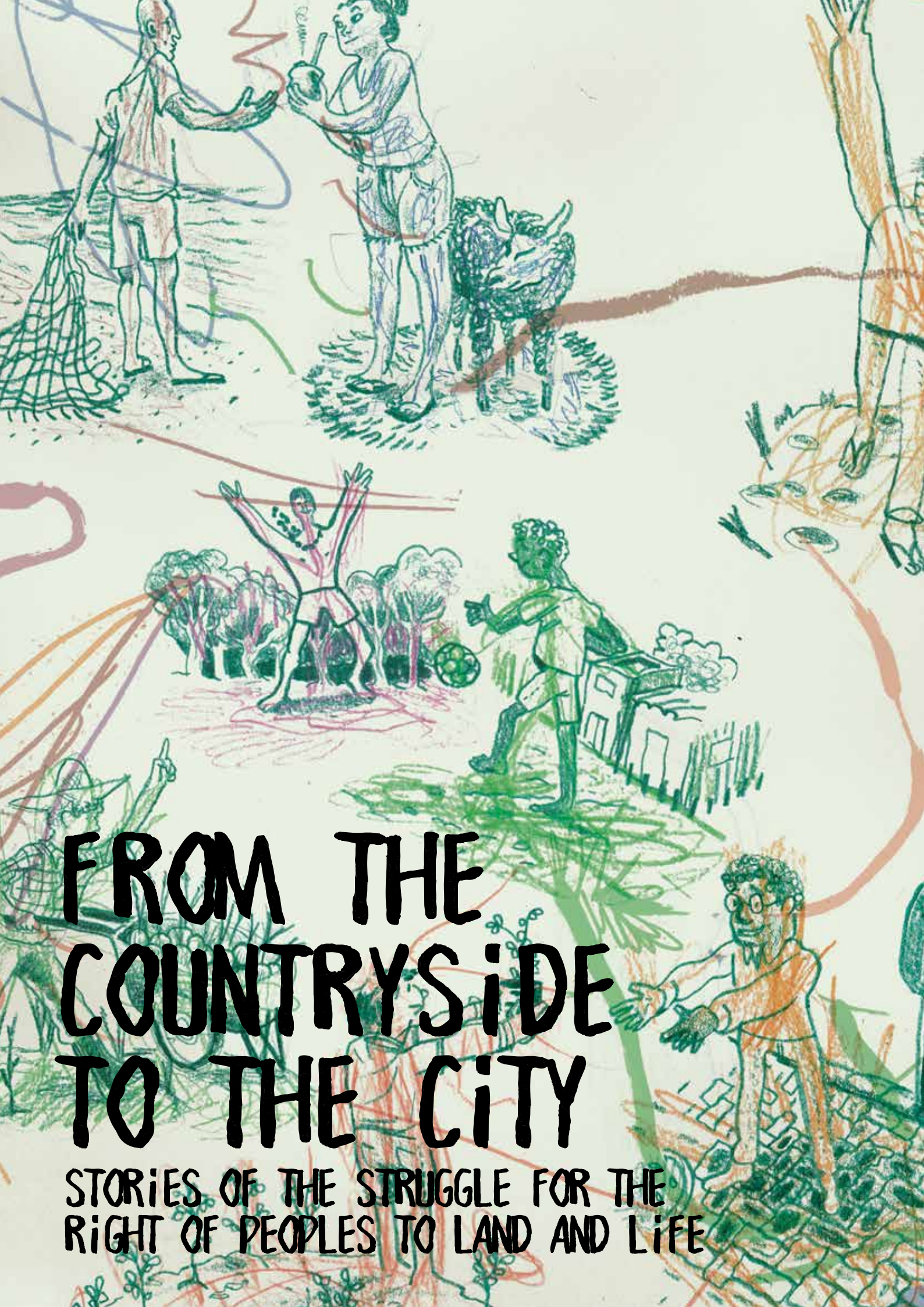




FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE TO THE CITY

STORIES OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO LAND AND LIFE

BY

Friends of the Earth Brazil

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PROJECT

Popular Care and Defense of Territories in rural
and urban areas (2018-2020)

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STORIES OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO LAND AND LIFE





By the time an event becomes history, it has already happened – and what is at issue here should never have taken place: evictions, police violence, destruction of biodiversity, violation of territories – from the body to the earth.

So through this publication filled with drawings and words that chronicle stories of resistance and popular organization throughout Brazil, our first objective is to show that certain events never should have ever happened. By sharing experiences, we want to strengthen communities and Peoples that fight for their collective rights. Furthermore and in addition to denouncing the violations of rights, we want to inspire those who believe in and defend a more just world, free from all forms of oppression. We can no longer witness so much violence, clearly Vila Nazare was not the first community in the Global South to be uprooted by a transnational corporation but let it be the last.

Yet only denouncing what has occurred is not enough, there is much still under dispute and lots still to happen. This is why we also talk about mega-mining projects encroaching upon Rio Grande do Sul (RS) in Brazil. Following Vale's crimes of destruction in Brumadinho and Mariana in the state of Minas Gerais – among other territories – together with BHP Billiton, the mining companies have turned their tractors, dynamite and trucks upon RS and the Pampa biome, rich in both social and agricultural biodiversity, unique in the world. Now, numerous mining extraction plans threaten and place in jeopardy the land, water and entire diversity of the region's Peoples.

The encroachment is hardly subtle: more than 22 thousand areas in RS are exploration targets for mining companies and have already received permission from the National Mining Agency (ANM). Of these projects, five thousand have



already completed the “Requirements for Exploration Authorization”, requests where interested companies are able to define possible deposits and evaluate economic viability in relation to their businesses. Four mega-undertakings are already in the licensing process with the respective environmental agencies, two of them in the Gaucho Pampa heart (in Cacapava do Sul and Lavras do Sul, where the Aguia company intends to construct a tailings dam twice the size of Brumadinho’s, placing at constant risk the region’s communities, especially Dom Pedrito and Rosario do Sul, towns near the proposed dam and in the flow of the tailings were rupture to take place – more on this to follow).

Another mega-infrastructure project is located in Sao José do Norte, between Lagoa dos Patos (Duck Lagoon – the largest lagoon in Latin America) and the Atlantic Ocean, which will impact artisanal fishing and the production of agroecological onions, traditional to the region. Last but not least is the Guaiba mine, a Copelmi project with Chinese and US investment that intends to construct the largest open pit coal mine in Brazil (and probably in all of Latin America), only 16 kilometers from the center

of Porto Alegre City and on top of the Guaiba City subdivision and the Agrarian Reform Resettlement Apolonio de Carvalho, one of the largest producers of organic rice in Latin America. Which do we prefer, coal or healthy and organic food? Pollution or life? The answer is clear to us, and how about you?

We choose life and not death: it is important to highlight that none of these initiatives have been installed yet – however the impacts, including threats, stress and violence, are already being felt in the territories. There is so much to fight for and being more organized improves the chances of success. Here we highlight the creation of the RS Combat Mega-mining Committee, a coalition of more than 100 entities representing diverse sectors – unions, environmentalists, urban and rural social movements, neighborhood associations – that share the struggle against this encroachment of mining greed. The key lesson in this case is to fight against it now to not have to resist later.

A People united will not be defeated: as interested companies and governments are aware of this, they always want to divide the affected peoples– they know that unity brings

strength. They want to divide and conquer. Furthermore, autonomous territories with guaranteed rights represent freedom and the ability to propose real alternatives instead of the destruction caused by capitalist production. Another example of this is the local solidarity networks created in response to the Co-Vid19 pandemic, which has hit harder the peripheries of the cities, the black, quilombolas and indigenous populations. During this period, we, as Friends of the Earth Brazil, have built together with rural and urban social movements, including the Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST), Popular Sovereignty Against Mining Movement (MAM), the Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB), the Houseless Workers Movement (MTST), the World March of Women (MMM), and the Small Farmers' Movement (MPA),

connections between the communities worst affected by the pandemic such as the quilombos (historical Afro-descent communities that were once refuges during slavery), occupations that fight for their right to housing, populations affected by capital large infra-structure projects and First Nations. Autonomous territories + strong social movements + interconnection among communities + the accumulation of previous political experiences, such as the Programme for the Acquisition of Food (PAA) and the National Programme for School Meals (PNAE), + solidarity: the sum of these factors results in organic food being provided to the tables of those who fight for a better life, namely working families that live in the cities' peripheries and the territories of quilombolas and First Nations.





