

UM 16

Urgent Motion from Federação Nacional dos Jornalistas (FENAJ) of solidarity for crisis in Brazil

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), meeting in Angers, from 7th to 10th June, 2016,

Democracy in Brazil has come under attack in the recent past and is again being threatened. There is a tentative coup taking place in the country, orchestrated by retrograde political forces, with the participation of the judiciary power, parliament and big media groups.

President Dilma Rousseff may become a victim of a demission (impeachment) without having committed any crime of responsibility under the Constitution and without a single allegation of corruption.

FENAJ has publicly denounced that democracy and real interests of the Brazilian population are threatened and that is needed to react to authoritarian attempts for an institutional breakdown of democracy, which clearly constitute a political coup.

The Federation of Journalists of Brazil has also reported that most part of the Brazilian press has renounced the essential and important role of quality journalism, often to behave like an opposition party to the central government, imposing its political line to journalists

In their campaign to defeat the governing party, that sector of the media assumes the role handling public opinion to legitimize the coup. This practice executed by companies even has occasioned acts of violence against journalists.

FENAJ has repeatedly condemned the media spectacularization that misinforms rather than informs, smearing the profession ethical commitment, which is the pursuit of truth, and causing serious damage to the exercise of citizenship.

The entity representing the Brazilian journalists has continuously addressed its releases to all journalists in defense of the ethical responsibility of Journalism. Journalists (voluntarily or not) are at the center of the Brazilian political crisis, given the ideological role that the media have assumed. Therefore, journalists cannot get

away from the performance of their profession which is to produce quality information for society.

Ahead of the gravity of the situation, the IFJ and its member unions reiterates their commitment to the defense of democracy, the Democratic State of Right and press freedom, as well as guiding its affiliates to do the same. And expresses full support to journalists and to Brazilian society in their fight against the attempted coup underway in Brazil with the certainty that we share the same ideals of democracy, justice and freedom.