

PEASANTS OF CAMP TIAGO DOS SANTOS TAKE BACK THE LAND!



A HISTORY OF STATE REPRESSION

However, in early October, the military police began their campaign to sabotage the project.

They used the death of a military policeman to frame the peasants as criminals, even though the officer died miles away from the actual location of the camp. There is no proof that the death of this policeman was in anyway connected to the peasants or the camps. However, anyone who has lived in or supported an encampment, and anyone who has been stopped in a police raid, is now considered by the military police to be a fugitive and connected to the death of this officer. One peasant who was not even part of the camp Tiago dos Santos saw a warrant for his arrest published in the paper and when he called to ask why, he was detained. Some defendants which are being tried for the crime have not lived in the area where the officer died for years.



PEASANTS RECLAIM THE LAND

The peasant camp Tiago dos Santos is the site of the most recent antagonism by the military police. As of October 26, three hundred families have returned to this area after being violently forced from it earlier in the month. The League of Poor Peasants and many inhabitants of the camp have reclaimed this land and are rebuilding the community they created there, and more families are joining them daily. These activists and peasants are proving, as generations have done before them, that their fight for land is unconquerable. They bravely return to this site of resistance, proving their strength, courage, and dedication to the long and winding path towards revolutionary justice.

The peasants which reclaim the camp Tiago dos Santos do so despite a series of different assaults by the military police. This camp previously had a population of over 600 families. It had been flourishing through the organization of the League of Poor Peasants, with facilities such as communal kitchens, gardens, sanitary committees, and democratic meetings about how to run the camp.



The League of Poor Peasants knew that this witch hunt of the military police was a guise to justify the violence which they themselves were planning against the peasants. Sure enough, using this phony investigation as an excuse, the military police soon surrounded camp Tiago dos Santos. The siege lasted for days, and the military police prevented people and supplies from leaving or entering. They flew over the camp in helicopters, shot rounds and dumped ammunition on the camp grounds. They arrested people who had helped to provide services to the camp.

On October 10, the military police began forcefully evacuating members of the camp. It was reported that members were arrested, tortured, kidnapped, and executed during this forced relocation. The military reportedly took money, goods, and documents, and destroyed people's phones and belongings as well as the peasants' infrastructure such as collective kitchens, shacks, and gardens. The military police threatened peasants with the fascist president Bolsonaro's order to "kill the landless."

This order goes against the Agrarian Reform policy of the Brazilian government, which states that any public land not being used should be awarded to landless communities. Many peasants have attempted to get land-titles this way, and some do secure the documents. Yet even when peasants are able to get legal land ownership, it is easily undermined. Landlords pay off the government to get forged land-titles. This was the case in Tiago dos Santos; a landlord filed an eviction notice on October 9, the day before peasants were terrorized and forced from the camp. They were given

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- A SUPPORTER TO A NOVA DEMOCRACIA

no chance to defend their claim to the land or to respond to the notice in court. The notice was nothing more than a half-hearted gesture through which the military police could justify the illegal removal of peasants from their land.

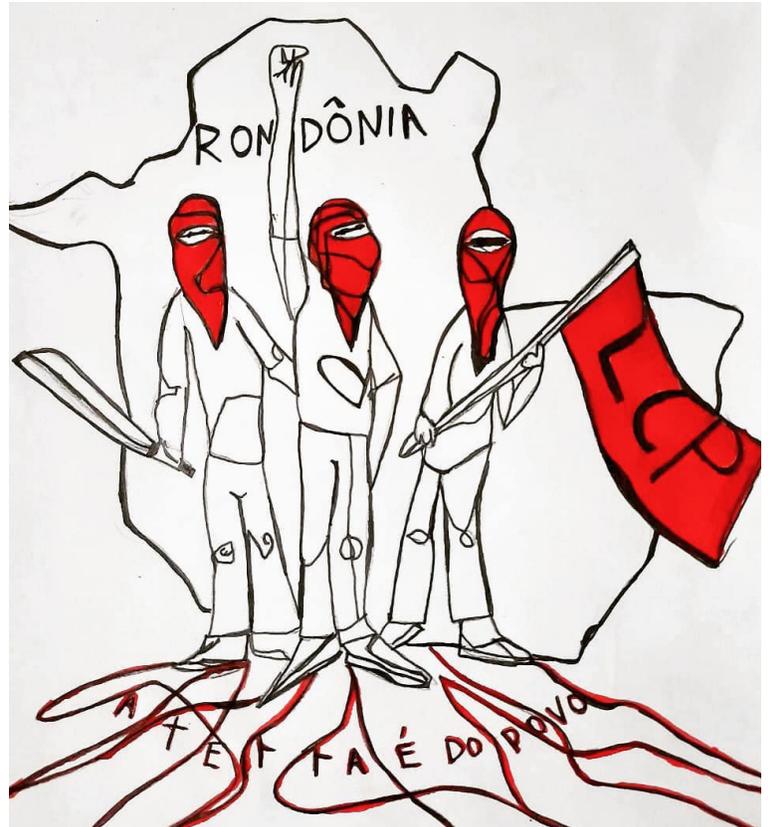
Reprinted in A Nova Democracia, a Brazilian revolutionary newspaper, supporters say: "Over the years, the peasants learned in the struggle that the land is only conquered with mobilization and with the popular cut, in fact exercising the true power of the people, as subjects of their own history". And yet, "The hysteria of the reactionary press, its guard dogs with or without uniforms, with toga or not, is to realize that a great mass movement is rising that will sweep all this scoundrel of landowners and the land will be divided [by] who lives and works in it."

Here in America, we see the way our government sabotages our efforts to fight back against our mistreatment. When we stand up for our families and communities, when we call out the lies and crimes of cops, politicians, and developers, the story always gets twisted and the ones fighting for livable conditions become the ones painted as criminals. The righteous voice of the masses is always censored by the mainstream media, and the actions which speak even louder than our words are always misrepresented.

We know why this happens. If our voices were amplified instead of silenced, if our brave acts of resistance were displayed in their full power instead of slandered, the spark that ignited in the hearts of people who chose to fight for a better world would catch alight in the hearts of all the masses. It would burn through the lie which is at times whispered in our ears, at times beat into us, the lie that revolution is impossible.

The efforts of Brazilian peasants are not covered by the mainstream media because their actions are full of this revolutionary spirit. The peasants that have come together to fight for land are defying what the state considers to be possible. The poor peasants of Brazil and many indigenous communities are given only one option by the state: to work day in and day out to produce whatever the landlords demand of them. The peasants of Rondônia have chosen another option: to take this land that they till to feed themselves and build communities where they protect and support each other. Through fighting their battle to have collective control over the land that they farm, they are loosening the grip of the people's ultimate enemy: U.S. imperialism.

The Brazilian state serves U.S. imperialism, and when the peasants threaten their landlords, the skeleton of the U.S.'s control within Brazil becomes fractured. The old Brazilian state is comprised of landlords that fight amongst each other, corrupted politicians which can be bribed to serve their interests, and a vicious military police which serve as their guard dogs.



"The land belongs to people"

@vmaximo3

These cronies oppress the peasants in the countryside and the working poor in the city. They exploit the labor of these classes to do the bidding of U.S. politicians and the CEO's of multinational corporations; counting to get a payoff for their role as cruel managers of the vile business of exploitation.

The reactionary force of the old Brazilian state is coming down with violence and deceit upon the peasants and their projects of resistance.

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