



Comissão Pastoral da Terra - Secretaria Nacional

PUBLIC NOTE

With the arms of solidarity and justice, we will resist lying, hypocrisy and barbarism!

The elected Leadership and the National Executive Coordination of The Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) manifest in a Public Note that, given the current Brazilian situation, "No one can shy away from taking a stand. Omitting the political position in a situation like this is to support the setback and dismantling of rights in our country. Now it is the time to face the lying, hypocrisy and barbarism". The CPT reaffirms its commitment of more than four decades to continue, always, "to help the rural people in the struggle for their rights and for a more dignified life." See below the full document.

The elected Leadership and the National Executive Coordination of the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), assume their duty to not omit, but rather manifest their position at this time when the destinies of our nation are at serious risk. The rural people and communities, whom the CPT has been serving for 43 years, are among those who will be most affected if the project aimed at dismantling rights, advocated by the Social Liberal Party (PSL) candidate, wins the election.

A national wave based on hatred, irrationality, lies and hypocrisy, is about to launch Brazil into a new era of barbarism, interrupting the brief democratic interlude that we experienced with the end of the Civil-Military Dictatorship of 1964. The Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil of 1988, that guaranteed this interlude, barely completed 30 years! This situation leads us to understand the meaning of chapter 13 of the Book of Revelation, written at the time of the great persecution at the beginning of Christianity: "Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. It performed great signs, and deceived the inhabitants of the earth with the signs it was allowed to perform in the sight of the first beast, telling them to make an image for the beast who had been wounded by the sword and revived." (REV. 13:11-14)

In this dark time, the manipulation of consciences reaches an unprecedented degree due to the permanent diffusion of fake news by the so-called "social media". And this diffusion of lies obeys a single objective, to deconstruct the social advances achieved in the last years and to put in its place regressions that please the national elites and the market.

These lies hide behind enormous hypocrisy. Words, rather than revealing truth, actually hide or distort it. Support for business elites and for capital is presented as a way of increasing job creation and improvement of social welfare. As a result of this type of policy, the poorest are suffering from high levels of unemployment and precarious working conditions. The constant appeal to God and to His word borders on blasphemy. Is not this what the Second Commandment refers to, "Thou shalt not take the name of



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the Lord thy God in vain"? God becomes, in the words of politicians and religious leaders, the guarantor of social setbacks that will overburden the shoulders of the poorest and most vulnerable of our nation.

But what is most worrisome is the accelerated rise in violence and barbarism. Lying and hypocrisy are the fertile ground for hate against "others." It is a clear discourse of disregard for human rights, a disregard for democracy, preaching against the rights of minorities - afrodescendents, indigenous, LGBTQ+ -. Supporting the right of "respectable citizens" to purchase weapons; defending the military dictatorship and its torturers; proposing to award police officers and military responsible for the murder of people and to reduce the penal age. Proposals to transform the struggle for land into acts of terrorism, and to "put an end to all activism in Brazil". Defending the war against violence through the use of violence is a guarantee of more violence. An unlimited spiral of violence! The attack in which Bolsonaro was the victim gives full meaning to the popular saying, rooted in Proverbs (22:8): "Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity". da justiça e da dignidade, como foi a destruição de placas no Rio de Janeiro que lembravam a vereadora Marielle Franco (PSOL), assassinada no início deste ano.

This spiral of violence is already in place and only tends to grow: more than 60 people suffered physical violence between October 1 and 10, 2018, with more than 50 of these cases practiced by Bolsonaro supporters. People are not beaten simply because they try to express themselves in favor of another project; these aggressions occur in order to erase the memory of those who struggled in defense of the rights of the weakest people, of justice and dignity. As in the case of the destruction of street plaques in Rio de Janeiro in honor of alderwoman Marielle Franco (PSOL), assassinated earlier this year.

The CPT has highlighted the increase in rural violence in the Brazil in the last three years, when dismantling of rights began, resulting in an increasing number of people murdered in the struggle for land. In 2017, 71 people were murdered, 31 in five massacres. And, in this wave of violence, rural leaders, struggling for land and defending the territories of indigenous peoples and traditional communities, are being massacred. Only in the last week three people were killed: a unionist in Pará, Aluísio Sampaio, an indigenous in Maranhão, Davi Gavião, and another indigenous in Mato Grosso, Erivelton Tenharin. In the latter confrontation, another indigenous was shot.

It is time for a great reflection. Those who governed the country before the political rupture, that was the impeachment in 2016, made mistakes, yes, not yet assumed, but respected the democratic processes. That is not what those who want at all costs, to keep the usurped power, will do! Do we want a nation where dialogue, respect and democracy flourish, are reaffirmed and consolidated, or a nation where hatred, violence and barbarism prevail, thus compromising our and future generations?

It is also a moment to take care of each other and ourselves. The environment of persecution and violence is sickening and frightening people. It is time to come together, to strengthen our affections and faith, to nourish life and hope, and not to



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become victims of manipulated fake news that is precisely meant to immobilize us. If fascism grows, our courage and hope redouble!

No one can shy away from taking a stand. Omitting one's political position in a situation like this is to support the regressions and dismantling of rights in our country. Now is the time to face the lying, hypocrisy and barbarism. We call everyone to this noble task, while at the same time we will devote ourselves, at all levels of the CPT, in all states, to win the votes that prevent the worst from happening! Therefore, in the second round of the elections, we support Haddad and Manuela! God help Brazil! The CPT will continue to help the people of the countryside in the fight for their rights and for a more dignified life.

Goiânia (GO), October 16th, 2018.

The elected Leadership and the National Executive Coordination of The Pastoral Land Commission (CPT)

