

**EDITORIAL - THE DAY THE BRAZILIAN NATION SENT A LETTER TO  
BRAZILIAN SOCIETY**

***EDITORIAL – O DIA EM QUE A NAÇÃO BRASILEIRA ENVIU UMA CARTA À  
SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA***

***EL DÍA EN QUE LA NACIÓN BRASILEÑA ENVIÓ UNA CARTA A LA SOCIEDAD  
BRASILEÑA***

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I ask the readers' permission to appropriate a name that I have long revered and paid homage to, I am talking about Umberto Eco, writer, philosopher, and literary critic who, in his lecture at Columbia University in the 1990's, brought us a significant manifesto against what he called Eternal Fascism, with unequalled didacticism. The current moment in Brazil imposes on us a certain attention for facts and manifestations that have been presented to our society, once the interests in producing the messages blur the visual and the perception of the citizens, the way the facts are treated and composed in narratives that disqualify the fact itself; it is what seems to be assuming the role of what is. In short, it is, by means of new clothes, presenting new meanings for the traditional habits of authoritarian and intolerant patriarchalism. This clothing presents a tradition impregnated with a conservatism with traces of fundamentalism where the vision and conception of modernity do not fit, because, in the traditional, there is a clear space for syncretism as a combination of different beliefs and practices and, therefore, tolerant to contradictions, but not in fundamentalism. Fundamentalist interpreters of different shades, have distorted these teachings from their principles and seek to perpetrate prejudiced, discriminatory practices and gender domination, this, by its nature of origin induces violence and intolerance in the communities. This conservative and intolerant traditionalism supports and brings out the primitive truths, which are only speeches about truth, but obscure the message by the absence of location and, as they are already said, do not

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give room for new truths, only interpretations and re-presentations with different narrative/discursive clothes, so there can be no contradiction, no change or even the evolution of knowledge... This obscurantist traditionalism refuses the "*depravity produced by modernity*" (sic) and, by disqualifying reason, empowers irrationality, which is where action is taken as a value per se, and therefore, should be performed without reflection or criticism. In this context, it is where the contradictory, beyond the natural evidence of difference, taken as the engine of knowledge, is considered treason, fascism and fundamentalism are intimidated by the different. One has to be careful, since the frustrated and the dissatisfied will be available for the acceptance of this type of belief, because in the identity dimension we are from the same country, there we have the origin of nationalism and xenophobia. Nowadays, this kind of discourse with this kind of narrative acquires a tone of nationalist populism in media impregnated with fake news with the sole purpose of misinforming and depoliticizing through memes and threats via Instagrams, Whatsapps or any other means in social networks, because these are the fields where the discourse(s) can be anything, as long as it pleases one side and threatens or even terrorizes the other. Democracies can be destroyed by their own subversion through the gradual disfiguring of democratic rights and practices, or through the fascist tendencies of coercive closure of the institutions of the Republic. It is a moment to unmask the fallacious logic, the carefully "chosen" facts and the sophist coherence that are ingrained in the shadowy crevices of society and hidden in the caves interconnected by the subterranean social networks and deep webs, quite useful for anonymity activism and, through these wolves they repeat so often that the sky is going to collapse that they end up convincing the chickens to leave the henhouses and go hide, to protect themselves, in their dens.

### **Check out the full Letter in defense of the Democratic Rule of Law**

In August 1977, in the midst of the celebrations of the sesquicentennial of the foundation of Legal Courses in the country, Professor Goffredo da Silva Telles Junior, master of us all, in the free territory of Largo de São Francisco, read the Letter to Brazilians, in which he denounced the illegitimacy of the then military government and the state of exception in which we lived.

It also called for the reestablishment of the rule of law and the convocation of a National Constituent Assembly.

The seed planted bore fruit. Brazil has overcome the military dictatorship.

The National Constituent Assembly restored the legitimacy of our institutions, reestablishing the democratic rule of law with the prevalence of respect for fundamental rights.

We have the powers of the Republic, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary, all independent, autonomous, and committed to respecting and ensuring the observance of the greatest pact, the Federal Constitution.

Under the mantle of the 1988 Federal Constitution, about to celebrate its 34th anniversary, we have gone through free and periodic elections, in which the political debate about the projects for the country has always been democratic, the final decision being left to popular sovereignty.

Goffredo's lesson is embodied in our Constitution: "All power emanates from the people, who exercise it through their elected representatives or directly, under the terms of this Constitution.

Our elections with the electronic counting process have served as an example to the world. We have had several alternations of power with respect to the results of the ballot box and republican transition of government. The electronic ballot boxes have proven to be safe and reliable, as has the Electoral Justice.

Our democracy has grown and matured, but much remains to be done. We live in a country of profound social inequalities, with a lack of essential public services, such as health, education, housing and public security.

We have a long way to go in developing our economic potential in a sustainable way. The State is inefficient in the face of its innumerable challenges.

Demands for greater respect and equality of conditions in terms of race, gender, and sexual orientation are still far from being fully met.

In the coming days, in the midst of these challenges, we will have the beginning of the electoral campaign for the renewal of mandates in the state and federal legislatures and executives.

At this moment, we should have the apex of democracy with the dispute between the various political projects aimed at convincing the electorate of the best proposal for the direction of the country in the coming years.

Instead of a civic party, we are going through a moment of immense danger to the democratic normality, risk to the institutions of the Republic and insinuations of disrespect to the result of the elections.

Unfounded and unproven attacks question the fairness of the electoral process and the democratic rule of law so hard won by Brazilian society.

The threats to the other powers and sectors of civil society and the incitement to violence and the breakdown of the constitutional order are intolerable.

We have recently witnessed authoritarian excesses that jeopardized the secular democracy in the United States. There, the attempts to destabilize democracy and the people's confidence in the fairness of elections were unsuccessful.

Our civic conscience is much greater than the opponents of democracy imagine. We know how to put aside minor differences for the sake of something much bigger, the defense of the democratic order.

Imbued with the civic spirit that underpinned the Letter to Brazilians of 1977 and gathered in the same free territory of Largo de São Francisco, regardless of the electoral or party preferences of each one, we call on Brazilians to be alert in defense of democracy and respect for the election results

In today's Brazil there is no more room for authoritarian setbacks. Dictatorship and torture belong to the past. The solution to the immense challenges facing Brazilian society necessarily involves respect for the results of the elections.

In civic vigil against attempts at rupture, we cry out in unison:

Democratic Rule of Law Always!!!!

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