



FIAN
BRASIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HRTFN 2021 REPORT

**THE PANDEMIC,
INEQUALITY
AND HUNGER**

REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO ADEQUATE
FOOD AND NUTRITION

BRASÍLIA-DF

This executive summary contains the most important information from the HRtFN 2021 Report: The Pandemic, Inequality and Hunger. It deals with violations of the human right to adequate food and nutrition in the current Brazilian context. The publication is an initiative of FIAN Brasil – Organization for the Human Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition, in partnership with the Brazilian Forum on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security (FBSSAN), with the support of Pão Para o Mundo (PPM) and Misereor.

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INTRODUCTION: SYSTEMATIZE TO RESIST – AND REBUILD

In 2017, FIAN Brasil drew up its first report on the **human right to adequate food and nutrition (HRtFN)**, *From democratization to the coup: advances and setbacks in ensuring the HRtFN in Brazil*, providing an overview of that period. Brazil, in previous years, had achieved international recognition for its food and nutrition security programs (SAN, in its acronym in Portuguese) and achieved victories such as reducing child mortality rates and poverty. However, it suffered a setback after the 2016 coup.

The acronym by which this individual and collective human right is known was incorporated into the title in 2019 when a second report was produced. It was thus renamed the *HRtFN* (or *Dhana* in its acronym in Portuguese) *Report*. Its content highlighted the way in which neoliberalism and authoritarianism intensified setbacks in relation to sovereignty and food and nutrition security (SSAN) in Brazil.

This report, written at a time when famine is affecting a large portion of the population, shows how the pandemic has aggravated a series of pre-existing crises. The report gives a circumstantial and historical perspective, with emphasis on HRtFN violations by the Brazilian

population. It also gathers information on actions of solidarity, resistance and reinvention in favor of life and of human rights.

When writing this report, FIAN Brasil acknowledges that both implementing and violating HRtFN, with regard to the two indivisible dimensions of this right (being free from hunger and having adequate food) results from food systems and political, economic and environmental conditions.

Thus, the report systematizes serious violations of human rights experienced by the Brazilian population in the last two years, highlighting that, for some groups – such as the black population, other racialized groups and women – such violations overlap systematically. The way in which HRtFN understood takes into account its symbolic and nutritional meaning (the importance of a culturally and nutritionally adequate diet for people to fulfill their potential as human beings), perspectives of gender and race in the implementation or violation of these rights, and of food sovereignty as a way of guaranteeing rights for present and future generations in harmony with nature.

With this report, FIAN Brasil continues the work of previous reports, in order to contribute to the monitoring of HRtFN and to support the actions needed to guarantee it, and thus guarantee a more dignified life for all in Brazil. The fight against hunger is also the fight against the destruction of democracy, and vice versa.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The pandemic affected countries that depend on the food trade with greater intensity, and highlighted the fragility of the dominant food system, which is even what instigated the appearance of Covid-19 and other zoonoses (SALCEDO FIDALGO, 2020). On the other hand, local food systems were essential to get food to those who need it most, as shown by experiences in several countries where community kitchens and other collective initiatives for distributing real food sprung up. This contrast of views and practices was expressed in civil society's disagreement with the UN Food Systems Summit, where the construction and results were marked by lack of transparency and the domination of corporate interests.

From 25 to 28 July 2021, a platform for the defense of a food system based on human rights was held called the Counter-Mobilization to Transform Corporate Food Systems, and **the corporate control of the international governance of these systems was denounced.** This process occurs through free trade agreements (TLCs), the private control of common goods (such as water, seeds and land) and, increasingly, through the control of concepts (using terminology such as a "green economy") and the dematerialization of food systems (via digitalization and financialization), which appear as a false solution to the problem of hunger.

International tendencies such as the denial of rights, the destruction of nature, the increase in poverty and hunger are also present in Brazil. We will subsequently see how economic policy and food systems generate violations that were aggravated during the pandemic. The reason for this is particularly due to poor management of the country's crises, which has led to an increase in hunger and a worsening of the social, ethnic, racial, economic and environmental injustice situation. However, we will also see that, as in other parts of the world, there are initiatives for the construction of food sovereign and regenerative food systems.