Solidarity that transcends borders is internationalist, as is the case in the response to the forest fires in the Amazon and other Brazilian biomes, which drew the attention of the international community. Indeed, the fires result from agribusiness' encroachment, where land-grabbing, deforestation and razing of the forest are carried out to make available more area for plantations, principally soybean, and for extensive grazing. In this productive chain, Brazil and other Global South countries are not alone: deforestation soybeans and meat are the products of large international corporations, such as Bunge, Cargill and JBS. And diverse European countries, together with the US and China, buy these Brazilian commodities, guaranteeing profits to those who destroy nature and

assassinate defenders of territories and the Peoples' rights. Distinct from charity, where you free yourself from your own guilt, internationalist solidarity aims to hold major criminals accountable, namely the transnational corporations that promote the violations of rights and that are behind this chain of violence, death and the destruction of nature.

In this report, we focus on a few stories only—there is not enough room to talk about all the violations of rights that occur, especially in the Global South; much blood has flowed and continues to flow and all of these examples of resistance must be recounted so that they are heard to never be repeated again. We remember Berta Caceres – presente! – coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH in Spanish),

brutally assassinated in 2016 due to her defending small farm holders, women and Indigenous Peoples' rights while resisting mega-projects that threatened her People; we remember Chico Mendes – presente! – an important reference in the popular environmental struggle in Brazil, a trade unionist who was also cowardly assassinated in Acre while defending the rights of the Forest Peoples; we remember city council woman Marielle Franco – presente! – whose assassination in Rio de Janeiro approaches three years without those responsible being arrested – who ordered her murder?!; and we remember so many others – Scheila Motta, Vila Dique leader, affected by the Fraport infrastructure; Ze, Jose Araujo, our beloved councilor in Friends of the Earth Brazil and defender of the rights of the Vila Tronco families and the countless victims of police brutality in Brazil and all of the people who have lost their lives because they were in the way of the big transnational corporations' profit-making...presentes!

Our understanding goes beyond that of human rights, we deal with the community's collective rights, in other words a People's rights to their territory, their place, to their own culture, self-determination and history that here and now we recount. The attempts to individualize a struggle in the defense of a territory is always problematic. Not only because of the persecution by the State or the company involved that an individual leader can suffer but also due to the threats against the life of one person who represents the struggle of many. When there is full involvement with a strengthened sense of community, the chances of

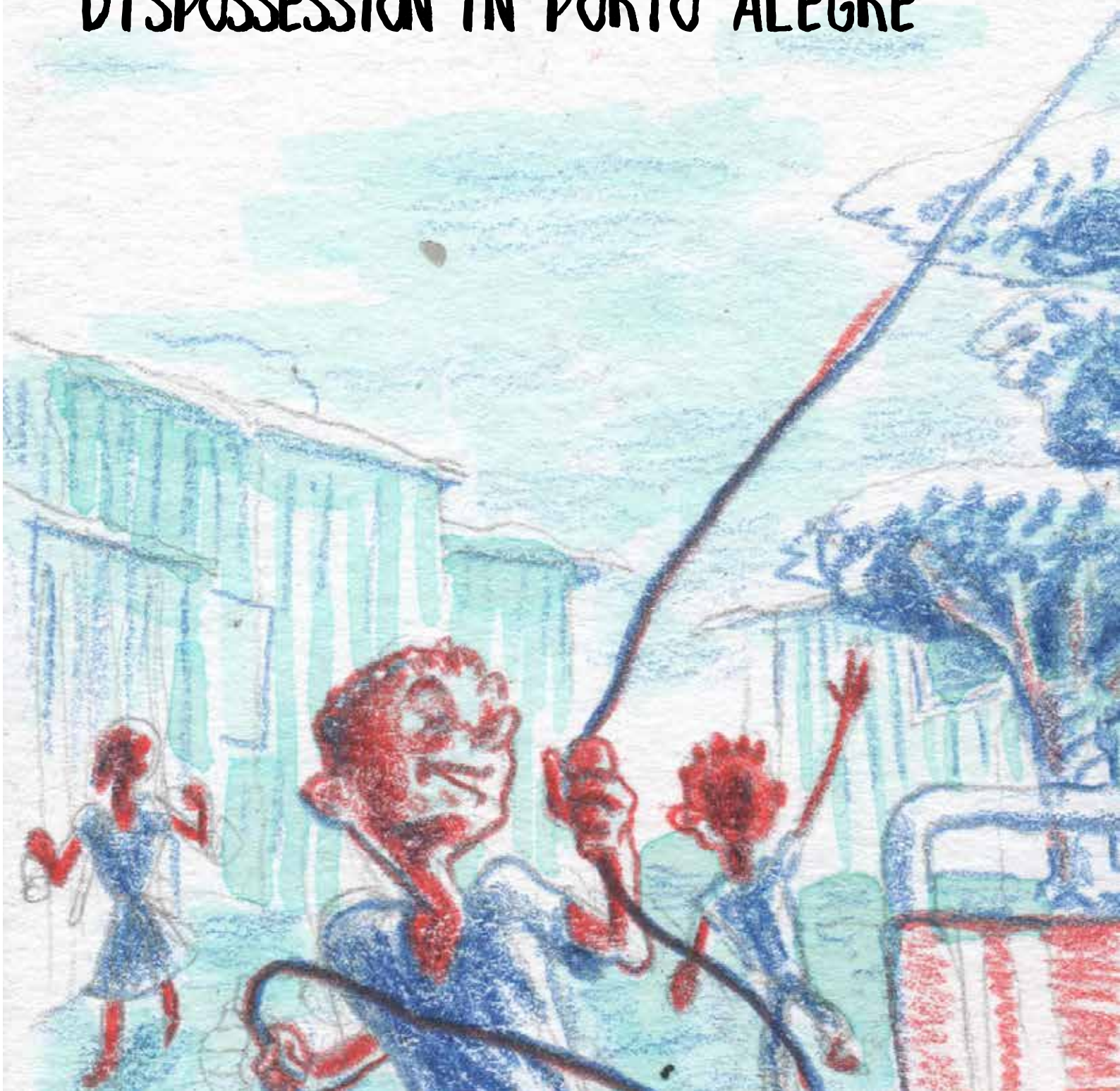
success are higher. When movements and peoples' power are built is what we will also consider in this publication.

