

BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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**OUR PEOPLE IS BEING THROWN TO DEATH:
MORE THAN 90.000 DECEASED DUE TO COVID-19**

While these words are being written, it is being reported that 90.000 Brazilians have died due to Covid-19. It is already the second country of the world with the largest number of deceased, and it is marching step ahead to become the first one.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Bolsonaro's reactionary regime, with a criminal and genocidal recklessness, tried to deny its seriousness. Bolsonaro himself called the decease a "little flu". As the main chieftain of the Brazilian reactionary State, he took all measures to hinder social distancing and the spread of scientific methods with which to fight the decease, intensifying the disputes within the Federal Government and between the Federal Government and the State Governments. Since the beginning of the pandemic, two Health Ministers have fell due to disputes with Bolsonaro. After the resignation of the last Health Minister Nelson Teich, it is General Pazuello who is provisionally at the head of the administration, even though he has no knowledge on the issue public healthcare.

Bolsonaro was one of the most die-hard opposers of quarantine measures. Showing off his radical submission towards big comprador capital, he has endorsed the full maintenance of economic activity, despite the seriousness of the decease. Even though he opposed the provision of emergency relief to informal toilers, his government extended an economic relief of more than R\$ 1 trillion to big bank conglomerates to save them

from the economic debacle.

With no means of livelihood and facing chronic starvation, the Brazilian toiling masses, mainly those linked with informal sources of income, had no alternative rather than keeping up their activities, exposing themselves to the risk of infection from Covid-19, thus infecting their relatives, neighbors and so on. The miserable conditions that are seen in favelas (shantytowns) and poor neighborhoods made it impossible to put social distancing into practice.

As a result, five months after the confirmation of the first case of infection by Covid-19 in Brazil, there are now 2.4 million cases of infection and more than 90.000 deceased, and these numbers do not cease to increase. Having been first spread in the big urban centers, Covid-19 is now rapidly spreading towards the Brazilian countryside, with no means at all to hinder the pandemic. As the State Governments are now relaxing quarantine measures, even though more than a thousand people are dying everyday due to Covid-19, the situation is bound to worsen.

Besides, Bolsonaro's regime has been making efforts to embellish the national situation and impose censorship on the information about the worsening of the pandemic. Since June, the Health Ministry has changed the methods of reporting the number of deceased to reduce them. To carry on the national-democratic revolution in an issue of survivor for the Brazilian people.



BOLSONARO'S GOVERNMENT IMPOSES BASIC SANITATION PRIVATIZATION LAW AMIDST PANDEMICS

The precariousness of the basic sanitation service is one of the most marked illustrations of Brazilian economic and social backwardness.

In this huge country of 210 million inhabitants, which owns a fifth of world water, 35 million people have no access to potable water. Half of our population has no access to the service of sewage collection and treatment. Every year, 15.000 Brazilians die and 350.000 are hospitalized due to diseases related to lack of basic sanitation.

Using the pandemic as a cynical pretext, Bolsonaro sanctioned on July 16 the "Law Project 4162/2019", which, in a word, allows widespread privatizing of the Brazilian service of basic sanitation through the following means: given that, until now, the overwhelming majority of the service of basic sanitation is carried on by municipal governments, now, for these governments to receive financial and technical support from the federal government, they will have to privatize their stated-owned sanitation companies; from now on, the management of the service of Brazilian basic sanitation will be conducted by the National Agency of Waters (ANA), whose financial and technical support, as in the case of the federal government, will be subject to the adherence of municipalities to the new system; the "Law Project 4192/2019" puts an end to the cross-subsidy, which consisted in compensating the Brazilian regions in which the service of basic sanitation incurred in deficits through the surplus of the more enriched regions. It is basically another privatizing project.

The "pro-business" arguments are not so different from the other ones that were once shown in other privatizing processes. They argue that privatization would be necessary to "attract" the investments that the bankrupt Brazilian State was not capable of

carrying on. Besides, the sanitation service would become more "efficient". The pro-privatization notions, however, obscure that the fundamental economic law of monopoly capitalism is the earning of super-profits, and if we are speaking on low-term profits, it is better yet for the big conglomerates. It is about investing tiny amounts of capital – generally borrowed from public banks under quite appetizing conditions – and earning from such investments skyrocketing profits. Such super-profits necessarily bring about extremely high fares for taxpayers, inefficient services, and massive workers' layoffs to make the businesses profitable.

The arguing according to privatization would boost "concurrence", with many small companies competing among themselves, thus turning the service more efficient and the fare lower to the taxpayer, is a true joke, a mock. We are talking about a branch which its private sector is already dominated by big conglomerates, many of which have an international presence. To think that these big conglomerates would dismantle and pulverize themselves into small companies to compete between themselves, thus sacrificing their monopoly profits to fulfill the interests of the poor, is the same as laughing at our faces.

Our country has already enough examples about it. In 2000, the French conglomerate Suez received the management of the basic sanitation service of Manaus municipality, Amazonas' state capital. Twenty years after the so-called "efficient" private management, almost 90% of Manaus' population has no access to basic sanitation. In Tocantins state, after the privatization of Saneatins state-owned sanitation company, 70% of the state population has no access to basic sanitation.

