



ESCOLA NACIONAL  
FLORESTAN FERNANDES

CNPJ: 07.391.370/0001-46

CCM 6.634

Guararema-SP, 14 november 2016

Dear comrades and friends,

Friday, November 4, we woke up with a heavy heart. The dark times of violence and immeasurable injustice, which we had hoped would not return to our country, hovered in the air. An ongoing police persecution of our movement was under way, and more than that, a symbolic persecution of the values and project we stand for.

5 am: Paraná: 08 arrests.

7 am: Mato Grosso do Sul: siege to the MST Political Education and Training Center.

9 am: Florestan Fernandes National School - 10 shots, kicks, shots, handcuffs, death threats and two arrests.

At that moment, without knowing anything that was going on at the main gate, a poetess from Maranhão [State in the North of Brazil], quoted the Mozambican writer Mia Couto: "This world has more teeth than mouths. It's easier to bite than to kiss". And immediately afterwards she evoked Che Guevara: "One has to grow hard but without ever losing tenderness". The debate was part of the ENFF Arts and Culture Week, attended by over 150 activists from popular organizations and movements from more than 40 countries around the world. The topic: popular culture and the battle of ideas, a trench of struggle increasingly urgent and necessary.

Could the words block the force of the weapons that invaded the school at that moment? How could we deal with the truculence of enraged men under the command of a state that does not respect workers and not even children or the elderly? Would we resist?

Our weapons are not the same as theirs. On that day, with faces stamped with incredibility, doubts and even fear, we sang, talked about poetry, shouted for our rights and, at the same time, words of indignation, solidarity and protest began to arrive from all over the world, as if the more than two hundred students and activists who were in school, resisting, had multiplied. The siege feeling quickly turned into the warmth of a tight embrace. The gaze of each and every one that was present on that day and, especially, the next day, reinforced our confidence in the struggle. The hundreds of messages we received showed us that, if the enemy is strong, there are still many of us who will not faint or discourage.

The words, spoken in so many different languages, had the strength to stop, at least this time, the strength of the weapons and prevented the worst from happening. The struggles became one, a struggle for justice and dignity, here and in any part of the world.

How can we repay such solidarity that we receive once again and so promptly in the ENFF and the MST? We believe that the best way is to continue fighting every day against all forms of oppression, in any part of the world and as the great teacher and patron of the School, Florestan Fernandes taught us "never let us be coopted, divided, or crushed. Fight, Always!"

Our warm and fraternal embrace!

Rosana Cebalho Fernandes  
General Coordination /ENFF

João Paulo Rodriguez  
National Board / MST