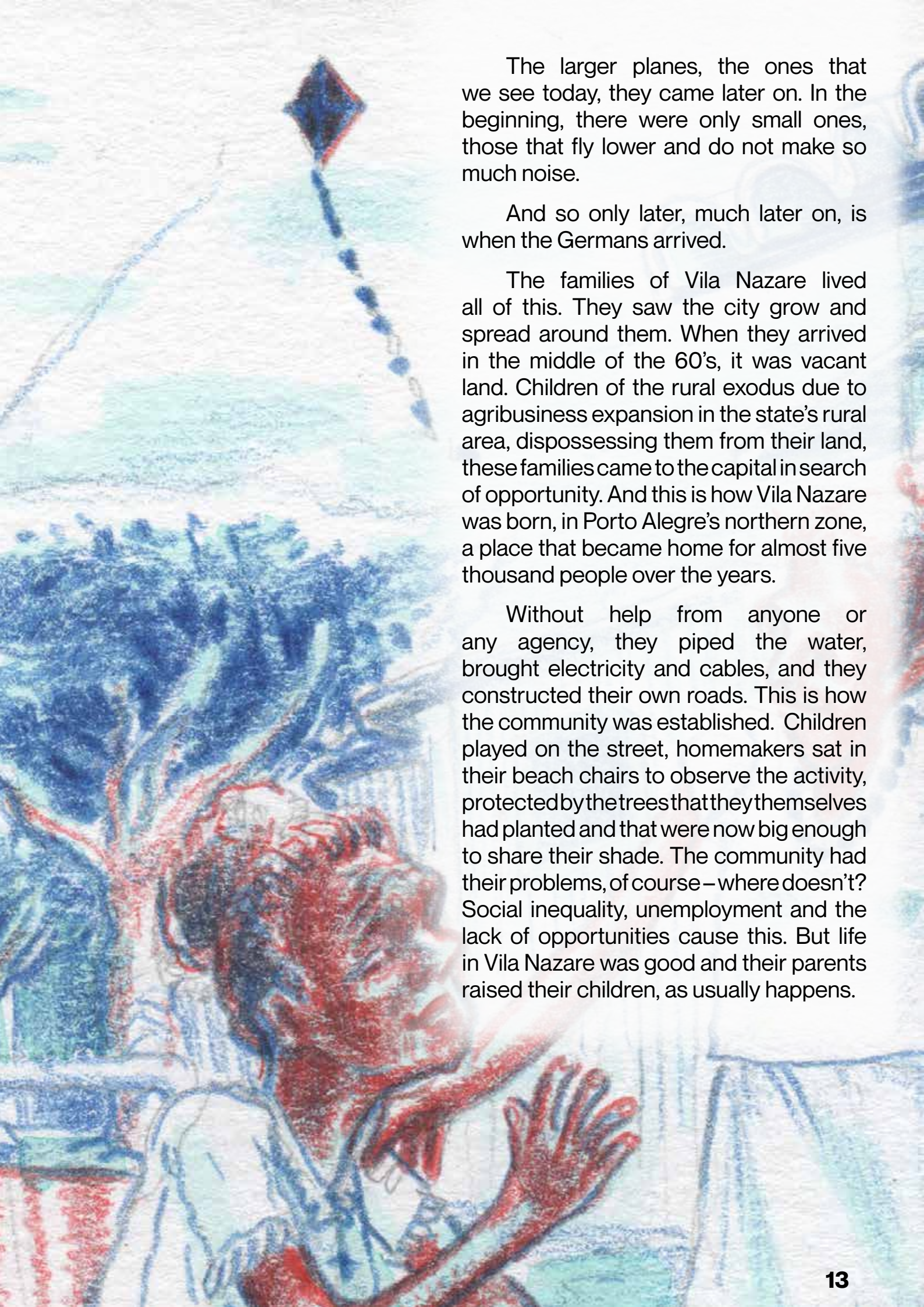
We are grateful to the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation which has for the past three year worked with us, Friends of the Earth Brazil, in the construction and strengthening of forms and possibilities of resistance. Specifically, we want to acknowledge the social movements and territory defenders who are on the frontlines, on the ground where the disputes are taking place and who place their bodies in the fight (although they are actually placed – regardless of their intention). It is not a coincidence that they are principally black, quilombolas, indigenous, female, peasant and smallholder farmers' bodies, but an historical legacy from our colonial, slaveholder and misogynist past – and because we have never confronted this past, it insists upon haunting us. Let it not accompany us into the future and let us make room for justice - environmental and gender -, solidarity, democratic participation and the Peoples' sovereignty over their territories.



FRAPORT'S FALSE PROMISES AND VILA NAZARE'S

DISPOSSESSION IN PORTO ALEGRE





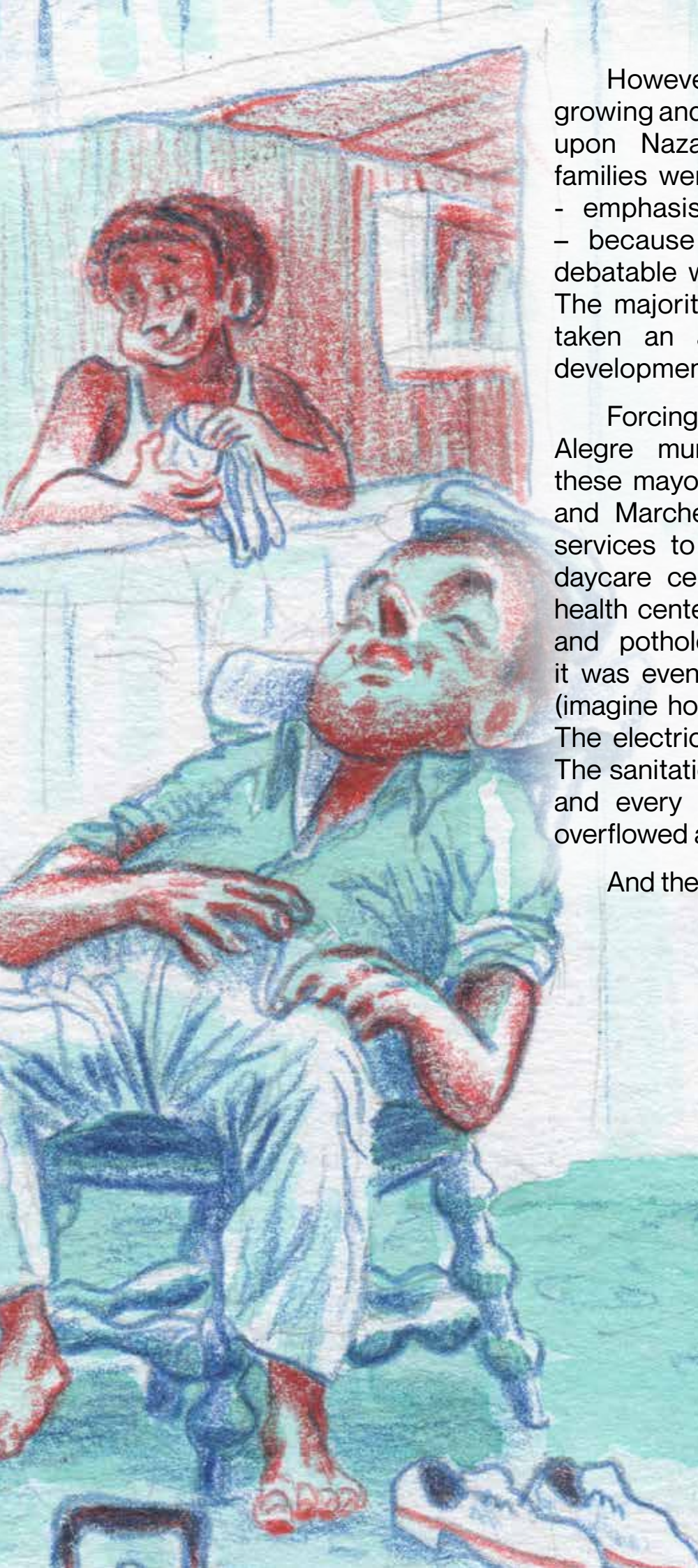
The larger planes, the ones that we see today, they came later on. In the beginning, there were only small ones, those that fly lower and do not make so much noise.

And so only later, much later on, is when the Germans arrived.

The families of Vila Nazare lived all of this. They saw the city grow and spread around them. When they arrived in the middle of the 60's, it was vacant land. Children of the rural exodus due to agribusiness expansion in the state's rural area, dispossessing them from their land, these families came to the capital in search of opportunity. And this is how Vila Nazare was born, in Porto Alegre's northern zone, a place that became home for almost five thousand people over the years.

Without help from anyone or any agency, they piped the water, brought electricity and cables, and they constructed their own roads. This is how the community was established. Children played on the street, homemakers sat in their beach chairs to observe the activity, protected by the trees that they themselves had planted and that were now big enough to share their shade. The community had their problems, of course – where doesn't? Social inequality, unemployment and the lack of opportunities cause this. But life in Vila Nazare was good and their parents raised their children, as usually happens.





However the airport next door kept growing and at a certain point it knocked upon Nazare's door. Suddenly, the families were in the way of "progress" - emphasis on the quotation marks - because progress is relative and debatable when it only benefits a few. The majority of Vila Nazare has never taken an airplane. The promise of development does not include them.

Forcing people to leave, the Porto Alegre municipality (including all of these mayors: Fogaca, Fortuntati, Melo and Marchezan Jr) stopped providing services to Nazare. They closed the daycare center. Next they closed the health center. Roads were not repaired, and potholes began to grow where it was even difficult for cars to get by (imagine how people experienced this). The electricity was no longer repaired. The sanitation system stopped working, and every time it rained the sewage overflowed and flooded the houses.

