

## **A call for international solidarity in face of the attacks on democracy in Brazil**

*The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), which represents over 60 million workers in the region, firmly supports the democratic rule of law now under threat in Brazil following the decision by the Chamber of Deputies to approve impeachment proceedings against President Dilma Rousseff.*

As became clear during the vote on Sunday 17 April, the deputies who voted in favour of impeachment have no evidence that the President is guilty of any crimes, which is the only constitutional basis on which she could be referred to a political trial. Unlike President Rousseff, many of those who voted against her are wanted by the Brazilian justice system for a number of crimes including embezzlement, misappropriation of funds, money laundering and electoral fraud, amongst others. All the talk of wanting to combat corruption is false, hypocritical, and designed to send shock waves through Brazilian society and justify a coup.

Hidden behind this campaign and the parliamentarians' decision is the continued attack by the most conservative and reactionary political groups, together with national and international economic interests directly supported by big media corporations, against the programme of social and political progress of the last 13 years achieved under the government of former President Lula and President Dilma. In one of the world's most unequal countries, 40 million people have been taken out of poverty, 20 million more jobs have been created and the role of the State has been restored in the formulation of public policy on health, education, housing and the protection of wages, and on combating discrimination be it on the basis of sex, gender, ethnicity, age or race, making Brazil an example for social inclusion throughout the world.

As became clear during the vote, after grotesque macho, misogynist, racist and fascist speeches, the deputies spared no threats against trade unions, social movements and left-wing organisations, from any government that may emerge from this parliamentary coup. For them, trade unions and social movements are the real enemies. Some are already speaking openly about an arrangement to ensure impunity for the crimes of these

parliamentarians, to criminalise and repress social protest, to adopt a neoliberal economic agenda, to change direction towards the geopolitical interests of the US, and to dismantle the integration processes in which Brazil plays a key role, such as Mercosur, UNASUR, ECLAC and BRIC.

The trade unions of the Americas will support the call of Brazilian trade unions and social movements who are mobilising throughout Brazil to put pressure on the Senate to put an end to this parliamentary coup when the matter comes up before it. Over the next few days we will be keeping up international attention on those events in solidarity with the people of Brazil.

We call on the international community to unmask this attack on Brazilian democracy and we urge international organisations such as the OAS, ECLAC, UNASUR and Mercosur, as well as the bodies of the United Nations, to continue to support institutional democracy and the Rule of Law in Brazil.