Privatization means backwardness, not efficien-



THE BRAZILIAN AGRARIAN PROBLEM AND SUPPRESSION AGAINST THE RURAL TOILING MASSES

Not long ago, Brazil was seen somehow as an “emerging power”, a “new player” on global market, rather than an underdeveloped, backward, semi-colonial and semi-feudal country.

It is curious to see that disgraceful feudal survivors persist in this “emerging power”. Only 1% of rural landholders, owning estates of one thousand

hectares or more, control half of the farmland. On the other hand, peasants, farmworkers, and indigenous people, which comprise about 82% of rural population, own only 18% of the farmland. Though land monopoly prevails, the rural landholdings of one thousand hectares or more produce only 16% of Brazilian rural output, and 70% of the farmland of

such landholdings remain idle. Underutilization of land is rampant in Brazilian countryside.

Most of Brazilian rural population, owning no land, is compelled to tenant the allotments which belong to landlords under the condition of sharecroppers, tenants, or squatters, finding themselves constrained by constant arbitrariness or threats of displacement from the land they work under feudal or semifeudal conditions.

The landlord class is the social basis of imperialist rule over Brazil. Their most wealthy strata are agro-industrials and find themselves fully or partially linked with capitalist farming and the world market. Big capitalist corporations like ADM, Bunge, British-American Tobacco Company, Cargill, Louis Dreyfus Commodities, Nestlé and others earn billions of dollars of annual profits by industrializing and commercializing in world market agricultural commodities like soybeans, coffee, sugar, tobacco, beef and fruits, fattening the pockets of Brazilian rural oligarchies as well. Half of the value of Brazilian exports is composed by agricultural and livestock commodities with few or no industrialization. If we gather up non-agricultural raw materials, this number goes up to 70% of the value of the exports.

Due to the agro-export model imposed by neoliberalism, Brazil was constrained to sacrifice its development on the benefit of these big corporations. Deindustrialization and denationalization of economy has deepened. Since 2014, when the prices of agricultural products and raw materials exported by Brazil collapsed, the country has fell into a deep recession which swallowed 10% of per capita national income and thrown 50 million Brazilians under full or partial unemployment between 2014 and 2017. To make up for the fall of profits, agro-industrials and landlords had to boost production and land-grabbing, resulting in a major crackdown against peasants, agricultural workers and indigenous peoples.

The Brazilian rural masses organize themselves against this unjust and oppressive situation. They organize their mass movements, occupy the big landholdings and claim land reform under the slogan "land for the tillers". The national minorities, united in this struggle, fight for the right to their ancestral domains and self-determination. However, even this has not stopped the landlords and their lackeys – goons and paramilitaries – of committing all sorts of abuse during land-grabs and displacements. Assassination, murder, assault, and humiliation against Brazilian organized rural toilers were outrageous during the months of June and July 2020.

In northern Brazil, Pará state, Parauapebas municipality, 250 peasant families live on and till the

lands of Fazenda Lagoa latifundia (a landed estate which belongs to VALE S.A. mining conglomerate) since the year of 2016, in which they set up Lagoa Nova village under the leadership of FETRAF-PA (Federation of Men and Women Family Farming Toilers – Pará). During the night of June 21, while the peasants were saying their prayers, dozens of paramilitaries backed by VALE S.A opened fire against about 150 people who were at the religious ceremony, leaving about twenty injured people, even children and elders.

In Roraima state, northern Brazil, Alto Alegre municipality, gold miners conduct frequent incursions for the extraction of gold and other precious stones in indigenous peoples' territories, being responsible for the widespread of Covid-19 in the villages. On June 23, Marcos Arokona and Original Yanomami, both from Yanomami people, were murdered during and uneven conflict against gold miners.

In Brazilian northeast, Rio Grande do Norte state, Macaíba municipality, armed gunmen invaded on the night of July 04 the house of the peasant leader Francisco das Chagas Batista, who belonged to the National Front of Struggles – Countryside and City (FNL) and was also affiliated to Socialism and Freedom Party (PSOL). Showing themselves as policemen, they opened fire against him, assassinating him and looting his house.

In the state of Pernambuco, Brazilian northeast, real estate companies have been carrying on terror campaigns against squatter peasants of Mata Sul region for them to leave the lands they live and till since many generations. Such arbitrariness had new episodes during the month of July. On July 09, Maraial municipality, employees of Consultoria e Empreendimentos Imobiliários LTDA company used bulldozers to destroy fences of small farmers landholdings, tear trees down and block vicinal roads which give access to Batateiras village. On July 16, Jaqueira municipality, on around 6 p.m., paramilitaries backed by Agropecuária Mata Sul S.A. company carried on an ambush and shot down the peasant Edeilson Alexandre Fernandes da Silva, while he was leaving his house located in Fervedouro village.

