



The people cannot pay with their lives!

We, the signatories of the Pact for Life and for Brazil, burdened by pain and by a sense of utmost urgency, once again address Brazilian society as it faces a worsening pandemic and the aggravation of its consequences. Our first message is one of solidarity with the families that have lost their loved ones.

There is no time to waste; denialism kills. The virus is circulating across all of Brazil, propagating new strains, affecting different age groups, punishing the most vulnerable. Sick people are dying in agony due to a lack of hospital resources. The country's public healthcare system (SUS) continues to save lives. However, health professionals, after a year on the front lines, are on the verge of exhaustion. We recognize their efforts.

It's time to staunch this escalation of deaths! The Brazilian people need vaccines now. The virus will not go away through obscurantism, angry speeches or offensive phrases. Enough nonsense and irresponsibility! In addition to the need for vaccines – right now and for everyone – Brazil urgently needs the Ministry of Health to do its job and effectively carry out health policies at the national level, ensuring quick access to medications and tests backed by science, consistent tracking of the virus, and a minimal sense of tranquility for the people.

The inefficiency of the Federal Government, which is primarily responsible for the tragedy we are currently going through, is notorious. Governors and mayors cannot be accomplices in this show of contempt for human life. Thus, we support their efforts to enforce compliance with health-protection measures and the rapid and methodical immunization of the population. We ask that governors and mayors think not only about their own states and municipalities, but about the country as a whole, through a great pact. We are all one Brazil.

We urge Congress to prioritize legislation to combat COVID-19, because preserving lives is the most urgent matter right now. In this sense, providing emergency assistance - for as long as is necessary - that preserves Brazilians' sense of dignity will be essential for saving lives and boosting the economy. We ask the judicial branch, under the leadership of the Federal Supreme Court, to protect the rights of citizens and promote harmony between the federal entities. And we encourage the press to operate freely, vigorously, and ethically, fulfilling its mission of transmitting reliable and scientifically based information about what is going on. May the voices of these institutions resound in the defense of the Brazilian people!

We also make a particular appeal to the youth. The virus is infecting and killing the youngest and healthiest among us, and using them as vectors of transmission. May

Brazilian youth assume their historical role in the defense of life and of the country, facing the denialism that is the agent of death.

We know that the path is challenging, that the opportunity to rebuild Brazilian society is rare, and that hope is the light that will guide us towards a new era.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Dom Walmor Oliveira de Azevedo, president of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil - CNBB

Felipe Santa Cruz, president of the Brazilian Bar Association - OAB

José Carlos Dias, president of the Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns Human Rights Defense Commission - Comissão Arns

Luiz Davidovich, president of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences - ABC

Paulo Jeronimo de Sousa, president of the Brazilian Press Association - ABI

Ildeu de Castro Moreira, president of the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science – SBPC