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BRAZIL IS BEING SOLD OFF TO IMPERIALIST WAR AND FASCISM

To sell off Brazil to the wars of aggression of the United States and to fascistize the Brazilian society were some of the aims of Jair Bolsonaro by assuming the country's presidency. On February 2019, the Brazilian government has joined the Colombian reactionaries and US imperialism by openly taking part in a war threat against Venezuela.

One and a half year later, the maneuvers of aggression are being repeated. On August 12, it has arrived in Belém, Pará state capital, Brazilian Northern region, a convoy of the Brazilian army which was carrying components of “Astros 2020” system, dedicated to launching rockets, from Goiás state, Brazilian Center-West region. Launchers, shooting control vehicles and logistic support were also included. The structure was unloaded in Belém Docks to be shipped to Manaus, Amazonas state capital, through waterway. Besides, army personnel from other regions of Brazil are being mobilized for this “military exercise” called “Operation Amazônia”, which is being carried on the border of Venezuela, consisting in actions oriented to “external defense in the Amazonian operational field.”

This is not a usual military exercise. On July 22, 2020, the Ministry of Defense has sent to the National Congress new versions of documents which sum up the basic military guidelines of the Brazilian reactionary State. Such documents went through reviews compared to their last versions, something which in substance shall officialize the following changes in the perspectives of “national defense”: 1) it regards South America as a region no longer free of conflicts; 2) it establishes the possibility of Brazil to intervene in regional conflicts to safeguard its “national integrity”, unlike the notion set up by the reactionary 1988 Constitution of non-intervention in other countries’ affairs and pacific solution of conflicts.

As one of the practical ways of carrying on this “new” politics, the 2021 budget project presented by the government to the National Congress has demanded an almost R\$ 6 billion (USD 1,05 billion) increase on the government’s Defense budget, oriented to modernize the reactionary army, thus intensifying suppression against the Brazilian masses and “raising” the position of Brazil as a cannon fodder in an eventual imperialist war.

Besides, Bolsonaro’s government prospects such Defense budget increase by undermining the cultural standards of the poor even more. Whilst the budget project prospects such increase, Bolsonaro’s Ministry of Education intends to cut more than R\$ 4 billion (USD 701 million) of its 2021 budget, leaving the Ministry of Defense with more funds than the Ministry of Education for the first time in the history of Brazil in a situation where there is no threat of foreign invasion at all, and when a major school dropout is taking place not only due to a historically poor schooling, but also because of Covid-19 pandemic, which virtually denied access to education for the millions and millions of poor students from rural areas and favelas (shantytowns) who

have no access to the minimum structure to study remotely. If we consider that the national economic crisis has knocked down the tax revenues of the reactionary State, it is estimated that the Brazilian education will lose almost R\$ 30 billion (USD 5,26 billion) in its budget.

In case the National Congress approves the government’s budget project, this will mean a true catastrophe for the Brazilian education, which is already in midst of a deep decadence. More than 52% of the Brazilians with more than 25 years old have not finished high school, and Brazil’s per capita expenditure on education is among the lowest ones in the world.

Amidst a pandemic which has already reaped the lives of more than 110,000 Brazilians, the hateful regime aims at deepening our people under the condition of illiteracy or semi-illiteracy, and it criminally raises the Defense budget so as to harass the brotherly Venezuelan people! That is exactly what this government is looking for: to dull the Brazilian people, to reduce him even more to the bottom of ignorance and obscurantism, so as to throw him as a cannon fodder in a war abroad which will only fulfill the interests of the barons of Miami and New York.

Such are some of the features of the fascistization of the Brazilian society, between militarization and suppression of the rights of the people to education.

Since the end of June 2020, Bolsonaro’s government Ministry of Justice has been carrying on a “confidential” action against 579 federal and state government employees, mainly policemen and teachers, who claim to be part of the Brazilian antifascist movement and oppose to Bolsonaro’s government. As part of this “confidential” action, the Ministry of Justice has set up a file with confidential information of these public employees, like their home’s addresses, IDs, political affiliation and others, as a way to intimidate the oppositional forces.

