

Dear Bucerius Law School, Dear Prof. Nolte,

In view of the current political, economic and social situation of Brazil, it is a terrible surprise for the Brazilian community of Hamburg to be aware of such an event on March 22nd. After all, Sergio Moro was a key player in the process of deconstruction of the still young and fragile Brazilian democracy. We want to believe that you are not up to date with the latest development of the Sergio Moro judge trial and his political role in Brazilian politics. As such we describe very briefly some of the recent events involving the former federal judge.

First of all, Sérgio Moro had a close relationship with the corrupt president Jair Bolsonaro and used his position and power as a judge to influence legal¹ processes, which the constitution of Brazil and the principles of justice forbid. Moro was considered a partial judge by the Brazilian Supreme Court in his conduct of the “Car-Wash”² operation, which annulled several trials³ he conducted bringing to an end such a controversial Law process.

Second, through this maneuver in the Car Wash, Sergio Moro influenced the 2018 elections in Brazil, leading to the victory of Jair Bolsonaro. Once elected, Bolsonaro offered the former judge the job of Minister of Justice in his cabinet, which he accepted and maintained the position for two years. As you might be aware, Bolsonaro’s government is known anti-democratic and genocidal, embracing hatred as a preferred political affection towards those who do not agree with its protofascist methods and thoughts. Bolsonaro had publicly declared his sympathies for dictatorship during his whole political career and when in power continued to mix governmental affairs with military operations, constantly threatening Brazilian’s rule of law institutions and acting to protect his and his family’s private interests . And yet Moro was part of this government. So how can Sergio Moro legitimately talk about democracy right now? Letting himself be photographed with Bolsonaro should alone be a reason for a lifetime of shame and ostracism. But more than that, he worked with him, side by side, being considered part of his inner ministerial circle. Moro and Bolsonaro are part of the same problem, as Moro wife herself described once showing how proud they were of being together with the Bolsonaro clan⁴.

Besides that, Sergio Moro himself has been investigated and had his assets blocked, since he left the Bolsonaro government. Sergio Moro worked as a lawyer at Alvarez & Marsal, an American consulting firm that provides services to contractors investigated by the Operation ‘Car wash’. That is, he would have received financial resources from companies that he himself judged, convicted and approved leniency agreements⁵.

¹Lulas Rache in: <https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2019-11/ex-praesident-brasilien-lula-da-silva-haftentlassung> Access: 24.02.2022

²Lava jato sai de cena in: <https://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2021-02-04/lava-jato-sai-de-cena-sob-um-brasil-em-silencio.html> Access: 24.02.2022

³ Justizskandal in Brasilien Der Richter und sein Präsident in: <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/brasilien-justizskandal-um-praesident-jair-bolsonaro-a-1273563.html> Access: 24.02.2022

⁴ Moro e Bolsonaro: vejo uma coisa só’, diz mulher do ministro in: <https://noticias.uol.com.br/ultimas-noticias/agencia-estado/2020/02/16/moro-e-bolsonaro-vejo-uma-coisa-so-diz-mulher-do-ministro.html> Access: 24.02.2022

⁵ Tribunal de contas da união delega a PGR bloqueio imediato de bens de Moro. in: <https://www.cnnbrasil.com.br/politica/tribunal-de-contas-da-uniao-delega-a-pgr-bloqueio-imediato-de-bens-de-moro/> Access: 24.02.2022

After acting as a biased federal judge, he now runs for president of the country, wanting to pose as a paladin of justice, while being an agent who made use of legal instruments for the pursuit of personal ends and hunger for power. Moro had given up his stable position as a federal servant to be in this government and now he is not able to come back to his old position which leads him to try his luck as a politician.

This is why we can understand that it is valuable for him to come to Europe and carry out an empty conversation about his plans for the democracy he helped to destroy. What remains non-understable to us if how a serious Law Institution and a Professor of Democracy accept taking part in this farce? What kind of democracy does your guest crave for?

We think that the University is a community that should function as a bastion of the defense of democracy, not only as a figure of speech, but as a political possibility of achieving justice and equality. Inviting Sergio Moro to speak on behalf of Brazil should fill your hearts and minds with shame. Sérgio Moro's conduct is dishonorable and any deliberate association with him is a stain in your reputation. If you have any respect for Brazil and its people, for the thousands of deaths during the Covid pandemic (which Moro in his position could have done something, but preferred to ignore), for the miserable situation millions of Brazilian are facing as the country sinks into an economic recession in this "non-government", you should withdraw your participation in this event and make public your reasons to do so.

Regards

ComUnidade Brasil-Alemanha
Miradas Feministas