ECONOMIC POLICY AND HRtFN: IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC AND THE BRAZILIAN CASE

This chapter proposes reflections on the relationship between macroeconomic policy and the human right to adequate food and nutrition (HRtFN), based on the Brazilian experience and changes in the international scenario.

The management of instruments of fiscal policy indirectly affects HRtFN as it affects employment and income, thus influencing important determinants of access to adequate food and nutrition.

Spending and public tax collection directly affect HRtFN. On the expenditure side, governments contribute to guaranteeing this right by allocating resources to food and nutrition security programs, supporting family

farming, school meals, communities and specific social groups, as well as income transfer policies.

On the revenue side, tax cuts on staple foods can facilitate access to these items and contribute to securing HRtFN. Tax instruments also encourage the behavior and eating habits of the population, favoring, or not, adequate nutrition.

Monetary policy affects employment and income, through monetary contractions and expansions, generally carried out through variations of the system's basic interest rate, managed by the Central Bank. Food inflation is, without a doubt, a challenge that may demand responses from monetary policy other than raising interest rates, whose negative consequences may outweigh the benefits. This is because most food is little affected by monetary policy, as its price depends to a great extent on international prices, or on climatic and harvest factors. In this sense, **in the face of food inflation, a contractionary monetary policy can aggravate a food and nutritional security problem by causing unemployment and a drop in income, without substantially reducing the problem in food prices. Therefore, for a monetary policy that is adequate to HRtFN, it is necessary to evaluate the composition of the inflationary process and the use of alternative instruments to fight inflation.**

The exchange policy, on the other hand, must be adjusted to the volatility of the national currency. In times of strong currency devaluation, a set of compensatory policies must be instituted to mitigate the impact on HRtFN. In periods of strong appreciation, policies must be designed for domestic supply. This is because exchange rate movements affect food prices and production conditions for the agricultural sector in the country.

Transformations in the global economy point to another macroeconomic policy approach. It is not a matter of abrupt transformations but of gradual historical movement, which modifies the ways in which national states act as well as the management of economic policies.

The pandemic has accelerated the historical process of a social and political crisis of neoliberalism as an ideological and normative form of social organization and has opened up space for the discussion of new economic policy paradigms, as well as new ways of conceiving the relationship between State, market and society.

From a historical perspective, the 2008 international financial crisis was a turning point that marked the increase in social tensions in central countries and a growing questioning of the economic paradigms that support neoliberal policies. Institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) started to debate the old recommendations of the institution itself and started to value, for example, financial regulation, the countercyclical use of fiscal policy and capital controls.

In this context, the pandemic has accelerated changes already underway. Nation states have taken on an important role, mobilizing instruments to guarantee wages and employment for formal workers, income for informal and unemployed workers, resources for companies, sta-

bility for the financial system and a wide range of measures aimed at combating the pandemic, ranging from the nationalization of hospitals to price controls and the international trade of strategic goods in the health area. **Governments have also rediscovered their role as an inductor**, as shown by the economic recovery plans presented by the European Union (Next Generation EU) and those launched by the government of Joe Biden.

The effects of the austerity policy on HRtFN are evident in the Brazilian Union's budget. For example, the 2069 (2014-2019) and 5033 (2020-2021) Food and Nutrition Security budget program was reduced by 97% between 2014 and 2021, from 5.2 billion to 148.5 million reais.

The Covid-19 pandemic deepened the effects of the crisis, with an increase in inequalities and unemployment, which also have an impact on the increase in hunger. In light of this dramatic scenario, Brazil adopted two essential measures to contain hunger in 2020: emergency aid and food distribution. However, the amount of aid was halved in the last four months of 2020 and, in the first four months of 2021, the policy was completely suspended. When it was resumed, it returned at a reduced sum, despite the worsening of the pandemic – which impacted the increase in hunger even more intensely in 2021.