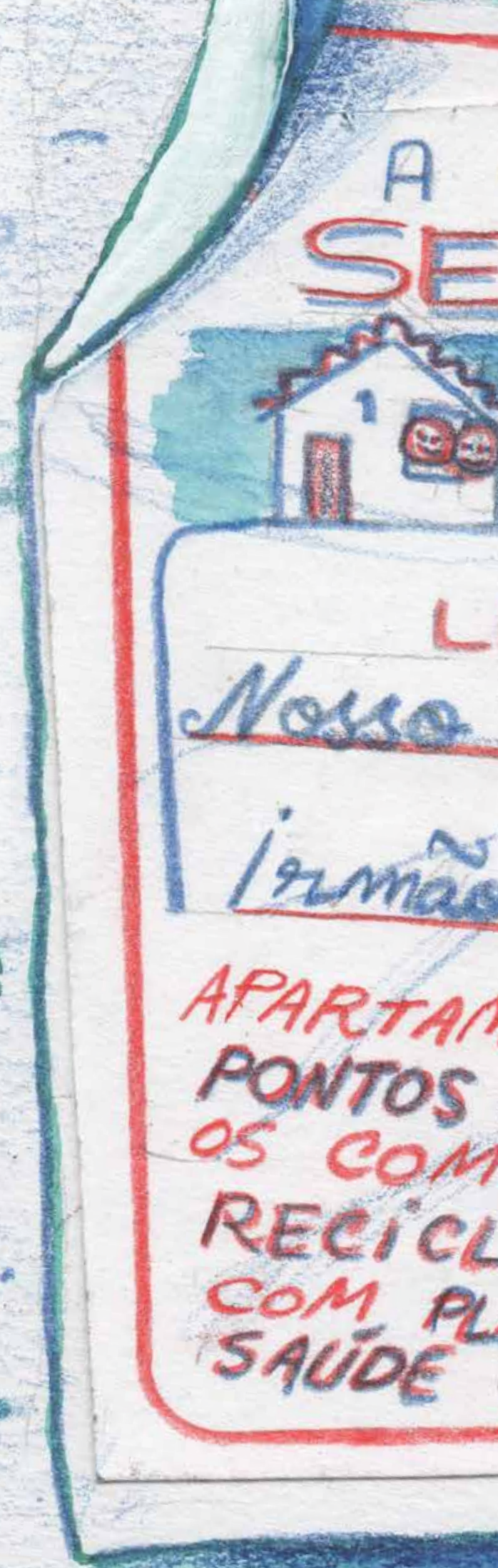
And then the Germans arrived.

THEY ARRIVED FULL OF PROMISES

So that the airport could be expanded, the families of Nazare would have to be removed to two new housing projects – Nosso Senhor do Bom Fim and the Irmãos Maristas/Timbaúva.

There was going to be a recycle shed for those who recycled, business space for merchants, daycare for children, a health center, security, a park and brand-new apartments.

And, somewhat begrudgingly – Timbaúva is far away – but still believing in the promises by the current mayor, Nelson Marchezan, and Fraport (the German company that is the concessionaire of the privatized airport), the families, who had created roots for more than 60 years, were uprooted and taken there.



CASA DOS
EUS SONHOS!



OTEAMENTOS

Senhor do Bom Fim

Marista / TIMBAÍNA

MENTOS DE QUALIDADE! *
COMERCIAIS PARA TODOS
ERCIANTES! GALPÕES PARA
AGEM! CRECHES! PRAÇA
AYGROUND! POSTOS DE
E SEGURANÇA!

PROBLEMS, LOTS OF PROBLEMS, THIS IS WHAT THE FAMILIES ENCOUNTERED AT THEIR NEW ADDRESS

In Nosso Senhor do Bom Fim, the door frame almost hit the head of one of the inhabitants. It simply fell as she was entering her apartment. The promised park is nothing more than a large abandoned lot. Not only are there not enough business spaces but those that do exist are too small, much smaller than the ones that were expropriated in Nazare without indemnification. There are no recycling sheds, as had been promised: many families cleaned the streets, surviving by collecting recycle materials. Without the space to store the materials, it is impossible to make a living. There is no daycare nor health center capable of attending from one day to the next the hundreds of families that had recently arrived. The “development” that Fraport brought is only unemployment, dispossession and violence.

While in Timbaúva, one of the buildings actually had to be evacuated due to structural problems. It almost collapsed with the families inside. As is true for Nosso Senhor do Bom Fim, there are no recycle sheds and too few business spaces: people have lost their source of income. But the bills

continue to arrive, electricity, water, condominium and insurance rates are high. Regardless of all this, Fraport and the municipality continue to celebrate. After all, their principal objective is near completion: dispossess all of the families of Nazare and guarantee the German corporation's profits.

Except that Nazare is still standing, and the people continue to resist and fight for their rights, even those who were already removed – the promises made by the public and private powers were never fulfilled. In fact, the responsibility for the removal of the families is Fraport's, the airport concession contract is quite clear on this point. However, the housing projects were built with public funds from the housing program My House, My Life; the removals were conducted by the Municipal Department of Housing, another public agency. Fraport has failed to comply with its responsibilities and is the defendant to a suit brought by the Federal and State District Attorney Offices, in addition to the Federal and State Public Defenders Offices. The case is still pending with no clear date for a final judgment.





HORRIBLE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT, WORSE FOR THOSE WHO STAYED: VILA NAZARE HAS BECOME A BATTLEGROUND

Those who stayed behind because they had no chance to earn a livelihood at the new addresses suffer attacks and have been abandoned by public power. There is an attempt to criminalize them because they fight for their rights. The media, especially the RBS Group, has printed numerous articles that minimized Vila Nazare and the five thousand people that live there to drug dealers – as though the issue of drugs is restricted to poor communities and does not circulate in the neighborhoods

of the wealthy and the parties of society's elite. The leaders of the neighborhood residents' association have been persecuted and included in police investigations to which they had absolutely no relation. As a result they have lost their employment and opportunities, stigmatized because of the fight for their basic rights, such as housing, and worse yet there are accounts of threats, beatings (including of minors), torture....

Following the removals and the tractors' (and not any old tractor but a Poclain backhoe loader weighing 20 tons) destruction of the homes built over the years by the families, leaking water pipes and partial walls and roofs have been left behind. As a result and in the midst of the Co-Vid19 pandemic, the community's water supply has been interrupted, blocking basic sanitary measures, such as washing your hands often. At times, in complete violation of the law, houses are demolished with

children playing near by. A complete lack of safety, children play in the rubble of the demolished houses, what was once their home.

Of all the problems, the fundamental one is that the families stated that they did not want to leave the region where Nazare is located. Neither the municipality or, even less, Fraport, more worried about its profits, listened to them. There are public and private lands near by that could have been expropriated for a popular housing project. However



the available land is already earmarked for certain companies and dedicated to social cleansing programs – send the excluded far away, this is the new order.

The Povo Sem Medo-Porto Alegre Okupation, organized by MTST, has taken control of one of these vacant lots to show that there does exist

a place for these families that have been dispossessed, whether they be from Nazare or other neighboring communities that have also faced eviction proceedings, such as Vila Dique and the Progresso Okupation.

STOP THIS FROM TAKING PLACE AGAIN

This is why we tell this history: so that never again an excluded community will be dispossessed from the territory where they live, where they have laid their roots, without even being listened to. So that a removal protocol is created which takes into account those who are to be dispossessed, those people for whom “progress” only offers setbacks and poverty.

The day that families came together to participate in the public audience with government and Fraport representatives, which had been convoked by the RS State Legislature and by the then State Deputy, Pedro Ruas (Socialism and Liberalism Party), the People’s voices were heard loud and in unison: Timbaúva NO! They demanded their rights.

The two Fraport representatives that were there that day, feeling the community’s demand, surreptitiously left early that day. They did not even take their seat at the table nor respond to not even one of the many questions posed that day by those who would be affected by their mega-project.

Because when the People is organized and makes demands, they feel fear.



