

Brutal police murder by gassing in Brazil provokes international outcry & More Breaking News

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The killing of a person by the police on May 25 in Brazil triggered shock and angered hundreds of thousands all over the world, with video of the brutal assault going viral on social media.

Video recordings present 38-year-old Genivaldo de Jesus Santos being approached in the town of Umbaúba in the state of Sergipe by the Federal Highway Police (PRF) for using a motorbike with out a helmet. The man, recognized with schizophrenia, may be seen cooperating with three police officers, who strategy Santos aggressively, manhandling and cursing him whereas carrying assault rifles. Santos' nephew, one of many witnesses to the assault, mentioned the officers took the remedy Santos saved in his pocket.

Federal Highway Police (PRF) suffocating Genivaldo de Jesus Santos, May 25, 2022

The movies present the violent response of the officers, surrounding, pushing, flattening and pointing their weapons at Santos in what witnesses mentioned lasted half an hour. Then the officers determine to set off a tear fuel bomb contained in the trunk of the police automotive with Santos inside, who may be seen swinging his legs out of the again hatch till he passes out. In the police report, the officers mentioned that Santos had a "sudden illness" on the best way to the police station and was taken to the municipal hospital, the place he was pronounced lifeless.

The sadistic public torture and murder of Santos provoked anger among the many residents in the town, who blocked the freeway the place he was killed, burned tires and carried indicators denouncing his dying and calling for justice. In the newspapers and social media, many in contrast Santos' suffocation by asphyxiation to the Nazis' fuel chamber.

The assault in Umbaúba occurred precisely two years after the police murder of George Floyd in the US and is a very brutal expression of the response of the Brazilian capitalist class to the intensifying social disaster in Brazil and internationally.

Over the previous two years, the Bolsonaro authorities's detached and felony response to the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed the virus to unfold by means of the inhabitants, ensuing in over 660,000 deaths and leaving hundreds of thousands extra with the after-effects of Long COVID.

This interval of struggling and dying for hundreds of thousands has meant monetary prosperity for a skinny layer. Brazilian billionaires elevated their wealth by 30 p.c through the pandemic, whereas 90 p.c of the inhabitants grew to become poorer. The richest 1 p.c in Brazil owned nearly half of the nationwide wealth in 2021, a rise of 0.5 share factors since 2019.

Santos lived and was brutally killed in Sergipe, the fifth poorest state in Brazil in accordance with the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), with 46.8 p.c of the state's inhabitants dealing with severe issues associated to the dearth of meals. Luís Moura, regional coordinator of the union-funded social research institute DIEESE, identified that the inhabitants thought-about poor elevated from 42 p.c in 2019 to 46 p.c in 2021. This state of affairs is repeated all through the nation, with a rise in poverty from 25 p.c to 29 p.c in the identical interval.

A research by the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV) confirmed that whereas 30 p.c of Brazilian households had no cash to purchase meals no less than as soon as in the earlier 12 months in 2019, that quantity elevated to 36 p.c in 2021. Among the poorest 20 p.c, meals insecurity jumped from an already staggering 53 p.c to 75 p.c in the identical interval.

Today, the big poverty and social inequality in Brazil, which has solely intensified with a dramatic rise in meals and gasoline costs, are elevating social tensions.

According to information surveyed by the University of São Paulo Center for the Study of Violence and the Brazilian Public Security Forum, 5,200 individuals died because of police violence in Brazil in 2017. In 2020, the quantity killed jumped to six,400 and final yr it was 6,100.

Under such situations, the assassination of Genivaldo de Jesus Santos was met by the PRF command with chilly indifference. A "technical note" from the PRF blamed Santos himself for his dying and lined up the actions of the brokers. The word acknowledged that he "actively resisted an approach by a PRF team. Due to his aggressiveness, immobilization techniques and instruments of less offensive potential were used to restrain him."

It shouldn't be a coincidence that the sadistic violence launched towards Santos occurred simply at some point after fascistic President Jair Bolsonaro praised one of many deadliest operations ever carried out by the murderous Military Police (PM) in the Vila Cruzeiro favela in the town of Rio de Janeiro. The operation resulted in the dying of 25 individuals, together with one killed by stray bullets and 4 individuals nonetheless hospitalized. The police took accountability for less than ten deaths, whereas native residents had been pressured to take the our bodies of their kin and neighbors to the hospital.

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The operation, carried out in the morning of May 24, had the participation of the PRF and the infamous Special Operations Battalion (BOPE).

After it grew to become information, Bolsonaro acknowledged: "Congratulations to the warriors of the BOPE and the Military Police of Rio de Janeiro who neutralized at least 20 criminals linked to drug trafficking in a confrontation, after being attacked by gunfire during an operation against criminal faction leaders."

The PM portrayed the operation as an ambush for a convoy of the drug trafficking gang, Comando Vermelho, which was leaving the Vila Cruzeiro favela. According to the official narrative, the operation was compromised when a gaggle of plainclothes police at one of many entrances to the group was intercepted by drug traffickers, main the police to react by getting into the favela and killing them. However, the information level much less to an ambush and extra to a provocation to justify the assault contained in the favela that resulted in the bloodbath.

The commander of the Military Police of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Uirá do Nascimento Ferreira, declared the day after the operation that it had been deliberate months earlier than and cruelly acknowledged that it "did not have the objective of serving arrest warrants."

How the operation, which formally was to focus on criminals caught in the act leaving Vila Cruzeiro, ended with a violent assault contained in the favela has not been defined besides by the untenable police narrative. The presence of 11 police armored automobiles in positions that to date haven't been publicized and the motion of dozens of plainclothes brokers across the slum has all of the indications of an operation deliberate to impress a response from the drug traffickers. The alleged preliminary assault towards officers was responded with greater than 100 brokers getting into the group.