In Brazilian southeast, Rio de Janeiro state, São Pedro da Aldeia municipality, goons backed by the land-grabber Matheus Canellas attacked on July 10 Emiliano Zapata village, which is led by FETA-GRI – RJ (Federation of Agricultural Laborers – Rio de Janeiro). Though the peasants resisted the attack, farmer Carlos Augusto Gomes was killed, and other two were injured. Besides, the goons burned down huts, belongings, and killed some of the cattle which belonged to the peasants.

APP DELIVERYMEN STRIKE: A RECENT STRUGGLE OF THE BRAZILIAN PROLETARIAT



Two words summarize the evils which presently afflict the Brazilian proletariat: unemployment and starvation. Since the 2014-2016 great crisis, hundreds of thousands of small and even middle and big-scale companies went bankrupt. Even though the official rate of unemployment is between 12% and 13% of the national workforce, such rate does not sum up the many millions of partially unemployed and those people who gave up on looking for a job. One of the most flagrant illustrations of the deep bankruptcy of Brazilian capitalism is its extremely high (official) rate of youth unemployment, 27,1%, showing its chronic incapacity of absorbing to social production the new generations of our working class.

Besides this already severe situation, the pandemic came to make things worse. With the full or partial shutdown of global and local economic activity, varying according to the different Brazilian states, it is estimated that between March and early July 2020, almost 8 million jobs were wiped off.

Due to the massive bankruptcy of the companies, there had been no alternative of source of income for working class families which not to toil in delivery apps like Uber Eats, Rappi, iFood, Glovo, Loggi and others, which virtually represent big transnational capitalist companies that are taking advantage of the low qualification and distress of Brazilian labor to earn super-profits.

Toiling with bicycles or motorcycles, from sun to sun, deliverymen have been earning between R\$ 200 (USD 38) and R\$ 300 (USD 58) on a weekly average to work about 12 hours a day. With no access to the already loose labor legislation or any protection from Social Security, they are left out on their own on the often occasions of traffic accidents or Covid-19 infection. Besides, they are frequently subject to arbitrary blocks by the apps, unfair complaints by customers and so on. They are the living picture of the proletariat from a semi-colonial country.

Under such background, on July 1, the app deliverymen staged a one-day national strike, demanding the increasing of payments per kilometer run, increasing of the minimum payments per delivery, and the ceasing of the arbitrary blocks. Though being a recent profession, with no experience of struggle or trade union organization, an important mass of deliverymen was mobilized. In one of the main avenues of São Paulo municipality, Marginal Pinheiros, more than a thousand deliverymen staged a demonstration. Many restaurants and companies had big problems or delays in their deliveries due to the strike, showing its potential of mobilization.

On July 25, though with lesser adherence than the first one, another national strike by the app deliverymen was staged. Demonstrations were carried on in cities like São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasília, Teresina, Fortaleza, São Luís and others.

IN MEMORY OF COMRADE FIDEL AGCAOILI

The Communist Reconstruction Union (CRU) of Brazil extends its condolences to the Filipino people, family, comrades, and friends of the great Filipino communist leader Fidel Agcaoili, who passed away on July 23, 2020, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. All members of the CRU consider the People's War carried on by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) a big inspiration in their political work. Having been comrade Fidel Agcaoili one of the great leaders and responsible for the building of the CPP as a major political force of the Filipino proletariat and toiling masses, there is a close ideological relation between us and his memory. Fidel Agcaoili joined the Filipino communist movement in the early 1960s and greatly contributed to the struggle against revisionism and for the reestablishment of the CPP, which would take place in 1968. He was arrested in 1974, under the rule of Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, and was brutally tortured in prison. He would be released only more than a decade later. He has given most of his life to the revolution, self-cultivating noble moral values and inspiring the next generations. Long live comrade Fidel Agcaoili!



AN IMPORTANT PATRIOTIC INITIATIVE FOR THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE

On the day of September 7, 2022, Brazil will celebrate the 200 years anniversary of its so-called "National Independence". There are no doubts that, during this occasion, the Brazilian reaction will promote its narrative and attempt to advance a sham patriotism through the glorifying of aristocratic names, looking down the role of the Brazilian toiling masses during these two hundred years of historical development. Nevertheless, which "independence" was relegated to the Brazilian people? The Brazilian economy remains plundered by big imperialist corporations and afflicted by the evils of U.S. imperialism, feudal survivors, and bureaucrat capitalism. The Brazilian masses remain deeply oppressed by distress, starvation, unemployment, and State repression. Due to this important mark, therefore, revolutionary groups have gathered on September 2019, in São Paulo, to initiate the Campaign "Brazil: For the Second and Lasting Independence", which will culminate on September 7, 2022. The campaign aims to promote among the Brazilian oppressed masses a reflection on how after two hundred years of the so-called "independence", Brazil remains deeply dependent on the imperialist powers, constrained in its development, thus being necessary to fight for a revolution which shall fulfill the unfinished task of true national independence. To attain the mentioned aim, the groups which sum up the campaign have been conducting study and discussion circles, movie shows, leaflets, and demonstrations.