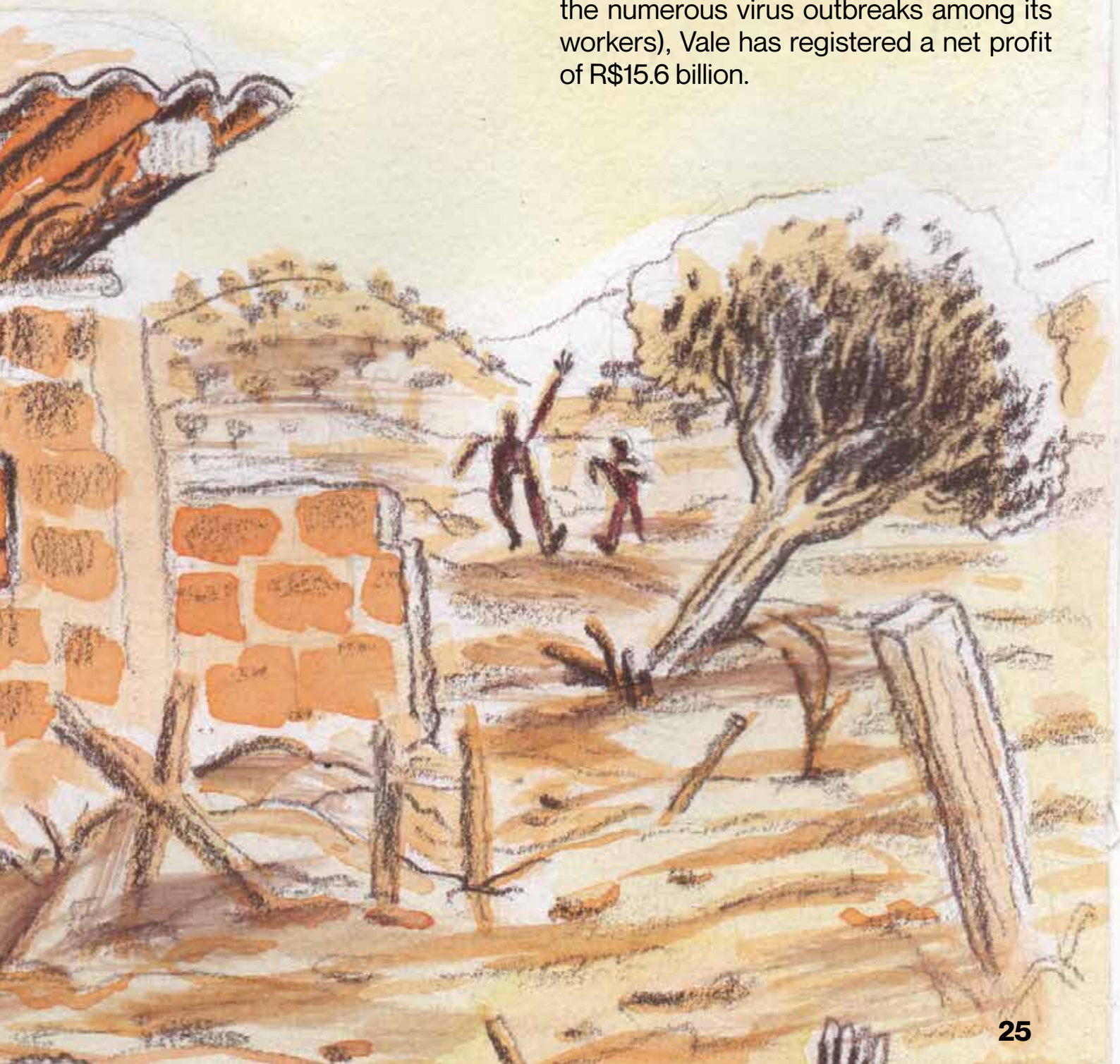


FIGHTING — NOT RESISTANCE,
BEFORE — NOT AFTER :
THE EXPERIENCE OF THE RIO GRANDO DO SUL
COMBAT MEGA — MINING COMMITTEE



MINING HAS ALREADY KILLED A LARGE PART OF BRAZIL

And it wasn't by mistake: Vale and BHP Billiton, the companies responsible, knew the dams in Mariana and Brumadinho had problems. They knew they were going to burst. Crimes without real reparations, today Vale and BHP continue not paying for their actions- on the contrary: in the second semester alone of 2020 (that is, in the middle of the CoVid-19 pandemic and the numerous virus outbreaks among its workers), Vale has registered a net profit of R\$15.6 billion.



EITHER LIFE OR DEATH: WHAT TO CHOOSE? NOT A HARD QUESTION

After destroying the state of Minas Gerais and other territories in Brazil, mega-mining turns towards Rio Grande do Sul. There are 22 thousand areas being investigated throughout the state. Four mega enterprises are in the environmental licensing phase, even though they represent uncountable damage to people's health and that of the environment.

In São José do Norte, where today there is clean and good water for artisanal fishing, between Lagoa dos Patos and the Atlantic Ocean, the company Rio Grande Mineração Ltd. wants to install Retiro Project to mine titanium. The region is known for production of agroecological onions. In a legislative victory for the farmers and the fisherfolk in the region, the Masterplan was altered in 2019 and bans mining in the municipality.

In Caçapava do Sul, Nexa (Votorantim Group), intends to extract heavy metals like lead, zinc and copper on the banks of the Camaquã River. In the heart of the Pampa, it would bring irreversible damages to this biome – the only one in the world and rich in biodiversity. The estimate is that if the Nexa mine is installed, it will consume 150 cubic meters of Camaquã water for

every hour of operation. In other words, 150 thousand liters of water will be wasted every hour.

In Lavras do Sul, the Three Roads project, by the Aguiá company, intends to mine phosphate, in an area also near Dom Pedrito. The region of “Three Roads” is one of the best preserved in the Pampa biome. Family cattle-ranching is one of the principal income sources for smallholder farms that have occupied that area for hundreds of years. Through controversial projects – the company has sent different versions to be considered for licensing –, Aguiá plans to install a tailings dam two times bigger than the one in Brumadinho. If it bursts, the tailings could reach as far as Uruguay, creating an international imbroglio, affecting Rosario do Sul and its famous Areias Brancas beach. Yet, the studies by the companies have not even foreseen the impacts of a possible leak in the dam.



And between Eldorado do Sul and Charqueadas, only 16kms from the center of Porto Alegre, we find the Copelmi Guaiba mine: the aim is to install the biggest open pit coal mine in Latin America, a few meters from the Delta do Jacui Environment Protection Area (APA). Such that the project places at risk the water safety of the entire metropolitan area of Porto Alegre (4.3 million people, according to estimates by the Brazilian Statistics Agency, IBGE, in 2018). And even worse than the

