

SOCIETY FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights in Brazil: analysis of the violence in the state of the Pará

When Brazil started your democratization process, after 20 years of Military dictatorship, the hope grew in the country, because they we believed in the effectiveness of the Human Right in all the places. In this moment, the Constitution was promulgated and many important Human Right treaties, for example, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and others.

However, the violation of human rights continues producing negative consequences in any country. The paradigm that exists today in the Amazon yet is exclusionary and the man made one thing. This reality worse the historic problems of the Amazonia.

In order to facilitate an overview of the specificity of human rights in the State of Pará, in the reality of the human rights violations in Brazil, is that this document is forwarded to the United Nations.

The state of Pará has a high level of social and economic inequality, that reality remains throughout the country. The Pará society is excluded of the access a land, works, public security, education, health and others, Besides being excuido distribution of income.

The policy of the Federal government maintains the economic logic practiced for more than a decade, which can be classified as new liberalism. There were some advances in politics social, however the social investments are subsidiary the politic control of inflation as is determination of internationals organisms, example, FMI and BIRD. An example that reality is target tax of superavit and the high Interest rate, this is between the better the word.

The government enlarged the social public politics, but not promoted distribution of income. The model of the politic implemented has nature assistencialism. There aren't question by government about keep the "rational" model concentration of benefits. For exemple, the process of the agrarian reform is stop. In the Pará, what has a many conflicts for the land, has a prevision for entry just 5.000 families, but the rural population has 3 million the people.

This year is and was a time of some changes in the governmental politics in State of Pará. After twelve years of social-democratic government which was engaged with big capital, big businessmen and landowner, a new and progressive government won the election which has relationship with NGOs, trade-unions and social movements.

The new government has shown your intention for implement public politics in target to basic and urgent necessities of people. however, this intention continues to be a intention and not some concrete publics politics. Nevertheless, we think that still early to see big changes in the social and economic situation of State of Pará, however some groups of civil society as those who struggle by agrarian reform are having some conflicts with government and today do opposition to government.

Historical and urgent problems happened in Pará continues, even if the real effort to include human rights in the State agenda. In camp, the reality is worse because the violence and threat has grown against rural workers and landless movements.

Other reality that still happens in the State is the Slavery work in the south and Southeast region of Pará which is define as a area of agricultural expansion and big investments in

mineral exploitation. The struggle against Slavery work still insufficient, because there isn't a new paradigm of agricultural politics whose the defense of human rights, the preservation of environmental and biodiversity been the central issue and objective.

In the environmental area, the reality is serious too. A lot of environmental crimes has grown by some reasons as the illegal remove of wood for the purpose of exportation and for change it in coal to steelfactory; the expansion of soy, eucalyptus, and sugar cane is a decision factor in this process that still happen because the lack and the fragility of Public Power in some areas of State.

Besides this reality, there is the possibility of the implementation of "Big projects" on Pará, that in our point of view, could be very dangerous to environmental and to traditional populations of Amazonia, One of This projects is the Hydroeletrical plants of Belo Monte in Altamira City.

Other violations that still exist in Pará is turned into criminals, and summary executions have been growing. Between January 1994 and March 2004, according CPT/PA search¹, 173 rural workers were killed, many of these human right defenders. Many other rural workers have been threatened with death and are on a list of names marked for death. This list is public and known to all of society.

The National Program for the Protection of Human Right Defenders has a list of 80 human right defenders in Pará threatened with execution. However, only 10% of the threatened people are under protection.

The National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders shows that the state knows about all the Death's risk suffered by these Defenders, however they didn't receive an effective protection, allowing that gunman's action continues leading new victims.

In this year we already registered two cases of human rights' defenders executions, called Antonio do Carmo and Manoel "Borracheiro", who was interviewed by the National Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, and his death wasn't disabled.

The National Program and State of Defenders of Human Rights are still in progress, without legal parameters of existence, and even execution, account only with a National Legislative Decree establishing general guidelines of action. Thus, the few effective protections so far have not uniform and not with a preliminary training of the police that run, measures specifically recommended by the Representative on Human Rights Defenders, after visit to Brazil at the end of 2005.

Human rights violations are carried out by the judiciary as well. This state power is complicit with most actions of barbarism of the past and present in Para. There are a lot of public security agents that had their crimes barred by statute of limitation, despite the recommendations to exclude this institute of the Penal Code. (Recommendations 86 of Inform about summary executions 2003 . Ref. E/CN. 4/2004/7/Add.3)

Thus the State of Pará highlights in the numbers of executions in camp and in the cities, highlights in attacks against human rights defenders, because it has one os the biggest impunity's index, highlights in cases of torture made by public security agents, according with National Central Against Torture, and, unhappy, highlights too in the uncommitted with the social, cultural, environmental e economic rights.

More than 20 years after proclaimed the Federal Constitution and Brazil having ratified important human rights treaties; after almost 60 years of the adoption of the Universal Declaration,

¹ SAUER, Sérgio. Violações de direitos humanos na Amazônia: conflitos e violência na fronteira paraense. CPT: Rio de Janeiro; Justiça Global: Rio de Janeiro; Curitiba: Terra de direitos: 2005. p. 33.

the realization of human rights in Pará is still a hope and a search for all and all.

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