



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
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Bildungsinternationale

Brussels, 29 March 2018

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Restoring Brazil as a Beacon of Democracy

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the 32,5 million educators represented by Education International as the global federation of 400 education unions in 177 countries, including the *Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Educação* (CNTE), the *Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Estabelecimentos de Ensino* (CONTEE) and the *Federação de Sindicatos de Professores e Professoras de Instituições Federais de Ensino Superior e de Ensino Básico Técnico e Tecnológico* (PROIFES), we express profound concern with the deterioration of democracy and the escalation of violence in Brazil.

As a signatory of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, Brazilian authorities must respect and guarantee “human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government”, as enshrined in Article 3 of the Charter. We, as teachers and education support personnel teach these fundamental values in our schools as we develop citizens who know their rights and defend those of others.

The world has watched with concern how these core democratic principles, rule of law and the independence of the judiciary have eroded since the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff.

The actions against former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the long-standing campaign of political harassment and the glaring lack of evidence bring into question whether due legal process has been politicised and hijacked to influence the upcoming presidential elections.

This occurs in a climate of increasing violence against human rights defenders, as highlighted in a statement from the UN Special Rapporteur who referred to the killing of Marielle Franco as an attempt “to intimidate all those fighting for human rights and the rule of law in Brazil.”

Education International and its affiliates worldwide urge the government of Brazil to take decisive steps to come into compliance with its long-standing treaty obligations, to enforce national and international law to protect the fundamental rights to due process and to a fair trial for every Brazilian citizen. Whether the flickering light of Brazilian democracy restores itself as a beacon for the world depends largely on your leadership in these critical times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Edwards', written in a cursive style.

David Edwards
General Secretary