However, the plans of Bolsonaro to throw Brazil into an imperialist war and suppress local opposition will end up in failure. Amidst a national and international situation of capitalist crisis, unemployment, famine and distress, there are no doubts that the Brazilian people will do understand that only the revolutionary struggle to set up in Brazil a people’s democratic regime led by the working class in alliance with the peasants and other oppressed strata of our people, which will nationalize the foreign companies, repeal the unequal treaties with the big powers and the evil laws, conduct land reform, put Brazil in the very lines of progressive development and carry forward the building of socialism, will be the only possible path to the right to exist.

Recession, rising unemployment, and the struggles of the Brazilian people



On August 14, the Brazilian Central Bank has reported that the national economic activity has fell 11% during the second quarter of 2020. Even though the official statistics obscure the partial unemployment, informality and the impoverished rural population, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) has reported in the same day that almost 14% of the national workforce is unemployed.

Despite the difficulties, the Brazilian masses had not been passive. They are still carrying on their struggles for the right to exist even under the most radical forms.

During the last days, starving masses have carried on actions of ransacking in the major Brazilian states, confiscating foodstuff and provisions. In Rio de Janeiro City, neighbors of Kelsons shantytown ransacked on July 8 the beef shipment of a truck that was driving through the community. The action was suppressed by military policemen, who wounded the neighbors with rubber bullets and tear gas pumps. In Niterói City, August 16, neighbors of nearby shantytowns ransacked the rice shipment of a truck which fell on BR-101 Highway.

On July 21, São José dos Pinhais municipality, Curitiba Metropolitan Area, Paraná state, Renault company has laid off 747 metallurgical workers, many of them infected with Covid-19, under allegations of sales difficulties due to the pandemic and reduction of production costs, though the company receives huge tax exemptions aimed at keeping the jobs. In the following day, the Curitiba Metropolitan Area Metallurgical Workers' Trade Union began a strike demanding the readmission of the dismissed workers and other benefits. Workshop pickets' and protests were carried on. After almost three weeks of strike, the workers ended up victorious, reversing the layoffs and maintaining benefits like Data-Base

and the Participation on Profits and Results (PPR). The victory of Renault workers has shown that defensive strikes may succeed even amidst a situation of massive unemployment, being defensive strikes important weapons for the present moment of massive layoffs within automobile industry: in Curitiba City, Volvo's company assembly plant has laid off 2,700 workers, and in Porto Real City, Rio de Janeiro state, 400 workers were laid off from Nissan's plant.

In Brazil, as in the rest of the capitalist world, the airway industry was hardly hit by the economic crisis. Recently, LATAM airline company has announced a layoff of 2,700 pilots and flight attendants under the pretext of profitability issues. On August 6, airway workers held a demonstration in Guarulhos International Airport, São Paulo, against the layoffs.

On August 1, the state-owned Brazilian Company of Post Offices and Telegraphs has repealed a collective labor agreement, wiping out at once rights like 30% of risk additional, food stamps, 180 days of maternity leave, death indemnity and other rights set with the workers of the company, even though it has earned a net profit of R\$ 102 million (USD 17,8 million) in 2019. Besides, in a recent interview conceded to *Veja* Magazine, general Floriano Peixoto, the company's Chairman, has announced that he assumed the post to accelerate the privatization of the state-owned company and tear down the workers' "huge amount of privileges". To maintain denied rights and fight against the privatization of the company, the workers, represented by the National Federation of Post Office Companies' Workers (FENTECT), began on August 17 a national strike for undetermined time. This national strike is already considered the most important over the last twenty years, mobilizing more than 70% of the post office workers.