The macroeconomic policy guidelines practiced in Brazil, in particular fiscal policy, are inadequate to guarantee the HRtFN and are not up to the challenges imposed for a new economy post-pandemic. As shown, at the most critical moment of the economic crisis and the pandemic, the public budget dedicated to food and nutrition security (SAN) was drastically reduced. Furthermore, the orientations for economic policies are contrary to international trends, which highlight the importance of HRtFN and assign an active role to the State and to macroeconomic policies.

FOOD SYSTEMS, RIGHTS AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The setbacks in implementing the human right to adequate food and nutrition observed in the HRtFN 2019 Report have increased in the last two years. To the political, economic, democratic and environmental crisis already in place was added a health crisis on a global scale, with serious impacts for Brazil.

The disruption of the National Food and Nutritional Security System (Sisan) undid the agenda of government programs – which reinforces a food system model that intensifies inequalities. The increase in poverty, the return of hunger and the increase in non-communicable chronic diseases - phenomena that have already been observed in recent years – are increasing, affecting a large part of the Brazilian population. **Above all, inequalities in income, gender and race have deepened.**

In addition to the lack of national coordination in measures to combat the pandemic, **the Brazilian government induced the creation of a food system based**

on the flexibilization of rules that regulate the agricultural sector and the ultra-processed products industry. Within civil society, on the other hand, it is possible to observe the strengthening of mobilization, resilience and resistance actions, as well as the multiplication of solidarity initiatives for the popular production and distribution of healthy foods.

The national survey on food insecurity in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic in Brazil, carried out by the Brazilian Research Network on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security (Rede Pensar), shows that, by 2020, **more than half of the Brazilian population (55, 2%) lived with some degree of food insecurity.** This means that 116.8 million people did not have full and permanent access to food. Of this group, 43.4 million people (20.5% of the population) did not have enough food (moderate or severe food insecurity) and 19.1 million (9% of the population) were starving (severe food insecurity). The research shows that **hunger returned to the levels of 2004, increasing by 27.6% in the last two years** (REDE PENSSAN, 2021).

Hunger in Brazil, as is well known, has a place, income, age, education, gender and race. An increase in food insecurity was identified mainly in households located in the North (67.7%), Northeast (73.1%) and in rural areas (75.2%). **The percentage for food insecurity is higher in households with only one person responsible (66.3%), with food insecurity being even more accentuated in cases where the person responsible is a woman (73.8%), or either a brown (67.8%) or a black (66.8%) person.** This insecurity is also greater in homes inhabited by children of to 4 years old (70.6%) or by children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 years (66.4%) (GALINDO et al., 2021, p. 39).

With regard to the quality of food, it was observed that **the trend towards a decrease in the consumption of healthy foods, already identified in recent studies, worsened during the pandemic.** In 2020, the consumption of fresh and/or minimally processed foods decreased, especially among the population in a situation of food insecurity. The Food for Justice survey shows that, in 2020, 44% of people reduced their consumption of meat, 41% reduced their consumption of fruits, 40.4% reduced their consumption of cheese and dairy products and 36.8% reduced their consumption of fruit and vegetables. In households with food insecurity, 85% reduced their consumption of healthy foods (GALINDO et al., 2021, p. 37).

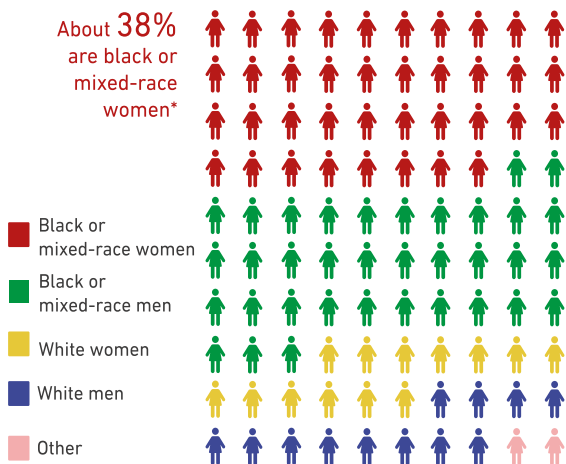
Economic measures, rising unemployment, institutional dismantling and budget cuts affect the living conditions of the population. In 2019, extreme poverty grew by 13.5%, from 5.8% in 2012 to 6.5% in 2019 – which is equivalent to 13 million people living on up to 151 reais per month. Poverty reached 24.7% of the population, which is equivalent to more than 52 million people with an income of up to 436 reais per month (IBGE, 2020). The increase in extreme poverty has immediate effects on the ability of families to ensure adequate and healthy food.

