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## Haiti remains here too



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**By Aderson Bussinger -**

I participated last November 12, as Director of the Documentation and Research Center of OAB-RJ, of Webinar to launch the important Documentary under the title “Now I want to scream” (Right Now I Want to Scream Brazil / United Kingdom, 2020) , which is part of the It Stays With You project, which seeks to parallel two worlds: the marginalized communities of Cité Soleil, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and the slums here in Rio de Janeiro. It is a job that I recommend everyone to watch, because it gives a voice to mothers who had their children executed, murdered by the State security forces, like the movement of these mothers from Mangunhos and Maré and draws a parallel with what happened and happens in Haiti, with regard also to human rights violations in that country.

I also made a statement shown in this film, from a visit I had the opportunity to make to Haiti in 2007, at the beginning of the UN Minustah mission, representing the Federal OAB, by appointment of then President Dr. Cezar Britto, who authorized my participation in that international activity integrated by several unions and civil society entities, it is also important to note that, before this 2007 mission, there was another visit, with the same purpose, led by the Nobel Prize Esquivel and integrated by my late professor at UFF, the former judge and lawyer João Duboc Pinaud, who unfortunately passed away and we are sorely missed.

In my participation in this documentary, I highlight the similarities between Haiti and Brazil, in relation to the black population and the poverty in both territories, although they are so geographically distant, having as one of the points in common the fact that both were the object of intervention by the Brazilian Army, in Haiti through the “pacification” of the UN and in the State of Rio de Janeiro through the interventions of the federal government in this city, authorizing the Brazilian Army to undertake public security actions, especially in the favelas and peripheral communities of Rio, measures these that have occurred recently in the Dilma and Temer governments, each with its own peculiarities and differences, of course, but, in general, similar military intervention actions, of which Haiti was admittedly an international military intervention laboratory, in the form of a “humanitarian mission”.

I remember that when I was in Haiti, I even witnessed a military occupation operation in the main favela of Porto Príncipe, Cité Soleil, and I was able to observe, directly, that the way the soldiers entered the alleys, approached the poor population and imposed their rifles, was not very different from the operations carried out in Rocinha, Maré, Mangueiras, Baixada Fluminense and many others. It is a model and conception of public security that enters poor communities with a black majority, as if participating in a conventional war, having the community as enemies, despite the anti-drug or “pacification” discourse.

***This was also the case in Haiti, during the Brazilian presence, through Minustah, which, according to art. 7 of the UN Charter on Peace Matters, it is an international mission whose scope is the peaceful settlement of controversies (ch. IV), but the practice and history of such interventions reveals the blatant gap between the intentions announced in the UN documents and the result of these, involved in several and serious denunciations of executions, disappearances, rapes, home invasions, embarrassment to the populations, despite the legal provision for the use of weapons in such “peace” missions to mention only the “purpose dissuasive” and “for the protection of civilians”...***

On the other hand, with regard to economic and social results, there is no indication that Rio de Janeiro, let alone Haiti, improved after such military interventions, with 8 million inhabitants compared to Haiti. In 2007 when we were there, today it reaches the number of 12 million people, following more than 80% of the population below the poverty line, average income of 15% of the average income of all Latin America, cholera, about 95% of the devastated environment and now during the pandemic, lack of beds, respirators and the presence of very few doctors to assist millions of sick human beings. What was the occupation in Haiti for? What the occupations of the favelas of Rio

de Janeiro were for, whose operations were even suspended this year through an injunction in ADPF no. 635, of the STF,

What draws attention to the realities of Haiti and Brazil is that both Minustah and the Brazilian State, in the case of military interventions in Rio de Janeiro, have acted and are acting officially in the name of principles contained in international treaties, declaration of human rights, principles civilizational constitutional provisions, and, in relation to Brazil, specifically, art. 4, items III and IV of the Federal Constitution have as premises the concept of peoples' self-determination and non-intervention, which, however, we see such devices being distorted through such UN international undertakings, under the guise of "peacekeeping missions. ", Except, of course, exceptions that exist, as well as here I want to acknowledge the good intention and work of technicians, professionals from different areas of health,

It is not a question, therefore, of denying the progressive role that the UN has in various activities, but of specifically questioning this type of mission called "pacification" that bases occupations as in Haiti, where I am witnessed predominantly a military and repressive presence, instead of the propagated humanitarian action, it is enough, for that, that it is verified the existing proportion between the expenses with arms and soldiers in these missions in relation to the resources and equipment destined to health, education and housing. The answer lies in the degrading social reality of the favelas of Rio and Haiti, with regard to the minimum conditions of human existence.

Moving to the end of this text, I want to pay my respects to the Irish directors of this important documentary, Cahal McLaughlin and slobhán Wills and the entire team involved in its realization in Brazil and Haiti, extending this praise to the tireless work of Brazilian journalist Juliana Resende, through who I had contact with this project. I believe that this documentary, in addition to its technical and artistic qualities, has an essential role in denouncing the Brazilian and Haitian reality, as well as bringing up again the need to question Minustah's action in Haiti, its consequences, conception of action military and mainly responsibilities in the face of allegations of human rights violations, which is intrinsically related to the Brazilian State, as this Mission was, as we know, led by Brazilian generals, some of these supporters or ministers of the current federal government in Brazil. Congratulations to everyone who participated in this documentary, especially the mothers of sons and daughters killed by state violence in Brazil and Haiti.

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