

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO PAULO FREIRE,  
THE PATRON OF BRAZILIAN EDUCATION**

Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Educação, CNTE, on behalf of its 4,5 million educators working in Brazilian public schools — teachers, educational counseling and school administrative personnel, and also the retired ones, in any form of contractual employment — wishes to strongly and publicly state its repudiation with respect to the offences from president of República Federativa do Brasil and his subordinates, who dared trying to dirty up the image of one of the greatest and more respectful educators of our country — Paulo Freire.

Freire, beyond contributing to the critical literacy of thousands of youngsters and adults in Brazil and in the world, is one of the most quoted and studied pedagogue in major universities in the world, and also taught in some of them, helped organize the resistance of our people against the civil-military dictatorship, of which the actual president was and currently is a supporter, considering his apology to an authoritarian regime that killed and made disappear more than 4 thousand Brazilian citizens.

Instead of offending prominent and world recognized personalities in the country — a status the actual Brazilian head of state will never achieve, on the contrary, the world despises him — it would be wiser that the actual office awake from the nightmare imposed to the country and start doing something positive. Just to attain to education affairs in this analysis, MEC (Department of Education) could not implement a single project which could be effective for education all over one year! The only measures taken by the two ministers appointed by this government since the beginning — the second one ironically or by misfortune still in charge — were cuts in funds for universities, federal institutes, and academic research, also propagating of stupidity, ignorance and intolerance.

Regarding the word spoken by the president, let's review its real meaning: According to Houaiss Dictionary of Portuguese Language, “energúmeno” is one *possessed by the devil, demonic, individual who excessively makes gestures and yells, contemptible and unreliable individual, loutish, ignorant, etc. For us, it's crystal clear who is the “energúmeno” of this narrative.*

CNTE takes this opportunity to reiterate the invitation to all Brazilian Society, especially the educators, to participate of the Tribute to the Centenary of Birth of Paulo Freire, to start next year. Also, in September 2021, Pernambuco State and Brazil will welcome educators from all over the world to pay tribute to our great master of education.

*I know things can get worse,  
but I also know it's possible to try making them better.”  
... Therefore “For the downtrodden it's crucial to participate  
in the revolutionary process with an increasingly critical awareness  
of their role as subjects of changing.”  
Paulo Freire*

Brasilia, December 17, 2019  
Executive Board