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Brazil

Statement from the Organizing Committee of the 1st Antifascist International Conference

- News from around the world -
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Over the past few weeks, we have been preparing the realization of the Antifascist International Conference and organizing the global struggle against the far right in the city of Porto Alegre. We scheduled the event for May 17th, 18th, and 19th, and it was meant to be the first initiative within a sequence of collective and international organizations to carry forward this fight.

Unfortunately, the state of Rio Grande do Sul and its capital, Porto Alegre, are being hit by an extreme climatic catastrophe, which has already resulted in nearly a hundred deaths, thousands displaced, and the destruction of infrastructure. There are over 100 blocked highways, many people still in need of rescue, with their lives at risk. Porto Alegre's international airport, completely flooded, is closed until May 30th. And the Historic Center of the capital, as well as many other neighborhoods, is underwater.

In this calamitous situation, we are unable to maintain the Antifascist International Conference on the proposed date. We deeply regret having to make such a decision, as we were willing to hold the event if conditions permitted, despite the moment of mourning, pain, and suffering. Maintaining the Conference would be a necessary gesture to show international solidarity with Rio Grande do Sul and its people at this time. We know that many were planning to attend our Conference, but it will *not be possible to hold the event on the scheduled date.*

Nevertheless, our purpose is to reschedule it. The need for the Conference is even more pressing, as we know that Rio Grande do Sul is suffering the effects of a global climate crisis, which is produced and exacerbated by the denialism of the far right and the greed for profit at any cost – including the cost of life on the planet – of big capitalists.

In a forthcoming statement, we will present proposals to ensure that we do not lose the progress we have made so far. At this moment, all our efforts are being devoted to helping save the lives of the thousands still in need of rescue, in addition to acting on all fronts of solidarity.

Given the closure of the airport and the climatic catastrophe, we remind everyone that flights and hotel reservations must be rescheduled at no cost with the airlines and hotels. This situation concerns us greatly, as we are aware of the financial efforts made by many comrades to ensure their attendance.

Porto Alegre, May 6, 2024

Laura Sito and Roberto Robaina

Source <https://antifas.org/statement/>

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