Among people below the poverty line, 70% were black or brown. Poverty affected even more black or brown women, who represented 39.8% of the extremely poor and 38.1% of the poor (IBGE, 2020) – as shown in Graph 1.

This scenario has been deeply aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Hunger has reached the levels of 15 years ago, revealing that, despite the permanence of some social programs, such as the Bolsa Família, the Continuous Cash Benefit and emergency aid, there are huge setbacks in the area of the right to adequate food and nutrition.

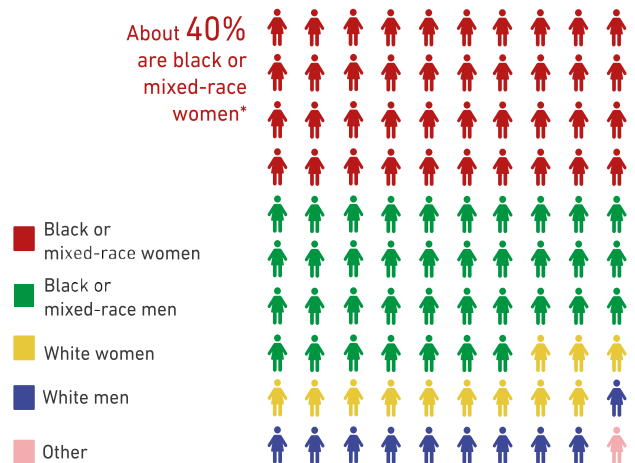
GRAPH 1: PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY IN BRAZIL BY SEX, COLOR AND RACE

People in situations of poverty in Brazil (%)
By sex, color and race



¹ No results are presented for yellow, indigenous and persons without declaration of color or race

People in situations of extreme poverty in Brazil (%)
By sex, color and race



¹ No results are presented for yellows, indigenous and people without declaration of color or race

SOURCE: SOCIAL INDICATORS SYSTEM - 2020"

Budget cuts and the weakening of a series of programs aimed at promoting food security in Brazil were observed. This is the case for the Food Acquisition Program (PAA), the Cisterns Program, the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (Ater), the National Family Agriculture Program (Pronaf), the National Education Program for Agrarian Reform (Proneira), the National Agrarian Reform Program (PNRA) and the National Rural Housing Program (PNHR) (VALADARES et al., 2020, p. 11).

In this scenario, the Emergency Platform for the Field, Forests and Waters in Defense of Life and for Fighting Hunger in the Face of the Coronavirus Pandemic was created¹. After broad mobilization from civil society and social movements, the National Congress approved Law 14.048/2020, called the Assis Carvalho Law, which institutes emergency measures to support family farmers in order to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of Covid-19.

¹ Emergency Platform for the Field, Forests and Water in Defense of Life and for Fighting Hunger in the Face of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Perseus Abramo Foundation. Available at: <https://fpabramo.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Plataforma-Emergencial-do-Campo-atualizado-01.05.20202.pdf>.

The Executive Branch, however, vetoed practically all the new legal provisions, making it impossible to provide emergency aid to family farmers and support for productive activities during the pandemic.

Subsequently, a new bill was debated in Congress to guarantee emergency support for productive inclusion and specific lines of credit for family farmers, among other measures. PL 823/2021, known as the Assis Carvalho II Law, was approved by the parliamentarians but was also vetoed by the President of the Republic.