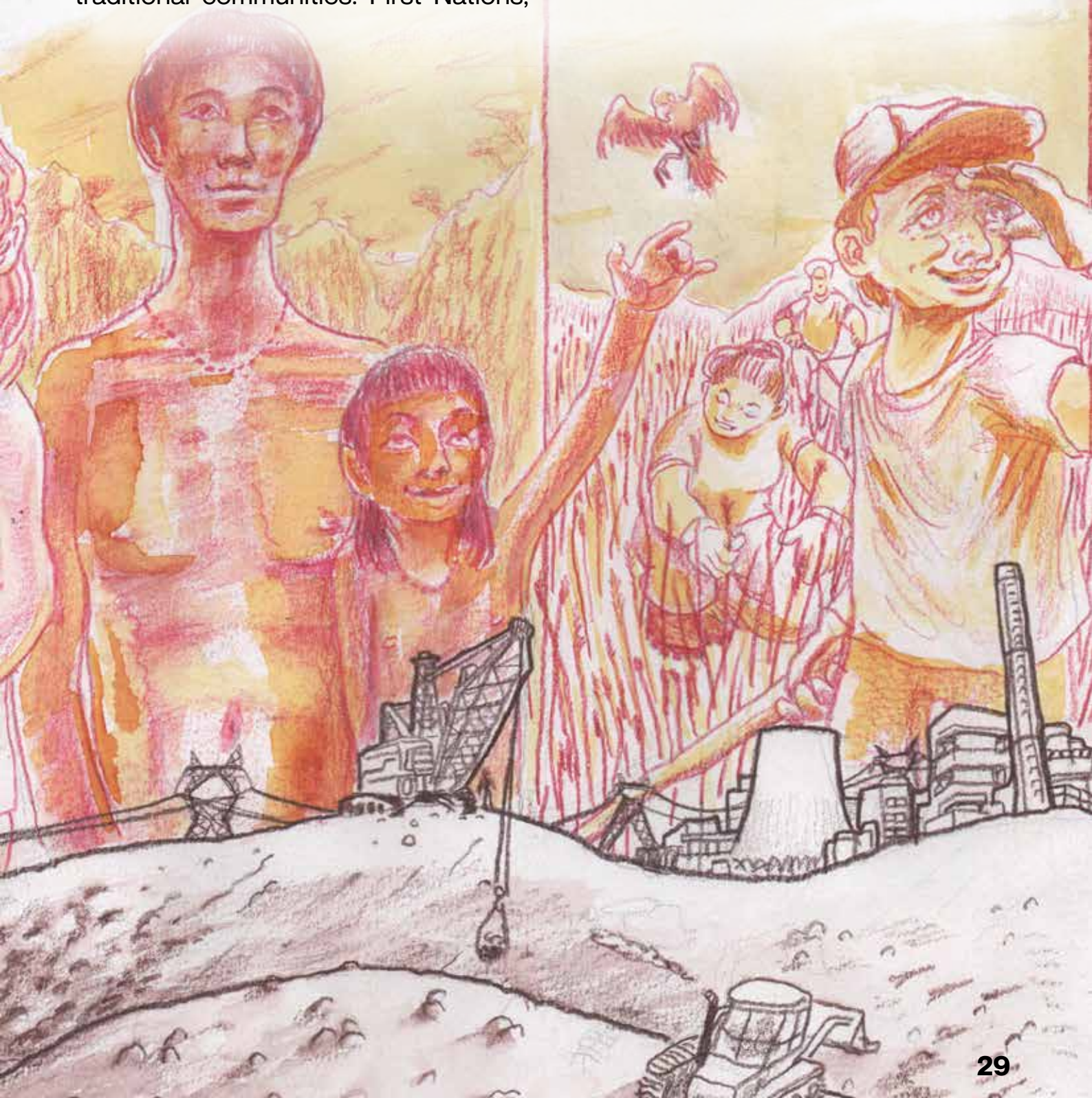
impacts already denounced regarding coal mining, the enterprise, if it goes forward, intends to be installed on the Agrarian Reform Resettlement Apolonio de Carvalho, producer of organic rice and the Guiaba City subdivision. One of the more macabre aspects to the project is that the families that live in these two places (around 150) would not be relocated until once the mining had already started, which elevates the risks to the families' mental and physical health. Just a few kilometers from the



mine installation area, there are also indigenous communities that were not even consulted regarding the project – an issue that is protected under the International Labor Organization's 169 Convention, which requires prior, informed and free consultation by the traditional communities impacted by this type of project.

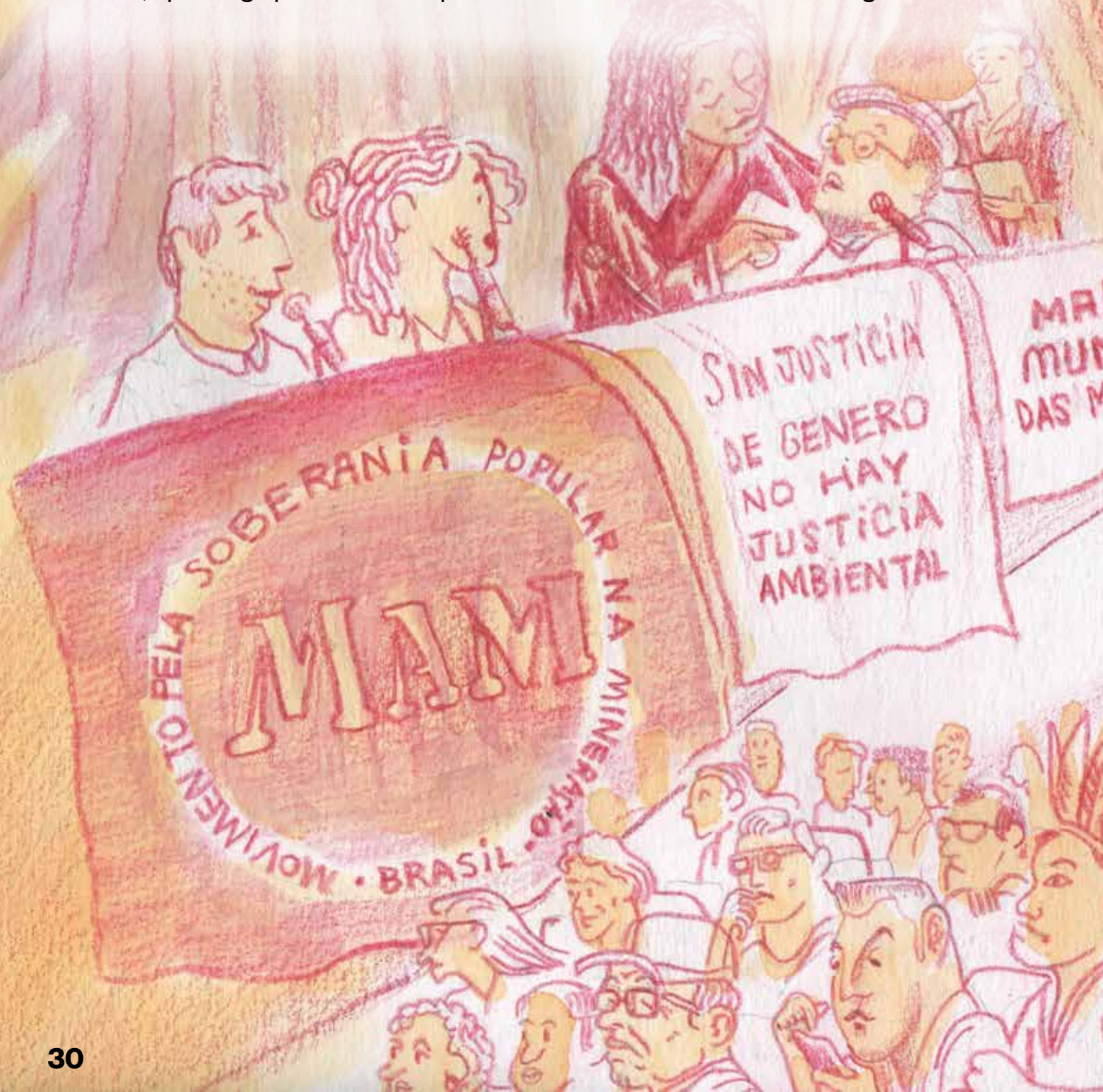
What the projects have in common is the fact that they directly affect traditional communities: First Nations,

quilombolas, small ranchers, family farmers, Terreiro People (Candomble followers), Pomeranians (Slavic-descent traditional community), Travellers, Healers and artisanal fisherfolk – bodies on the frontline of resistance against destruction of the commons and of life, which must be recognized and strengthened in their struggles and livelihoods.



To strengthen the communities' fight and to ensure territories free of mining, more than 100 organizations and social movements – from the most varied areas (unions, environmentalists, struggle for land and for housing, neighborhood associations) – have united to form the Rio Grande do Sul Combat Mega-mining Committee. If this state is the new mining area of Brazil, it is also the new area of resistance. The people organized through the Committee have had important victories, placing pressure in public

hearings and conducting studies that show the risks of mining in territories and communities. The first of these studies was already published, regarding the impacts of the Guaíba mine, and can be found on the Committee's site (www.rsemrisco.org.br). Others are being conducted regarding the remaining projects. Through this pressure, the companies must delay their schedules, redo studies that were precarious and that externalized the costs of damages to those who are to be exposed and not to those who are benefiting.





