

O MURO DE BRASILIA – THE WALL IN BRASILIA

Rousseff Impeachment, Rousseff Corruption, Rouseff Power Struggle – When you trust the repetitively headlines of the mass media, the brazilian president Dilma Rousseff seems to be strongly crooked and is now in a impeachment rightly.

Not only the private media, also the state-run television like ARD and ZDF in Germany and ORF in Austria, participate the reporting about the so called “government-critical” demonstrations of the rightist Brazilian opposition.

What was never seen in the European Media, was the united counterdemonstrations of Dilma-supporters like the social movements (MTST, Brigadas Populares, Frente Brasil Popular, Povo sem Medo), the Unions like CUT, small farmers (MST), Woman Organizations (Marcha das Margaridas), LGBTs, Student organizations like UNE, Organizations of colored people, and so on.

Because I lived the past 2 weeks near the Government District of Brasilia, Esplanada, I had the opportunity to get in contact with some resident People. With the result, that my perception of a one-sided, biased media coverage here in Europe was confirmed.

Specially some elder Brasilians, that have a personal retrospection of the military dictatorship from 1964 to 1985, seemed scared about the actual division of the Brazilian Society, and said, there is a real reasonable fear of a new right wing coup. The societal division was manifested with a miles long steel wall, that seperates the pro- and anti imperachment protesters.

To give the Readers a local insight to the actual situation, i asked **Grazielle David** from the brazilian NGO **Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos [INESC]** for an interview with “UNSERE ZEITUNG” – and received an prompt commitment.

Stefan: Grazielle, in your opinion, what is the reason for the ongoing Coup?

Grazielle: For this question, we have to lay the focus on two aspects.

The first one is the international view of the processes. It seems that there is a continuous attack targeting the BRICS states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. All of those Countries have a current economic crisis.

As though by chance, since the discoveries of the new oilfields called Libra, near the Coast of Rio de Janeiro, and especially since the foundation of the New Development Bank in 2014, the oil price dropped from 115 Dollar per Barrel to 29 Dollar per Barrel, what is a threat to the economies of the BRICS states and bring the national budget to big problems. In fact, not only the reduction of the oil price, but the huge reduction of all commodities prices is a huge problem for Brazil.

The radius of operation of the governments went to a very limited size, and without investments of the governments those economic systems don't grow. In fact, the brazilian economy shrinked for 3% last year.

In fact, economy crisis is real, and with the negative trade balance of Brazil the downward spiral accelerates rapidly.



With this point, we come to the national consideration of the economic background of the political crisis. Brazil lacks adequate economic diversity; we are very dependent on international economy, and at least vulnerable to international economic attacks.

In the society, we have an immense inequality, and the social programs had not enough time to influence a bigger part of the society. With the absence of an adequate mass of well educated people, the required improvement of the economy is decelerated, and the needed diversification is receded into the distance.

But since our crisis isn't just economical, but also political, right after the last presidential elections where Dilma won for 3%, the right wing candidate Aécio Neves said that he wouldn't accept the result. And that is what the right wing parties did.

They never accepted the elections results. So they started to conspire to remove the elected president, in a very organized way gathering also the biggest party of the country – PMDB that was supposed to be on the government base, since the vice president is of this party, plus the media and part of the Judiciary, with all the financial support of the elite.

Stefan: Is there even ONE proof against Dilma?

Grazielle: No, there is not. She has been investigated, or better, she has been x-rayed thoroughly, but nothing was found. A crime without proofs is not a crime of the accused, but of the accusers. The Brazilian Constitution is ruled by the presumption of innocence.

The charges are constructed; the “Pedalada Fiscal” is a baseless accusation. The fiscal responsibility law had never had the interpretation they are trying to give now.

If the interpretation of the law changes, its effects have to be forward, not backward. Besides, with this new Budget Law Interpretation, the vice-president with 16 Governors would have to be impeached too. There is a visible double standard and a selective legal interpretation. Therefore, an impeachment without real crime of responsibility is a coup.

It is a political campaign of multiple election losers, people who wasn't able to win elections in a democratic way. It is all about the seizure of power. They found a way for a takeover beyond elections.

Stefan: And what is to say about the corruption of the Coupists? We read about Panama Leaks, Swiss Bank Money, Investigations and so on?

Grazielle: It would go far beyond the scope of this interview, to tell you the criminal acts of every investigated rightwing or conservative politician in Brazil.