Hardships and resistance of the Brazilian peasantry on July and August 2020



Class struggles have been rapidly sharpening in the Brazilian rural areas. Between suppression by the rural reaction and the Brazilian State, and the victorious peasants' mobilizations, many events deserve to be mentioned.

At the dawn of August 12, Minas Gerais state Military Police has carried on Campo do Meio municipality a violent displacement of Quilombo Campo Grande village, a peasant camp led by the Movement of Rural Landless Toilers (MST). A detachment of 200 military policemen and snipers was mobilized to humiliate the peasants who have been living on and tilling the lands of the bankrupt Ariadnópolis Sugar Mill for twenty years, which are now covered by thousands of hectares of crops of bean, corn and coffee. In the following days, the policemen have used a bulldozer to demolish Eduardo Galeano People's School, also burning down many huts and families' belongings.

On August 15, in Campina village, Junco municipality, Maranhão state, the farmer Raimundo Nonato Batista was assassinated. His body was found with four gunshots on August 19, raising tensions among the peasant community which have been living there for more than 17 years and tilling this 2000-hectares estate. Since 2010, when the farmers of Campina village claimed their land titles at ITERMA (Land and Settlement Institute of Maranhão), they have been subject to prosecution by Nestor Osvaldo Fin-

ger, a landgrabber from Rio Grande do Sul state, who claims to be the landowner. On August 11, in Balsas municipality, southern Maranhão state, the eight squatter peasant families inhabiting Bom Acerto village, who have been living there since 1975, cultivating subsistence crops, were subject to displacement. The displacement of this community fulfills the interests of foreign capital, which have been carrying on export-oriented soybean cash crops in Balsas and nearby municipalities.

In Rio de Janeiro state, São Pedro da Aldeia municipality, peasant families led by FETAGRI – RJ (Federation of Agricultural Laborers – Rio de Janeiro) reoccupied on August 8 the lands of Emiliano Zapata village, from which they were subject a month ago to a brutal displacement by the gunmen of Matheus Canellas landgrabber, an event in which huts were burned down and the farmer Carlos Augusto Gomes was assassinated. New actions of resistance are being organized.

In Palmas municipality, Tocantins state, the forty peasant families inhabiting MST-led Sebastião Bezerra village have managed to suspend on July 11 an eviction order which has set on to August 19, after collecting about one hundred signatures among eighteen other mass movements, which have filed an order to suspend the eviction on Tocantins' Court of Justice. The order was accepted by the Judge of Palmas' 1st Civil Court.

CORUMBIARA UPRISING: A GREAT EVENT OF THE PEASANTS' STRUGGLE IN BRAZIL

It has been recently 25 years since Corumbiara Uprising took place. This was a great event for the Brazilian peasants' struggle. Its memory must be remembered by all those who support the building of a just and democratic Brazil.

During the decades of 1980 and 1990, the different strata of Brazilian peasantry have unified themselves in one single big mass movement, the Movement of Rural Landless Toilers (MST), carrying on the slogan of land reform and "land for the tillers". During this period, mainly in Southern Brazil region, many landlords began to replace feudal forms of exploitation by capitalist forms, imposing bloody violence to displace the peasant families who were attached to the landed estates, causing a huge rural exodus: many of these families found on land occupations a path to fight for the right to exist.

As a way of hindering the struggle of the peasants, the then reactionary Brazilian government has set up in Rondônia state many "settlement projects", promising access to land for the impoverished Southern and other regions' peasants. Thus, waves of Southern and other regions' migrants moved to Rondônia, motivated by the perspective of achieving their own lands. For many, however, the government's promises did not come true. Many peasant families were threatened by landgrabbers and high-ranked government bureaucrats to leave their lands or selling them at vile prices.

Accordingly, there was a mood in Rondônia state to carry on land occupations. In mid-1995, about 600 peasant families occupied in Corumbiara municipality Santa Elina estate, a big latifundia formed up through land-grabbing. This move soon raised the madness of local landgrabbers, who reacted

with many suppressive maneuvers.