AMIGOS
DA TERRA
BRASIL

MARCHA
ANTI RACISMO
MULHERES

NÃO À



The act of mining brings irreparable damages to the environment and to people's health. It means contaminating the water and land, polluting the air, dust, eviction, unemployment of the farm families that put food on the table for more than half of the people in urban centers (If the countryside does not plant

the city does not eat). And all of this in the name of profit of just a few companies, all supported by international investors. What remains for the communities is a trail of mud and death.

Mining? Not here nor anywhere!

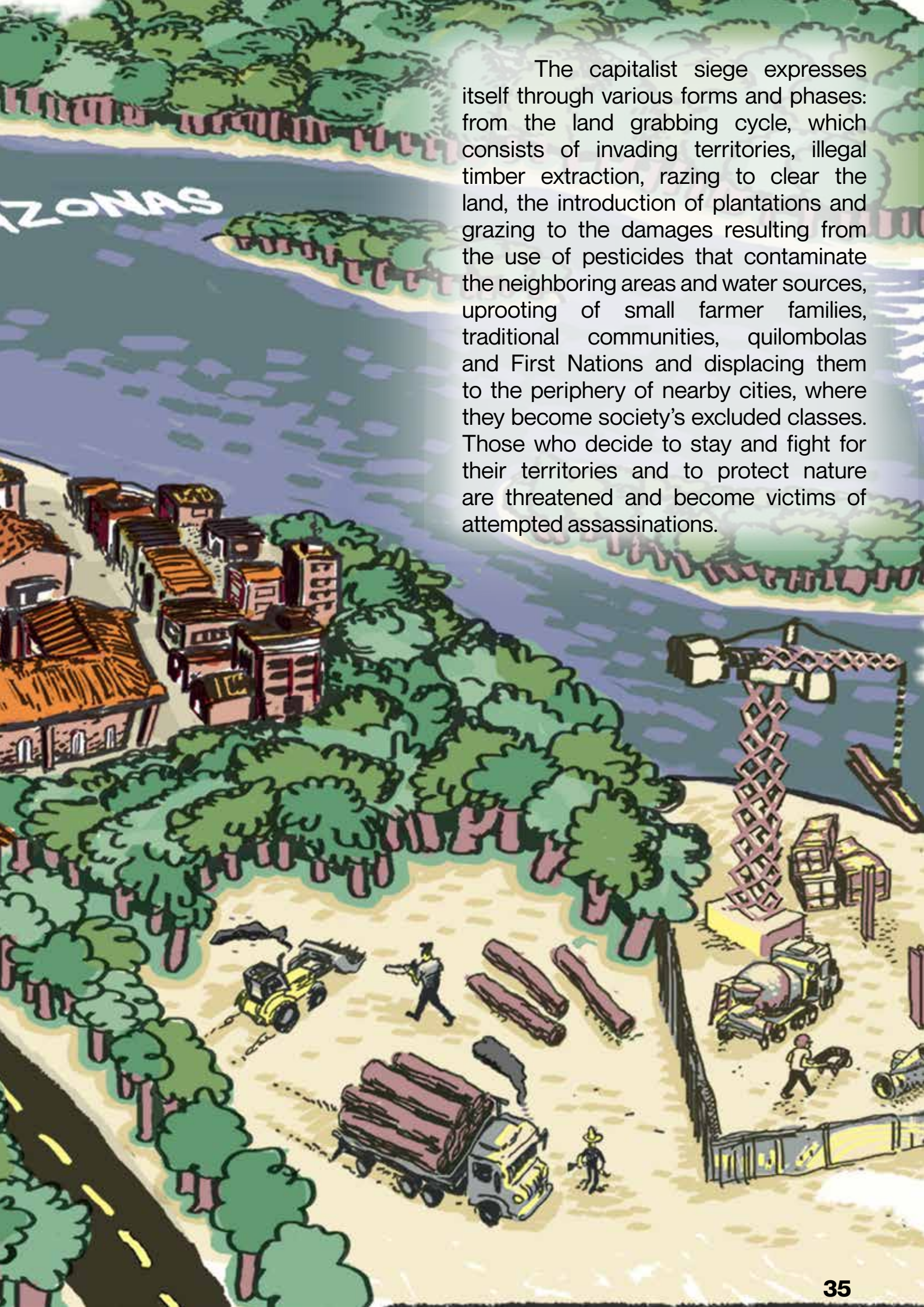
MEGAMINERAÇÃO!



THE AMAZON FOREST

INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY
VS THE TRANSNATIONAL SIEGE





The capitalist siege expresses itself through various forms and phases: from the land grabbing cycle, which consists of invading territories, illegal timber extraction, razing to clear the land, the introduction of plantations and grazing to the damages resulting from the use of pesticides that contaminate the neighboring areas and water sources, uprooting of small farmer families, traditional communities, quilombolas and First Nations and displacing them to the periphery of nearby cities, where they become society's excluded classes. Those who decide to stay and fight for their territories and to protect nature are threatened and become victims of attempted assassinations.



Under Bolsonaro's neoliberal fascism, subservient to transnational interests, Brazil has caught on fire. For the first time in recorded history, which began in 2002, it has been verified that all of the Brazilian biomes have been affected by forest fires. Overall, the total area devastated in 2019 was 86% greater than the previous year. With respect to the Pantanal, the worst affected biome, the numbers are alarming, there has been a 573%

increase in forest fires. The data is from the National Space Research Agency (INPE), which by no coincidence Bolsonaro has insistently tried to delegitimize and control.

However the genocidal president and the Minister of the Environment who is against the environment (Ricardo Salles, famous for wanting to take advantage of the pandemic by destroying all environmental protections so that companies are





free to deforest, fell trees, use poison, attack communities and usurp land) are not the only ones responsible for the destruction of the Amazon and all of the Brazilian biomes. Also responsible are the meat industry (JBS, Marfrig, Minvera Foods...), agribusiness (Cargill, Bunge, LDC, ADM...) and their investors (JP Morgan Chase, Barclays, Citigroup, BNP Paribas, Santander, Bank of America...). These are the groups that corrupt, use fake companies to land-

grab, fell forests, pollute rivers with their mega-port and mega-ships that drain Brazilian commodities, feeding colonial relations such as those proposed by the trade agreement between the European Union and Mercosur. And they destroy lives – not only figuratively where they destroy ways of community life, but also literally by assassinating community leaders that resist the capital siege and defend nature and life.



It is neither a disaster nor an accident: behind each socio-environmental “tragedy” is an intentional act taken by multi-millionaire transnational corporations that profit from devastation that they themselves promote. Brumadinho and Mariana never again!! Dispossession like that of Vila Nazare never again!! Let’s put out this neoliberal fire of mining and

agribusiness with solidarity and by holding responsible those who are truly responsible!

This is why it is important to advance the UN legally-binding Treaty that holds transnational corporations, the majority from the Global North, accountable for their crimes usually committed in the Global South. In this sense, movements are coordinated in the





Global Campaign to Demand Peoples' Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and End Impunity, which brings together hundreds of social movements throughout the world in support of this cause. Today, the States of the South have little power when facing the big bucks displayed by companies that buy what they need (be it the media, the judicial system, politicians or civil

associations) to plunder the riches that interest them. Overtime, we have already conquered some victories, such as the very return of the UN debate on regulating these companies under the primacy of Human Rights, but the path is still long. Against profit and corporate devastation, we need support and popular pressure.

SOLIDARITY NETWORK TO CONSTRUCT ANOTHER REALITY



Being able to quarantine is a privilege: for most Brazilians, staying at home is not an option. Far worse: in Porto Alegre, in the middle of the Corona-virus pandemic, the ex-mayor, Nelson Marchezan Jr. (Brazilian Social Democratic Party – PSDB), reduced

the bus lines, causing crowds for those who need to go to work and putting the bus fee collectors and drivers at even greater risk.

The study "Health status of urban quilombolas in the CoVid-19 pandemic",



conducted by the Quilombola/RS Front in partnership with researchers from the Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre (UFSCPA), exemplifies this fact well: the study shows that 77% of the Quilombo residents in Porto Alegre have to go to work during

the CoVid pandemic. In other words, they were unable to socially isolate. And about 40% stated that they had lost their jobs during the pandemic.