The Provisional Measure (MP) 1.061/2021 established the new Bolsa Família – the so-called Auxílio Brasil – and the Alimenta Brasil program. This program is nothing more than a re-edition of the recognized Food Acquisition Program (PAA), created in 2003, in the context of Fome Zero. Alimenta Brasil is a copy of the PAA and it does not present innovations or an indication of budgetary resources. It is fundamentally about erasing the memory of the PAA, since the MP maintains its modalities, management group and even provides for social control carried out through the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security (Consea) - which, ironically, was extinguished by Bolsonaro himself, as soon as he assumed the presidency.

The only program within the scope of food and nutrition security policies that survives from a budgetary point of view is the National School Feeding Program (PNAE, governed by Law 11,947/2009) (CASTRO, 2021; SANTARELLI; FREITAS, 2020)². The distribution of food kits and baskets during the pandemic, however, has been uneven across the country, without regularity or quality and with interruption of purchases from family farming. Prioritization criteria were also created for granting program benefits, which means they do not reach all public school students (SANTARELLI; FREITAS, 2020).

Within the scope of the regulation of food systems, the Economic Freedom Law (Law 13,874/2019) created a more permissive environment. **Infra-legal norms were multiplied — decrees, ordinances, normative instructions and resolutions — aimed at the liberation of economic activities**, a strategy explicitly revealed by the Minister of the Environment, Ricardo Salles, when he argued that the pandemic would be an opportune moment to “let the herd go by”³.

In the agricultural sector, government initiatives aimed at making environmental licensing more flexible, encouraging the illegal occupation of public lands, expanding the use and consumption of pesticides and weakening environmental protection agencies and the rights of traditional peoples and communities became evident.

THE REGULATION OF THE ULTRA-PROCESSED INDUSTRY

Ultra-processed products – for eating or drinking – are not food, they are industrial formulas, and there is a series of works of research that demonstrates their negative impacts on the health of the population. In 2020, as identified by Datafolha in a study commissioned by the Consumer Defense Institute (Idec), the consumption of these products by Brazilians aged 45 to 55 years increased from 9% in 2019 to 16% in 2020. This change contributes to the increase in obesity, which, it is worth remembering, had already doubled in the adult population between 2002/2003 and 2019, ranging from 12.2% to 26.8%.

The advocacy for ultra-processed products industry **increased in the federal government, as observed in episodes involving the variation in the rate of sugary drinks, changes in the labeling of ultra-processed products and attacks on the *Food Guide for the Brazilian population*.**

2 *Observatório da Alimentação Escolar*. Available at: <https://alimentacaoescolar.org.br/>.

3 Expression used by the then Minister of the Environment suggesting that the pandemic would be a good time to reduce environmental protection.

⁴Environment Minister argues in favour of taking advantage of the coronavirus crisis to “let the herd go by”. *Folha de S.Paulo*, May 22 2020. Available at: <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2020/05/ministro-do-meio-ambiente-defende-aproveitar-crise-do-coronavirus-para-passar-a-boiada.shtml>.

On the other hand, in 2020 Resolution 6/2020 for the National Education Development Fund (FNDE) was issued, which restricts the purchase of ultra-processed foods for the Pnae, establishing the duty to prioritize in natura or minimally processed foods in public schools.

Finally, it is important to highlight the acts of solidarity carried out by social movements during the pandemic. In mid-2020, the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST) had already donated 3,400 tons of food in 24 states across the country (MST, 2020). These practices demonstrate the importance of transforming food systems and the need to support a sector that produces food for life.

HRTFN: ELIGIBILITY

In this report, give greater emphasis to political and judicial action for the enforcement of HRTFN in 2020 and 2021.

Before we bring up some important enforcement actions that have taken place in the last two years, it is important to briefly consider institutions that have the role of guaranteeing rights in Brazil.

President Bolsonaro ignored the Public Attorney’s list of nominees for the position of Attorney General of the Republic and of the Public Ministry, a list that has traditionally been taken into consideration since 2003. This act has an influence on the enforceability of rights, as it becomes clear at this moment when it will be up to the current incumbent of the Attorney General’s Office to analyze the CPI report for Covid-19 and proceed or not with the accusations made about the President of the Republic.

