

The workers at USP need your support!



Foto: Fernando Sintusp

In line with the country's repressive wave of attacks on labor rights, the University of São Paulo's (USP) president, Marco Antônio Zago, has aggressively pursued his declared project to 'eliminate trade unionism on the university campus'. First, through a letter dated April 4, 2016, he gave a period of thirty (30) days for SINTUSP to vacate their office space at USP. The university community reacted quickly and apparently University management had given up this irrational plan.



Foto: Fernando Sintusp

However, on December 9, once again taking advantage of a vacation period to engage in these types of arbitrary acts, the presidency obtained a preliminary judicial authorization for eviction which could be exercised by military means if necessary. SINTUSP has occupied this space since the 60s; since its foundation. The union has continued in these

offices with the consent of every university administration over all of those years. An attempt to evict the union has not taken place since 1979, under military dictatorship. During that time, a notice was sent requesting that SINTUSP leave its headquarters with the offer of an alternative space. In contrast, under the "democracy" of president Zago, the union has been 'offered' an eviction notice without even a pretense of negotiation. No university can function without its workers. There is no legitimate legal basis for this eviction – despite the fact that the space is very small and has poor facilities. This attempted eviction is simply a blatant anti-union act.

In order to justify the eviction, the president has claimed there is an 'academic need' for the property by the School of Communications and Arts (ECA), where the property is located. However, the ECA issued a note on 04/27/16 stating that it "did not request that the presidency of USP vacate the headquarters of SINTUSP as part of the reorganization of the academic spaces of the school." Therefore, this eviction is nothing more than an act of reprisal against SINTUSP, characterizing, therefore, an attack to the working class as a whole, an act that is clearly incompatible with the moral and legal

obligations of the presidency. This declaration of war against the workers of USP is, simultaneously, a declaration of war against the academic community and the entire working class' right to organize a union. Various politically motivated dismissals of

trade union leaders have also been carried out and numerous absurd and baseless legal proceedings have been brought against SINTUSP leaders and activists. All of these strategies are part the broader project to destroy unionism at USP!



Foto: Fernando Sintusp

On Wednesday, 12/21/2016, we were surprised by the arrival of some construction workers in front of the SINTUSP offices. We quickly perceived that our offices were being fenced in! After talking to the workers, we discovered that they had been contracted to close all of the space around the SINTUSP offices and the student spaces of the ECA. The president's office refused to receive a representative of SINTUSP, not even allowing entry into the hall in front of the presidency. SINTUSP has tried all means to open some channel of dialogue, but the presidency remains totally intransigent: not even a committee of parliamentarians and representatives of national organizations that sought to

facilitate negotiations was received. If it had been successful, the installation of this fence would have completely closed access to SINTUSP offices and important student spaces upon return from the Christmas break.



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SINTUSP will not allow this to happen! We commit to physically and politically resist this eviction! SINTUSP and supporters will occupy this space during the Christmas break!

Please sign the LabourStart solidarity campaign and share it as widely as possible!

Thank you for your support!

In solidarity,

SINTUSP