

Editorial

March 7th 2018

The year 2018, which is still beginning, suggests being a year of conflicts, social struggles and decisive political moments. Precisely for this reason, it is a year of urgent critical thinking, informed reflection, honest debate of ideas. In this sense we present the newest issue of **Law and Praxis (Vol. 9, n. 1, 2018 - 21st edition - jan-mar)**, with twelve more unpublished articles, reviews, translations and a very special dossier.

The invited editors, Rodolfo Jacarandá and Marcio Secco, both from the University of Rondônia, organized a selection of papers which discuss the "Amazonian Questions" under the most diverse approaches. The articles deal with issues that include agrarian conflicts, human rights, the role of the justice system in the region, as well as specific topics within the criminal justice system and socio and environmental resistance. The cover of this edition, with its strength and expressiveness, reflects the radical and critical approach adopted by the editors. The work is an image of the artist of Rondônia, Joeser Álvarez, to whom we also thank the gentle concession of the picture.

Turning to the general section of articles, we highlight critical works on the themes of law theory, materialist theory of state and of capitalism, constitutional theory and social movements. In addition, we highlight the essay by Professor Luciano Oliveira, of Federal University of Pernambuco, entitled "*De Rubens Paiva a Amarildo. E "Nego Sete"? O regime militar e as violações de direitos humanos no Brasil*", a work that is even more important in times of federal intervention with military management declared in the State of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Finally, the journal presents the review of the work, "*A sociedade excludente: Exclusão social, criminalidade e diferença na modernidade recente*", as well as a translation of the article "The Controversy About Marx and Justice" by Norman Geras, translated into Portuguese by Mozart Silvano Pereira.

We remind you that the editorial policies for the different sections of the Journal can be accessed on our page and that the submissions are permanent and always welcome! We thank, as usual, the authors, evaluators and collaborators for the trust deposited in our publication.

Good reading! **Law and Praxis** Team

Human Rights and Amazonian Questions

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At the end of January 2016, during a reintegration of rural property in the region of the city of Ariquemes, in the interior of the state of Rondônia, two young men were killed by “*jagunços*” of a farm located in an area of public lands of the Union. Until today, the body of one of them, Ruan Lucas Hildebrandt, remains missing. One of those responsible for the attack, a reserve sergeant in the military police, escaped from the police when he was already detained. Months later, the same sergeant was responsible for the massacre of 10 landless workers camped on another Union land, located in the town of Colniza, Mato Grosso, some 300 kilometers from Ariquemes.

The tragic relation between these episodes demonstrates the growth of violence in the Western Amazon in recent years. In both events are added acts of action and omission of state organs and various public agents.

In 2015 and 2016, the state of Rondônia surpassed the state of Pará as a national record in the number of deaths in land conflicts and in the number of deaths of human rights defenders. The intensification of these conflicts is followed by an increase in deforestation throughout the Brazilian Amazon, due to land grabbing and the advance of agribusiness frontiers, mainly related to soy. The impacts caused by the large economic enterprises of the PAC throughout the Madeira River basin and the governmental inaction to deal with the violence and uncertainty to which the traditional communities, indigenous, “*quilombolas*” and other citizens of this part still very unknown of Brazil constitute a scenario of enormous challenges for the national legal order.

Unfortunately, in the prison system the situation is no different. With the massacres in the prisons of Manaus/AM (64 dead) and Boa Vista/RR (33 dead), in early 2017; the long history of deaths involving the prison system of Rondônia and the fact that Rondônia and Acre continue to occupy the top of the ranks among the states with the highest incarceration rate in the country, demonstrate the composition of an environment of crisis that arises from state initiatives that need to be highlighted and questioned.

The Law and Praxis Journal opens space for critical reflection on these episodes of human rights violations and the intrinsic relation between violence and systemic failures of the Brazilian State, its legal order and its institutions. Researchers in various fields - education, anthropology, geography, sociology, law, philosophy, history, computing, administration etc. - and professionals of the justice system - judiciary, state prosecution, public prosecutor's office etc. - notably in the state of Rondônia, were invited to reflect on the most diverse aspects and thematic groups that can help to better understand the causes of the problem and try to help overcome the inertia in the search for solutions.

The history of the occupation of Western Amazonia has been told many times. A few times, however, the critical reconstruction of this history - especially contemporary history - has considered the legal organization of the Brazilian State and its effects on the life of communities and peoples who inhabited it long before the 1970s government plans for occupation or economic development plans of the 1990s.

We consider it extremely important to increase the participation of researchers directly involved in local scientific production in the national debates, in direct exchange with the great centers of knowledge production in the rest of the country as a strategy to confront critical-legal isolation, so pernicious for the future of ordinary people who see the survival of its threatened history as it has not at any other time in its history. The Law and Praxis Journal assumes this mission with extreme zeal and unprecedented prominence. Good reading to all!

Expedient of this issue

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