In 2020, the \$R600 (close to 100 US dollars a month) of emergency aid improved President Bolsonaro's approval ratings. But not everybody knows he was against the aid, he wanted it to be only R\$ 200 (less than 40USD). Not even minimally concerned about the health of the working class, Bolsonaro made that even mining was declared an essential activity in the country during the pandemic. Thus, he required that the miners continued functioning at full speed, without respecting social distancing. It was not by chance that several outbreaks of Corona-virus started to appear in mines throughout Brazil.

Supported by Rede Globo, one of Brazil's largest media conglomerates,

these same companies that spread CoVid throughout the country, by denying their workers the right to social distancing, also created a campaign called 'Solidarity Ltd'. During the principal daily news program, every night they would present small actions of charity propaganda in the support of Corona-virus prevention, such as donating masks and hand sanitizer. They did not question themselves, however, regarding the fact that the miners and agribusiness would have helped much more had they suspended work – and, consequently, their profits. But for Vale, BHB Billiton, Cargill, among so many other big corporations, profit is worth more than life itself.





SOLIDARITY IS DISTINCT FROM CHARITY

Eduardo Galeano has already taught us “charity is humiliating because it is exercised vertically, from the top down to the bottom; solidarity is horizontal and implies mutual respect”. The Rede Globo and corporations’ campaign should be called Farce Ltd. serving only to improve the public image of those who actually bear the blame for the spread of the Corona-virus among Brazilians.

The solidarity path is distinct: and it starts with territories free from mining and agribusiness industrial pollution. The coming together of Agrarian Reform settlements, family farmers, urban peripheries, land and housing struggles, environmental organizations - like us,

Friends of the Earth Brazil - indigenous territories and quilombolas gave rise to a strong solidarity network during the quarantine, bringing healthy food without poison from the countryside to working families’ tables.

MST, MAM, MPA, MTST, Friends of the Earth Brazil, CIMI, Frente Quilombola (Quilombola Front, Comuna do Arvoredo (Arvoredo Commune), MAB, World March of Women: united through the Periphery Lives campaign, together, they articulated donations of more than 40 tons of food in the metropolitan region of Porto Alegre up until the end of May 2020. And nationally even much more was donated.



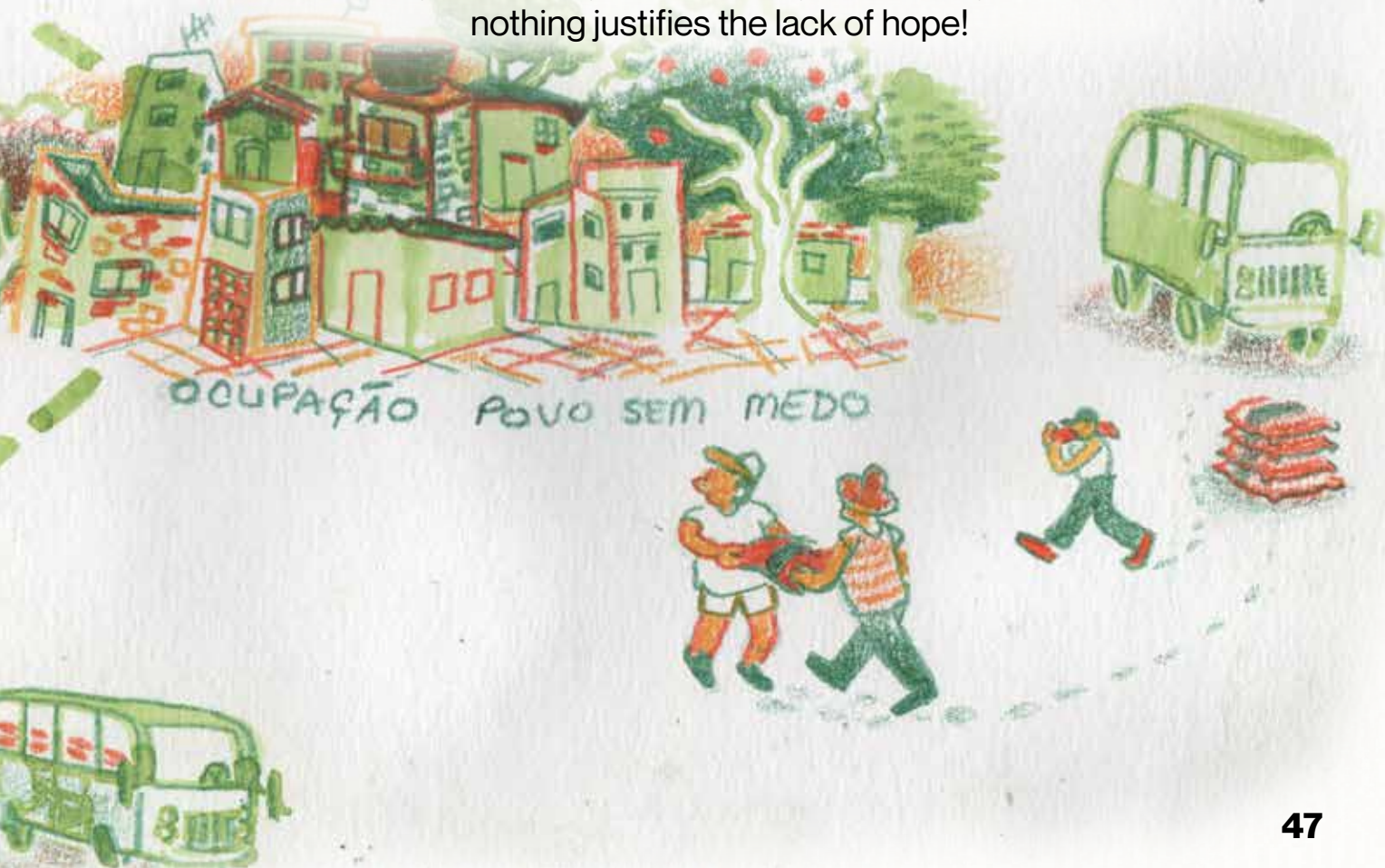
A safe territory is sovereign territory; and a network of Peoples and social movements well articulated ensures the resistance/existence of indigenous communities, quilombolas, peripheries. The food from the Periphery Lives campaign reached the urban quilombos in Porto Alegre, where many have lost their jobs during the pandemic. It reached the indigenous communities like the Mbya Guarani's taking back of Ponta do Arado, where they live under constant threat by the company that wants to construct luxury condos on indigenous land- recently the Masterplan of Porto Alegre was altered to benefit the undertaking. It even made

it to Vila Nazaré and the Okupation Povo Sem Medo Porto Alegre communities, supported by MTST, that resist the violations by Fraport. But we still need more: we need to fight for basic rights to territories and housing, healthy, food and diverse livelihoods. Defending the land and the rights of the people and fighting for public policy, for Agrarian reform, for the demarcation and recognition of indigenous and quilombolas lands, against the abusive use of pesticides and against the mega-projects of mining and agribusiness that bring death and destruction.





We continue together in the construction of a popular programme of production, acquisition and distribution of food and seeds: a PAA between movements from the countryside and the city, as part of a commitment to continue caring for and nurturing ourselves in the struggle. We are together for a just and feminist recovery, in overcoming the pandemics of neoliberalism, and firm in the purpose of existing, organizing, resisting, mobilizing, transforming and hoping, because nothing justifies the lack of hope!



We thank all the fighters who tirelessly stand up for their rights, for the right to the popular care and defence of their territories and of the natural goods that are common to all peoples. To all the communities that have been involved in this project and share with us their stories of mobilisation and resistance, in alliance and trust. Also to the internationalist solidarity that makes it possible for these stories to be told and experiences of struggle to be exchanged between regions, communities and defenders of territories committed to build more just and sustainable societies throughout the world.

To fight for Environmental Justice is to defend and care for life. In order to defend Brazilian forests, animals and biomes, it is necessary to ensure that the Peoples who live in each territory and who are responsible for maintaining biodiversity, culture, climate and life as a whole, continue to exist and that their rights are respected.

Always and, especially at the moment in which we live, lives above profit.





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