at this year, the scene of academic studies on crimes in Brazil has seen one of its most seminal works, the thesis of Michel Misse, now a senior professor of the Department of Sociology of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, “Rascals, marginals, and hoodlums: The social accumulation of violence in Rio de Janeiro”, written at the University Institute of Research of Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ). This work was shown how the “ghost” of urban violence haunts us and how is it responsible for a suppressive cycle (especially against Negroes and poor) that ends up acting as a maintainer of violence. Last year, Rio de Janeiro has registered a figure of 30 violent deaths for every 100.000 residents. The “lack of security” was used to justify the speech that military encroaches at Rio de Janeiro shantytowns were inevitable, and it also helps to understand the outcome of 2018 elections, when candidates who won the elections upheld direct confrontation against criminals, even though they were directly linked to them.



The sugarcane famine and the struggle for tomorrow. This 2007 documentary, directed by the Audio-Visual Brigade of Via Campesina – Brasil, gives a glimpse of the struggle of peasants and farmworkers from the sugarcane producing region in the state of Pernambuco, Northeastern region of Brazil. Since the 1990s, sugarcane mills of Pernambuco and other Northeastern states have faced massive bankruptcies and the consequent massive layoffs of farmworkers. Farmlands that were once covered by sugarcane plantations have turned idle, and many former farmworkers began to organize with the Movement of Rural Landless Toilers (MST) and other peasant movements to occupy idle landed estates, so as to achieve their own land to live and farm subsistence crops.