The Union’s Public Defender’s Office has been undergoing cuts, and the state defenders’ offices still do not have the sufficient number of civil servants or structure to fulfill their constitutional mission, which could worsen with the administrative reform.

The Judiciary, in some situations, has been identified as a violator of rights. An example of this was the Supreme Court Minister Dias Toffoli’s decision related to the acts of the Public Defender of Rio de Janeiro, which, throughout the pandemic, required food to be delivered by the Pnae for all students assisted by the program. The decision allowed the state of Rio de Janeiro not to provide food to students at public schools and led to the note “Violation of the Human Right to Adequate Food is wearing the gown”⁴, by the School Feeding Observatory (ÓAÊ). The action of the Judiciary regarding structuring themes, such as access to land and territory has not been effective in guaranteeing this right, and was, at times, an obstacle to its implementation.

Finally, civil society organizations around the world have been denouncing the corporate capture of multilateral governance spaces, and international human rights

4 “A violação ao Direito Humano à Alimentação Adequada vestiu a toga”. ÓAÊ, Sep. 2021. Available at: https://alimentacaoescolar.org.br/media/notastecnicas/documentos/Nota_DireitoaAlimentacaoEscolarRJ.pdf.

systems⁵ have been suffering a deliberate weakening process, which also threatens the enforcement of these rights.

POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL ENFORCEABILITY ACTIONS

With regard to political enforceability, the removal of the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security (CONSEA) in 2019 proved to be an even harder loss amidst the pandemic and the increase in hunger and food insecurity.

As a reaction to this process of accelerated dismantling of the State and of food and nutritional security policies, a galloping act that came hand in hand with the increase in poverty and hunger, a group of social organizations, including the Brazilian Forum on Sovereignty and Security Food and Nutrition (FBSSAN) and state forums, organizations, movements and people who research and militate in defense of this theme, created the National Popular Conference for Rights, Democracy, Sovereignty and Food and Nutrition Security (CPSSAN)⁶. This conference, from the beginning, has been characterized as a political process, as a collective that organizes itself to hold a popular conference in view of the deliberate action of the State to undermine the processes of social participation but that is not limited to this end. CPSSAN has taken a stand on important issues for HRtFN in Brazil, such as the document “Guaranteeing the right to food and fighting hunger in times of coronavirus: life and human dignity first!”⁷, from the manifesto “Confront hunger with the strength of our struggles”⁸ and the carrying out of the People’s Court of Hunger, which held the federal government responsible for the increase in serious food insecurity and other violations of HRtFN in the country.

The state (and municipal) councils for food and nutrition security – which continued to exist even after the extinction of the national Consea – have played an important role in pressuring governments for the consolidation of the National System for Food and Nutritional Security (Sisan). Nationally, the Committee of Presidents of State Councils (CPCE) has been meeting with the coordination of the popular conference, giving greater capillarity to the demands for HRtFN. The Permanent Commission for the

Human Right to Adequate Food of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) has been reporting violations of HRtFN and making recommendations in defense of this right to the State. Actions were also taken to denounce the increase in poverty and hunger in the country.

In addition, the actions carried out by the Alliance for Adequate and Healthy Eating in defense of the Food Guide for the Brazilian population and the adequate nutritional labeling of foods and beverages were very relevant, as well as denouncing state subsidies for products that harm the health of the population, such as pesticides and sugary drinks.

There was immediate suspension of Constitutional Amendment 95, known as Teto dos Gastos. This amendment was the main argument for the budget cut in several public policies, including the food and nutrition security policy.

Finally, it is noteworthy that the STF issued a decision (in the direct action of unconstitutionality 5,631, judged on March 25, 2021) to expand the regulation of advertising of ultra-processed products, by recognizing the constitutionality. The fundamental milestone of **judicial demand** was the actions of non-compliance with fundamental precepts (ADPFs) 831 and 885, which demand the implementation of public policies to guarantee human dignity, the promotion of justice, the fight against inequalities and the promotion of fundamental rights, including fighting hunger. It is worth emphasizing the role of public defenders in relation to the Pnae’s legal enforceability.

