

Breaking the Silence

Luana and Humberto did not know many people and were not part of any movement or organization in São Paulo; until now, in 2015, they did not have any support. In this case, the State undertook a strategy of intimidation in order to scare all who organize themselves and fight, but this was not enough to force them into silence and isolation. Therefore, they expect that their fight to stay free could create new bonds.

To support Luana and Humberto is to show solidarity with two persons who are being targeted by the state, but is also a struggle to resist any state's intimidation strategies to criminalize social movements and demonstrations. To overturn this case and the National Security Law could help to force the cancellation of the "Black Bloc Inquiry," a huge step against the criminalization of social movements.

We need to find someone to defend Humberto, the only one still without a good lawyer. Humberto's current lawyer is a member of Advogados Ativistas (Militant Lawyers), a group of professional lawyers who take advantage of poor people and young fighters. He refuses to inform Humberto about his case.

Financial resources will be needed to achieve a good defense to help in the case. Visibility and all forms of support and solidarity are key to keeping Luana and Humberto out of jail, and unmasking the police strategy.

To support and get more information:

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Solidarity For All Those Who Fight



SUPPORT Luana Lopes & Humberto Caporalli



**The only ones
charged under the
National Security
Law in 2013**



São Paulo · BRAZIL

S·U·P·P·O·R·T

LUANA AND HUMBERTO

The Arrest

On **October 7, 2013**, after a demonstration in solidarity with a teacher's strike that ended in riots, a **São Paulo, Brazil** police operation caught the attention of the media and the whole country: **20-year-old Luana Lopes** and **24-year-old Humberto Caporalli** were arrested and charged with violating the **National Security Law**. Written during the military dictatorship, this law targeted those who **"depredate, provoke explosions, or commit arson in order to promote political nonconformity and support subversive organizations."**

Luana and Humberto were photographing the demonstration. There is no evidence that they participated in the confrontations, only photos of the demonstration and a gas canister from the police that was found on the ground. This was enough for the police to arrest and physically and psychologically torture them. They spent three days in jail, and the police raided and looted their homes.

"Caught in the act," both were framed by Article 15 of the 1983 National Security Law which **establishes a penalty of 3 to 10 years for those who practice sabotage against "military installations, media, transportation and transport routes, shipyards, ports, airports, factories, power plants, dam, deposits, and other counterparts facilities."** They were also accused of qualified damage to public patrimony, incitement to crime, criminal association, and criminal graffiti.

The National Security Law (NSL) is perhaps even more absurd than other laws, because it authorizes non-military people to be tried by a military court. In the last instance, a general will be the one to decide their verdict. Altogether, 11 people were arrested on the night of October 7, when banks were destroyed and a police car was overturned in downtown São Paulo in response to police brutality against the teachers' strike. But only Luana and Humberto were arrested under the NSL. **On the way to the police station, they heard from a policeman that they would be framed under the military legislation:** "He told me 'you guys are fucked up, do you know what is going to be? The National Security Law,'" said Humberto. Probably the scenario was already prepared and they only needed a name to carry the charges.

The Strategy of Fear

On **October 9**, a judge in São Paulo's Court of Law ruled that Luana and Humberto should be released on their own recognizance as they were not caught in the act and they were not even recognized by police as offenders. Maria do Rosário, Minister of Human Rights of the Presidency Secretariat, also criticized the prosecution: "In a democratic era, it is completely anachronistic to use a law like the National Security

Law; a law which is a sad memory for Brazil, reminiscent of the military dictatorship." However, the persecution and psychological terror were not over. In addition to losing the cameras and computers they used for work, both were visited again by police officers and had their homes overturned several times.

Luana has a scholarship in design studies in São Paulo and Humberto lives in the countryside of the state. They work with graffiti and art, but they are facing a hard time, since employers ask for a clean rap sheet.

On the cover of the Amnesty International report of 2013, a phrase appears from an interview with Luana and Humberto: "They use a strategy of fear." Adding up the sentences, they face up to 23 years in prison.

The "Black Bloc Inquiry": Fake Evidence for a Desperate State

On October 9, 2013, the DEIC (Criminal Investigation Bureau of São Paulo) also initiated an investigation to frame black bloc tactics as a criminal association practice organized nationally by a huge mafia, not as isolated acts to judge individually. **Few people understand that the arrest of Luana and Humberto was the precedent and pretext for initiating this investigation.**



The strategy of the Police and Security Bureau is to spread fear with stiffer penalties. Perhaps the greatest fear, however, is on the part of the state itself and its security officers, who have been threatened by the wave of increasingly combative protests since June 2013. At the time, they wanted to intimidate any mobilization

intended to disrupt the 2014 World Cup. The survey, also known as 01/2013, was taken into secrecy in coordination between Police, the Security Departments of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and the Public Ministry.

On February 22, 2014, at the exact moment that a protest was occurring in São Paulo against the World Cup, 40 people were subpoenaed to testify by the DEIC in São Paulo. During the investigation, more than 300 people were called to testify and many social movements were targeted by the investigation. No one knows what their role is in the investigation, whether defendant or witness; this led to several protests, such as when Movimento Passe Livre members chained themselves to the gates of SP Security Bureau on May 30, 2014.