

OPEN LETTER

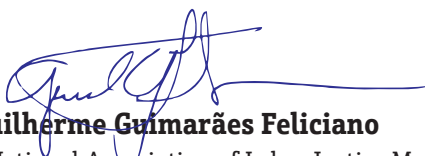
The purpose of this letter is to make public the chilling effects currently faced by fundamental social rights in Brazil, effects that begun in 2015 and deepened in the following years, notably with the approval of the “Labor Reform” by the National Congress in 2017 and with the extinction by the Federal Government in 2019 of the Ministry of Labor, which ceased to be an autonomous and specialized body. Said extinction is the primary focus of this declaration.

1. Even though the Brazilian Constitution democratically enacted in 1988 establishes the dignity of the human person, citizenship and the social values of work and free enterprise as the basic underlying elements of our legal order, this was not enough to prevent setbacks or to overcome challenges to the preservation, improvement and strengthening of the labor inspection system, as provided for in ILO Convention No. 81.
2. The Ministry of Labor has always played a fundamental role in the development of public policies aimed at strengthening and modernizing labor relations and for the promotion of job and income creation. It is paramount that an autonomous, specialized, strengthened and active labor regulation body exists, not only for the purpose of overseeing work activities in general, but also to develop and revise occupational health and safety standards, carry out studies of new productive arrangements and their impact on the labor market, and formulated public policies aimed at protecting employment, thus ensuring Brazil's compliance with the Federal Constitution and international labor standards.
3. The labor inspection system in Brazil currently has 1,317 vacant positions out of 3,644 existing ones. Understaffing in this area severely compromises the proper performance of the Ministry's core duties of fighting slave labor and child labor and preventing occupational accidents and illness. A weaker inspection service renders preventive work insufficient, which ends up increasing levels of non-compliance with labor laws and the number of actions filed in our Labor Courts.
4. The current scenario signals risks of increasing precariousness and weakening protections for work as an expression of citizenship, with budget cuts that have reached 90% of non-discretionary spending in the recent past and as much as 70% in the Ministry of Labor. As the attributions of the Ministry of Labor were fragmented, indications emerged of shortages in oversight and compromised processes for issuing and revising Regulatory Standards, thus relegating to discredit the body of technical wisdom that has served to regulate the balance of relations between capital and labor. This could have far-reaching

negative repercussions for legal certainty, in the field of research and also for the public welfare system itself, given the high level of work informality in Brazil and the probable increase of occupational accident and illness rates in the country.

5. Understaffing, budget cuts and the disintegration of the Ministry of Labor are clear signs of alert also for the international community, pointing to an institutional retreat in the defense and protection of the fundamental social rights of those who need work to live and inexorable harm to social security and sustainable economic development.

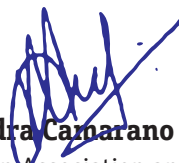
We, the below, have undersigned this document to signal our full agreement with all of the above.




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