In March 2021, human rights organizations, including the Dhesca Platform, the Direitos Valem Mais⁹ campaign and the FBSSAN, filed a petition with the Supreme Federal Court (STF) to comply with State Law 13,582/2016, which prohibited the practice in schools in Bahia. The judgment can be considered one of the great achievements of the period.

A number of complaints have been made to international systems for the protection of human rights on issues related to HRtFN, such as hunger, pesticides and land and territory. The demonstrations address the aggravation of rights violations due to the disastrous administration of the President of the Republic during the pandemic.

Amidst all the violations of rights that Brazilians have lived through within recent years – and specifically, the violations of HRtFN – **the right to demand rights has been systematically violated in the country**. Violence against social movements and rights defenders has increased. According to the Pastoral Land Commission, 2020 was the year with the highest number of conflicts in the countryside since the entity began collecting this information (CPT, 2021). Violence against indigenous peoples has also been worsening in recent years, due to the aggressive posture of the government, led by the president himself, and the support given to aggressors (loggers, miners, etc.).

5 <https://www.tni.org/en/article/hundreds-of-civil-society-organizations-worldwide-denounce-world-economic-forums-takeover-of>

6 Conferência Nacional Popular, por Direitos, Democracia, Soberania e Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (CPSSAN). Available at: <https://conferenciassan.org.br>.

7 Garantir o direito à alimentação e combater a fome em tempos de coronavírus: a vida e a dignidade humana em primeiro lugar!. CPSSAN. Available at: http://conferenciassan.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Garantir-o-direito-a-alimentacao-e-combater-a-fome-em-tempos-de-coronav%C3%ADrus_.pdf.

8 Enfrentar a fome com a força das nossas lutas. CPSSAN. Available at: <https://conferenciassan.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ManifestoEnfrentaraFome.pdf>.

9 Direitos Valem Mais. Available at: <https://direitosvalemmais.org.br/#NOTICIAS>.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

In 2017, the first edition of the *HRTFN Report* in its current format pointed to a trend of significant setbacks in relation to human rights and, in particular, to the theme of the publication - which was confirmed in 2019 and intensified in a way unpredictable in 2021. The depth of HR violations, however, seems to exceed the most pessimistic of expectations. In fact, the government has systematically and quite severely violated all obligations relating to HRTFN that arise from international treaties, our Constitution and the entirety of the Brazilian legal system.

The political and macroeconomic choices, dismantling of structures and policies for food and nutrition security, and the attacks on the rights of nature, indigenous peoples, traditional peoples and communities, already announced the presence of authoritarianism, marked by the denial of rights and by hunger, such as was analyzed in the 2019 edition. The arrival of the pandemic exposed the fragility of life, especially of those with already vulnerable bodies, in a vehement manner. Yet the choices of the Brazilian government led to the intensification of existing vulnerabilities and extended them to larger portions of society, in an atrocious manner.

During this period, hunger versus exposure to contagion was presented as a dilemma in our lives interrupted by this pandemic, but the issue is less dilemmatic and much more emblematic of the crisis in democracy and in the economy experienced in the world and also in Brazil. There is a process of concentration of wealth that is advancing by leaps and bounds. One of the pillars of this phenomenon, in the capitalist economic order, is the prevalence of neoliberalism over the welfare state, which despite its limits brings proposals for inclusion and standards of social justice. The strengthening of neoliberal rationality has called into question the democratic regime itself, which has led several societies to face serious political crises, as seen in Latin America.

However, recognition of the HRTFN's status in the country must not paralyze those moving to curb rights violations and abuses. On the contrary, it must serve as an instrument for the transformation of this reality. It is knowing the constitution of a problem that makes it possible to change it. We hope that this material will fuel the desire and force of action in the search for a world guided by the protection of the human rights of all peoples.

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