At the dawn of August 9, 1995, an army of 300 military policemen and goons encroached Santa Elina estate, imposing terror against the local population. The peasants resisted as they could and shot down two military policemen with hunt rifles. On the other hand, terror carried on by the goons and policemen was acquiring barbaric features: they widespread tortured, assaulted and raped the peasants. The latter denounced that during the torture sessions the reactionaries forced them to eat brain waste of their own comrades who were assassinated with headshots. The hordes absurdly murdered with a rifle shot a 7-year old girl, Vanessa dos Santos Silva.

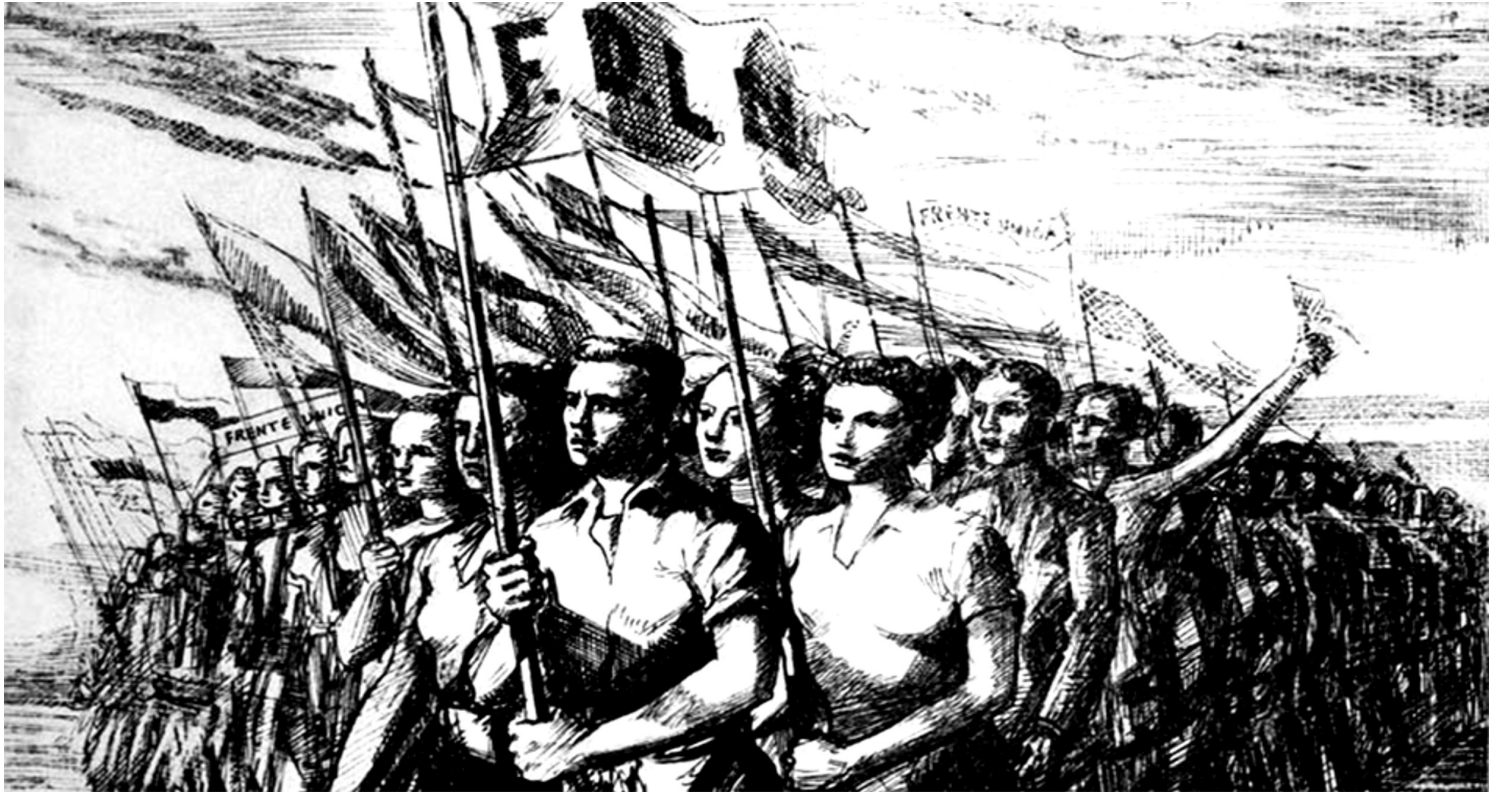
Up to nowadays, the number of victims in incalculable: despite the official figures say eight peasants were killed by local reaction, there are about twenty "disappeared" since then. More than 350 peasants were gravely injured, many of them suffering up to now the psychological and physical sequels from the tortures, shootings, and assaults. Many died due to the same sequels. About two hundred peasants were arrested.