Almost per week after the brutal murder of Santos in plain sight, Bolsonaro lastly responded to the episode by lamenting not his dying, however that of PRF brokers in one other case the identical week. Bolsonaro concluded that the media "always has a side, the side of the criminals."

In the identical week of those two horrific incidents, the Bolsonaro authorities additionally printed a report on human rights abuses with a evident absence of the part on "public security," that's, abuse by cops.

Bolsonaro's statements are a sign to the president's fascistic supporters in the state equipment, together with the police forces and the army, that launching the brutal crackdown on the working class amidst the upsurge in strikes and protests in Brazil could have no repercussions for the brokers concerned.

So far, the one repercussions for the three policemen recorded in the scenes in Umbaúba have been minor. Kleber Nascimento Freitas, Paulo Rodolpho Lima Nascimento and William de Barros Noia had been relieved of responsibility and a disciplinary motion course of was initiated. The merciless response of the PRF command, blaming Santos for resisting the officers' aggression, expresses Bolsonaro's encouragement of those fascistic sections.

The cultivation of such forces is an expression of the ruling class's worry in the face of intense social disaster. On Tuesday morning, a day after Bolsonaro's statements defending the police in the Santos case, Bolsonaro's chief-of-staff, minister Ciro Nogueira, signed the dismissal of the PRF's govt director and intelligence director, solely to announce on the identical day that they had been being promoted to increased positions in the US.

The Bolsonaro authorities's encouragement of those forces can also be a response to tensions increase throughout the area. In Chile, the place large demonstrations towards former President Sebastián Piñera's insurance policies in 2019 had been seen by Bolsonaro as a serious home menace, present President Gabriel Boric is plummeting in approval rankings simply months after his election. The nation skilled a refinery employees' strike in early May, whereas in Argentina, a simultaneous truckers' strike with no deadline to finish was barely averted after its third day.

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In Brazil, employees at Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional (CSN) in Volta Redonda in the state of Rio de Janeiro went on strike on the finish of March, making a fee elected by the rank-and-file to barter unbiased of the union. After a marketing campaign of isolation and suppression aided by the unions, the corporate is feeling emboldened, sending in police to stop employee assemblies this week. On the day of Santos' murder, Bolsonaro's communications minister, Fábio Faria, revealed the worry throughout the ruling class of a strike in a crucial sector of the financial system. Faria mentioned, "Is R\$15 billion [from Petrobras] R\$44 billion profit too much to subsidize truckers' diesel to avoid a strike? I've heard the market saying it's not."

Meanwhile, all three international locations are dealing with new outbreaks of COVID-19 instances, with ICUs filling their capability and reviews of outbreaks in faculties.

In this explosive state of affairs, with lower than 5 months to go till the elections in October, Bolsonaro sees the police forces as a shock troop towards any political opposition, whereas getting ready to reply to the situation of a defeat with a coup, with the more and more direct collaboration of the army.

Bolsonaro's unfettered encouragement of the police forces instantly after they commit acts of maximum violence is simply potential amid a shift to the best of all forces in the political institution. The intensification of poverty and social inequality in Brazil and all through Latin America, on the similar time {that a} skinny layer has develop into richer at an unprecedented price, are being responded with the promotion of the repressive forces of the state by your complete political spectrum, together with the nominal opposition to Bolsonaro led by the Workers Party (PT).

In an expression of the big nervousness all through the political institution following the current episodes of police violence, the PT's response was restricted to PT president Gleisi Hoffmann, tweeting that the Santos murder and the slaughter in Rio are examples that it's essential to "review the command and training of police officers."

After remaining fully silent in regards to the bloodbath for per week, PT's former president and entrance runner for the October elections, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, refused to make any name for an finish to the police killing spree. Instead, he acknowledged in a conformist and empty style: "If the state was present in these areas, the police would only be a component to maintain tranquility. ... the state only appears when it is to kill someone, through the police."

In reality, the equipment of repression being thrown on the working class on the highways and slums was strengthened through the PT governments. The foremost instance is the Drug Law handed in 2006, which in accordance with the National Prison Department resulted in the rise of these arrested for drug-related crimes from 9 p.c in 2005 to twenty-eight p.c in 2014, whereas the jail inhabitants greater than doubled in

the identical interval, from 361,400 to 607,700.

The order of the day in the so-called "left" is to offer a political cow for the fascistic forces being cultivated by Bolsonaro. Marcelo Freixo, Lula's fundamental ally in the race for governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro for the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), responded to the slaughter in Vila Cruzeiro by posting a sequence of tweets to make clear that he didn't name for the top of BOPE and CORE, the notoriously violent particular forces of the army and civilian police in the state, respectively.

The similar reasoning is true for the media. It presents the response of the Brazilian judiciary, demanding explanations from the police in regards to the operation in Rio, as an indication that there might be important repercussions for the killings in Vila Cruzeiro. However, it was the STF itself that upheld the extension of powers of the PRF to "investigative and intelligence operations" in 2020, permitting it to participate in the killing of Santos and the Vila Cruzeiro bloodbath.

The chief objective of the opposition is in reality to deflect social opposition and disarm the working class whereas Bolsonaro goals to create a fascist motion throughout the safety forces.

Only an enormous motion of the working class, unbiased of and in opposition to all of the forces that maintain Brazilian capitalism, can cease the spiraling police violence and assaults on democratic rights, and put an finish to the large distress and struggling triggered by the pandemic and the international financial disaster. For this, it's vital to construct the management of the working class in the International Committee of the Fourth International in Brazil and throughout Latin America.

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