But just to give an idea, half of the Lower House deputies have a process against them, and also the mastermind of the complot Eduardo Cunha (president of the lower house) is under multiple, even international investigation. Paulo Maluf is on the wanted list of Interpol, and cannot leave the country. 37 of 65 Members of the Impeachment Commission at the Lower House are investigated for corruption. And these are the ones deciding about the non-corrupt Rousseff. To make things worse, some Congressman who voted about Dilma, were [taking bets](#) about her impeachment.

Right after the Lower House Plenary vote to open the impeachment process against the President, some of the deputies who voted “yes” in a very intense way were found in huge corruption scandals. For example, the deputy Raquel Muniz who vote “in honor of my husband, against corruption and for a better Brazil” had [her husband arrested](#) not event 24 hours after her vote due to accusations of corruption of money that was supposed to go to the public health.

Stefan: What is to win, what are the gaining for the People behind the Coup?

Grazielle: Many of Brazil's medium and upper class is eagerly interested in reversing the social programs, and to make it even worse, goes one step further. Some of them say on the quiet, they want their old life back. With cheap domestic help, cheap nursemaids, cheap housekeepers and so on. This lifestyle only works, when there is a big range of really really poor people, the minimum wage is abolished and welfare system is destroyed. It is about cheap servants, and less taxes.

Stefan: For me as a European, this point appears with a massive racist and social darwinist background.

Grazielle: There's more to it than that. With wage dumped, lawless agricultural workers, cheap workers and employees, the monetary upper class expect a higher profit margin and a bigger potential on the global markets. They believe in an economic recovery trough exploitation of the poor – for which they give the fancy name of “flexible work laws and right”.

Stefan: Thanks for the confirmation; this is racist and social Darwinist for me. But, how can minority bring so many protesters on the street, and get the opinion leadership?

Grazielle: This is where Brazilian media oligarchy comes in. The media “market” is controlled by a handful of families. For example, the Marinho family owns 69 Medias, with “O Globo” as the biggest and best known of them. With 27 stations, the “Central Record de Comunicação” of the evangelical bishop Edir Macedo is in the second place. The SBT-Group of the Silvio Santos family is third placed, the “Grupo Bandeirantes” of the Saad family with 47 TV Stations is the fourth.

The twisted statements of these medias are basically the same: It is not an international crisis, it is just the fault of the Brazilian government. Dilma is a bad president, the worst in history. It is her guilt that the economy is down.

And, a good one: When the Partido dos Trabalhadores (Labour Party) is dismissed, the corruption in Brazil will disappear.

Tragically, there is no powerful, serious alternative media, neither printed nor televised. The public “TV Brazil” was launched in 2007, and has permanently low audience ratings. Against some upcoming alternative internet media, the conservative and right wingers have the following answer prepared: The internet should be limited. These claims will reaper during the time of civil resistance in case of a successful coup.

Stefan: What are the most relevant and interesting resources in Brasil?

Grazielle: Brazil has beside a lot of mineral deposits, the world's biggest deliverer of iron and of niobium. The most interesting resource is without any doubt, the oil reserves.

Since the discovery of the “Libra” oil field, 100km apart from the Coast of Rio de Janeiro, the national reserves raised for another 12 Billion Barrel Oil. Jose Serra from right wing PSDB Party, Senator for Sao Paulo, is one of the strongest proponents of a [privatization](#) of the state owned Petrobras.

It is a principal claim of the so called “Elite” of Brazil, to privatize every piece of public property. They want the Bank of Brazil (Banco do Brasil S.A.) privatized, and the Central Bank should be “independent”. From what, they didn't tell.

They also want the healthcare privatized for “a greater choice and better efficiency”.

Stefan: What a coincidence, these arguments are well known, in Europe. At the end of the Interview, what is your forecast for the next months in Brasil?

Grazielle: The way things are going, Dilma will probably been suspended for 180 days with the allowance of half plus one of the Senators, what is just 41 of them. During this time the Senate will analyze and vote if she should be impeached.

When the vice president Michel Temer comes to power, he will take the chance to push through his neoliberal agenda, as he has already promised: remove labor rights, cut social safety, reduce pensions and so on.

One of the worst scenarios is that the interim government will take Money from the IMF for funding the social system so that he doesn't have a huge protest against him and an orientation of IMF itself during its 2016 Spring Meeting – it could be a very bad half year, when it comes to the worst.

Stefan: Thank you for the Interview, Grazielle.

The upcoming weeks stay suspenseful in Brazil, the society is already divided by the political campaign, the rabble-rousing mass media and the social crisis. Even when the wall of Brasilia will be removed someday, this split will continue. The final decision about the impeachment of Dilma Rousseff will take place at the 17th of May, we wait eagerly for the denouement.

Person:

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INESC – is, among others, supported by the German Heinrich Boell Stiftung, Oxfam, Unicef and the European Union

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