The massacre has led to the conviction of Brazil in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Because of the commotion, there was no other alternative for the reactionaries rather than a partial retreat, with a major part of the lands of Santa Elina estate being given to the peasants. Many rural settlements were built up and named with the martyrs of the resistance.

Some years later, after Corumbiara Uprising, it was established the Poor Peasants' League (LCP), an important Brazilian mass movement.



70 years of the August 1950 Manifesto of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCB)



The Brazilian people will not be able to defeat its enemies, the big capitalists and landowners, without a vanguard detachment armed with the scientific ideology of the proletariat, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, capable enough to unify the many people's struggles to violently overthrow the local reactionary regime and build a new socialist society. In 1922, an advanced detachment of the Brazilian working class with such understanding has established the Communist Party of Brazil (PCB), under the advisements of the 3rd Communist International (Comintern). Until the year of 1976, the Communist Party of Brazil has carried on a revolutionary struggle against the Brazilian ruling classes, when it was defeated in an event known as Lapa Massacre, in which important Party's Central Committee cadres like Pedro Pomar, Ângelo Arroyo and João Baptista Drummond were assassinated.

Despite its heroic history of 54 years, reformism was always strong within the Communist Party of Brazil. The Communist Party of Brazil not always applied the line conceiving armed struggle as the main form of struggle, and it has always flirted with opportunism and parliamentary cretinism.

On August 1950, the August Manifesto announced by the Communist Party of Brazil through its then main leader, Luís Carlos Prestes, has represented a step forward on the understanding of the Brazilian communists on how to better carry on the Brazilian revolution.

The August 1950 Manifesto has called the Brazilian people to struggle against the oppression

of the nation by imperialism and against the then Gaspar Dutra's reactionary regime. It has placed the rule of national economy by foreign monopolies and the backward agrarian structure as the main problems of the Brazilian people. It has called for the overthrow of Dutra's government and for the building of a people's democratic government. The general strategy to achieve these aims regarded the building of a wide anti-imperialist front and conducting armed struggle.

There are no doubts that the victory of the 1949 Chinese Revolution and the Liberation War of the Korean people had great influence on forming up such views. Besides, the August 1950 Manifesto has attached great importance on mobilizing the peasantry. Due to the attention given to the peasants and their struggles, this document was able to orientate the practice of Party members and sending them to study, take part and eventually lead the peasants' uprisings which were sweeping across the country. During this period, the Party has carried on Porecatu Peasant Uprising in northern Paraná state, southern Brazil, between 1944 and 1951.

The August 1950 Manifesto was an important event in the history of the Communist Party of Brazil, representing the peak of a self-criticism process which, though unfinished, was able to fairly establish many features of the general strategy of the Brazilian revolution, pointing out correctly its people's democratic content and its essentially proletarian forms and methods – a revolution led by the proletariat, aiming at the building of a proletarian dictatorship, not a bourgeois' dictatorship.