

Former Brazilian president Lula da Silva calls for collective struggle for democracy



Brasilia, May 3 (RHC)-- Brazilian presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has released another letter to his supporters in celebration of International Workers' Day -- telling them to "continue to resist together because we're fighting this just cause for democracy, for the rights of the people."

Lula, who has been detained in the federal jail in Curitiba, Brazil since April 7th for supposedly receiving an apartment as a kickback in a corruption scandal, denounced the attack on Free Lula demonstrators over the weekend camped outside the prison as long as he's been in jail.

Over the weekend, an armed man attacked the Free Lula encampment at around 4:00 a.m. local time on Saturday, shooting Lima de Menezes in the neck. Koakoski took shrapnel from the hit. The unknown attacker approached the crowd in a car shouting: "(Jair) Bolsonaro for president" referring to a far Right-wing candidate who is polling at 15 percent of the vote, far behind Lula's 31 percent. Bolsonaro also played an important legislative role in ousting Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff.

"We don't know who fired the gun, but we know he was sponsored by forces that disseminate hate and political violence," Hoffman read to the thousands of Lula supporters gathered in Curitiba. Lula said in his letter: "Each day the Globo (media) network poisons the country with its lies about the (Workers' Party),

Leftist comrades and social movements. ... I've been a militant for 50 years and I've never seen an affair like this in Brazil."

Brazilian cities were flooded with thousands of May Day protesters demanding better employment and Lula's release. Vagner Freitas the head of the Central Workers' Union says that judge Sergio Moro, in charge of the Car Wash hearings wants to "impede (Lula's) victory" for the presidency.

While presenting the book, "Lula: The Truth will Win" at Brazil's National Book Fair in Sao Paulo, Rousseff told the crowd: "Free or in jail, Lula will be elected president of Brazil."

Lula has lost several appeals on his 12-year sentence but has until August to register as an official candidate for the country's October presidential polls.

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