

Call for solidarity with the democratic forces in Brazil

All polls indicate that Jair Bolsonaro has a real chance to win the Presidential elections in Brazil this weekend. To start with, the democratic quality of these elections leaves a lot to desire: Bolsonaro's withdrawal from public debate with his adversary/ies, massive and organized spread of fake news in the social media, infringement of electoral law, and numerous incidents of physical threats and attacks against opponents, render reduced legitimacy to a possible victory of Bolsonaro.

Jair Bolsonaro straddles between right wing populism and authoritarian extremism. He has voiced opinions, campaign promises and threats that gravely challenge the Brazilian democratic order. Lately Bolsonaro has paid lip service to the country's democratic institutions. Still, his pro-military and authoritarian ideology poses significant grounds for concern regarding the future of Brazilian democracy, including the guarantee of basic democratic and human rights. Bolsonaro's government plan emphasizes "war" on crime through more powers to the military police, deployment of the army in the slum areas of large cities, reduction of the minimum age of criminal responsibility as well as other measures that may lead to increased militarization and even higher rates of arbitrary imprisonments and killings in the Brazilian society. Regardless of whether Brazil's democratic institutions are upheld, Bolsonaro's hate speech against women, black, queer, political opponents, indigenous tribes, poor and other minoritarian groups has contributed to a sense of impunity among perpetrators of violence, and incentivizes further violent acts against these groups in the future.

Bolsonaro's rise to power is only the last event in a gradual process of deterioration of Brazilian democracy that started in 2016 with the destitution of Dilma Rousseff, and also involved the trial and imprisonment of Ex-President and Presidential candidate Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. As the most popular oppositional leader he had big chances to win the presidential election had he been allowed to run. This process has faced little to no critique by the international community, and especially by Brazil's main commercial partners. Norway stands out in this regard, as one of few countries who awarded the government of Michel Temer with legitimacy by hosting the sitting President in an official visit.

The current situation calls for an immediate response on behalf of the international community, who must watch the potential new president's speech acts and management of Brazil's human rights and other international law commitments. Bolsonaro's policy platform promises for example the elimination of laws that protect the environment, rainforests and biodiversity of the Amazon. He even pretends to pull Brazil out of the Paris climate agreement.

In sum, if elected, the consequences of the new president's policies and actions are likely to be grave, both for the Brazilian population and for the world.

We, the below **signatories participating at the 10th conference of the Nordic Latin American Research Network (NOLAN 2018)** in Oslo, 24-26 October, call upon

politicians, scholars, students, trade unionists and other civil society leaders to support acts of international solidarity with the democratic forces in Brazil.

Oslo, 26th of October 2018

Signatories

Name		Institution
Alice	Baroni	University of Padova
Alice	Ennals	The Development Fund, Norway
Almut	Schilling-Yacaflor	University Osnabrück
Ana Lucia	Fernandez F	Freie University Berlin
Andrea	Ramirez Stangeland	Norsk Folkehjelp
Andrea	González Andino	FLACSO Ecuador
Ann Cathrin	Corrales-Øverlid	University of Bergen
Anna	Heikkinen	University of Helsinki
Anne	Møgster	Oslo Metropolitan University
Antulio	Rosales	University of Oslo
Asli	Vatansever	Humboldt University Berlin
Arturo	López-Levy	Gustavus Adolphus College
Axel	Borchgrevink	Oslo Metropolitan University
Benedicte	Bull	University of Oslo
Bibiana Alejandra	Bilbao	Universidad Simón Bolívar
Britt K.E.	Schumann	University of Oslo
Bruna	Cataldo de Andrade	Federal University of Fluminense
Cecilie	Vindal Ødegaard	University of Bergen
Claudia	Padovani	University of Padova
Corazón de María	Rodríguez Soriano	University of Guadalajara
Cornelia	Helmcke	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Cristián	Ducoing	Lund University
Daniel	Arnesson	University of Oslo
Einar	Braathen	Oslo Metropolitan University
Erika Gabriela	López Arteaga	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Eva Maria	Fjellheim	UiT – The Arctic University of Norway
Fabio	Bento	Oslo Metropolitan University
Fabrizio	Rodríguez	University of Jena
Fernando	Mathias	SAIH – Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund
Georg	Wink	University of Copenhagen
Germán Andrés	Quimbayo Ruiz	University of Eastern Finland
Gianfranco	Selgas	Stockholm University
Giuseppe	Acconcia	University of Padova
Haley	De Korne	University of Oslo
Ida Bruheim	Jensen	Department of Social Studies, University of Stavanger
Ingrid	Fadnes	Oslo Metropolitan University
Isabelle	Hugøy	University of Bergen
Johanna	Hohenthal	University of Helsinki
John Andrew	McNeish	Norwegian University of Life Sciences

José Alejandro	Huidobro Goya,	University of Bergen
Jussi	Pakkasvirta	University of Helsinki
Karen	Mustin	University of Aberdeen
Kjetil	Klette Bøhler	Oslo Metropolitan University
Lauren	Berntsen	SAIH – Students’ and Academics’ International Assistance Fund
Leice	Garcia	Pontífica' Catholic University of Minas Gerais
Leonardo	Stanley	CEDES
Line Alice	Ytrehus	NLA University College
Live	Bjørge	SAIH – Students’ and Academics’ International Assistance Fund
Luis A.	Fretes Carreras	ISCTE Lisboa
Maija	Rankinen	University of Bergen
Maimoona		University of Oslo
Marcia	Caetano Langfeldt	University of Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3
Maren	Bjune	Save The Children (Norway)
Margit	Ystanes	University of Bergen
Maria-Fernanda	Gonzalez Rojas	UiT – The Arctic University of Norway
Mariana	Galvão Lyra	University of Eastern Finland
Marielle	Aguilar-Støen	University of Oslo
Marit	Ursin	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Markus	Kröger	University of Helsinki
Masaya	Llavaneras Blanco	Wilfrid Laurier University
Mattias Borg	Rasmussen	Department of Food and Resource Economics
Mauro	Porto	Tulane University
Monica	Serrano	College of Mexico
Nidia Catherine	Gonzalez	University of Bologna
Peng	Wang	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Rachel Bjørkli	Berg	University of Oslo
Roberto	Rivas Hermann	Nord University
Sergio	Caballero	Universidad de Deusto
Simon	Pahle	Oslo Metropolitan University
Susana	Kværndal	University of Oslo
Turid	Hagene	Oslo Metropolitan University
Tolulope	Shokunbi	Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Tomas	Salem	University of Bergen
Tor	Opsvik	University of Oslo
Torkjell	Leira	University of Oslo
Violeta	Gutierrez Zamora	University of Eastern Finland
William	Carvalho	Federal University of Amapá