

THE PRESIDENT WAS IMPEACHED, DOES IT MATTER?

Many are calling for an insurgency to protect a democracy that, curiously enough, is functioning as intended. We should remember that this impeachment process was carried out according to the rules of the game as established in the political constitution of the corporation-state of Peru. We must not fall in line with political discourses that cry out only because their opponents were more skillful than the “lesser of two evils” which they supported. Nevertheless, there is another question that we should ask ourselves, how does it affect us? Certainly the marked political crisis already begins to show its negative effects in the neoliberal economic plan that the corporation-state of Peru had managed to consolidate during the 20 years of its development. Both the reliance on foreign investment for services in the city, along with the many goods that have departed from national production to depend solely on imports as well as the wariness of foreign businessmen towards buying national products, will have a serious effect on the small producers that were beginning to depend on these exports. This is something that we could see was coming, historically capitalism has depended on crises to ensure its continuity, meanwhile these crises always end with the misfortune of the small producers of the previous economic regime and the strengthening of the larger corporations that fed on the small to survive. It's the same story as always. So, does it matter? Should we really care to defend a regime whose only concern has been to safeguard the large corporations while the real fabric of the economy: the small producers and merchants have not been shown a clear way out of this situation? Of course not, in the meantime all those well-off congresspeople and bureaucrats split among the three branches of the state fight amongst themselves for a larger piece of this land, and us, the street vendors, street workers, small producers and those in various other trades, are pushed each time further towards the sad and decadent abyss of marginalization. Do we need to remind them that we do not have a salary of more than three figures? Do we need to remind ourselves that if we survived the crises of the 80s and 90s it was thanks to the emerging street commerce that created the “entrepreneurship” that they applaud so much in their television programs? Qualifiers such as “the Queen of salchipapas”, “the King of ceviche” and many other nicknames placed on a people's willingness to get ahead, wash away like water when the same media supports the violent incursions of the government supervisors supported and protected by the savage police, who do nothing more than show their lack of preparation and interest in solving

problems that arise from “disorder” which they so desperately seek to avoid. They only know the force of the club, the shooting, the arrest, the insult, the repression. Faced with this, self-defense becomes more than necessary, not to seek justice in a country whose politics have never been interested in us. But instead in the defense of labor, life, and of our dignity. Because nobody will save us from the effects that this crisis will provoke in the national economy except ourselves, because it has always been like this, because we live in a different country than the one they refer to in those eternal debates between legislators who only know the “civilized” parts of the city, because we will never be accounted for in the public policies of an executive that only concerns itself with the large corporations.

These reasons are more than enough for the POPULAR SELF-ORGANIZATION IN DEFENSE OF LABOR. Without running to the aid and refuge of political parties, be they from the left or the right, since they only come down to our world when there's a political campaign, only to promise us the same tupperware as always and then leave to fight for a better salary for themselves, because we don't believe in anyone except in our equals who sweat like us in the street. We don't trust the police because they have sold out to a high salary that from their comfort, prevents them from seeing the problems of those they grew up with or that watched them grow up, because thanks to that grand salary of \$3,000 soles (\$800) they have betrayed the people and become robots capable of killing at the whim of politicians who see us as obstacles in the market of their large corporations.

In order to defend ourselves it is not enough to use the common strategy of the enraged mob, beautiful in all its expression as it is proof of our latent desire to defend each other. Nevertheless, it becomes necessary to further the means of self-defense; bottles with gasoline and sawdust plus a soaked rag will serve to stop the uniformed groups that advance using the strategy of the phalanx. The phalanx strategy forces them to always remain together, for that reason it will be easier for the gasoline to stop them. In the moment of their attack, only the more physically prepared troops will rush out with an objective in mind, to capture individuals that have been previously singled out, to avoid this, the building of flaming barricades must be prioritized, using trash or wood that is present in the area. This will slow their advance and allow the crowd to protect the individuals that have been singled out for kidnapping by the authorities, while also protecting the merchandise destined for seizure. Fireworks serve to distract and in special circumstances make the uniformed forces retreat, since the lights, explosions and smoke will make it difficult for them to see underneath so much armament. Among the instruments for security and distraction keep bottles filled with paint, seeking always to stain their shields and helmet visors, thus slowing down their advance and in some cases forcing them to remove these items, thus

making them more vulnerable while also instilling caution on their part. Heavy objects must also be secured that can be tossed to stop their advance, let's not forget that both government supervisors and the police are people that fear for their lives, and what must be sought after is to instill this fear in them, which is why it is important to be vigilant when one of them is separated from their group and to seize the opportunity to give them the greatest beating of their life and if the circumstances are of a more violent nature, to finish them.

The people with which these actions must be prepared are to be of the utmost trust, preferably other street workers like ourselves that see themselves directly affected by the indifference of the authorities that don't depend on these methods to survive. Make sure to always remain together, as the government supervisors will take the merchandise of those who fall behind during an escape, which is why solidarity during the moment that the authorities attack must be prioritized and in turn lead to the act of self-defense. If there are 10 merchants that regularly occupy the same area, maintain contact when faced with any suspicious activity on the part of the authorities and always have someone assigned to give warning upon the arrival of the uniformed thieves in order to prepare the strategies for self-defense.

This advice and brief assessment of the political climate is not given with the intent of inciting violence, but rather of grounding the situation of the street workers. We do not await the help of the state, but rather seek our survival which is gained through our labor, but if they do not allow us to work, we will defend our labor with our lives because it is all we have left. We do not seek promises from political parties no matter how populist they claim to be, we are the ones who have stamped this territory with a certain character and you are those who seek to snatch everything that we have built from the ground up, the state presents itself as the enemy and we do not want it nearby.

LONG LIVE LABOR! LONG LIVE LIFE! LONG LIVE POPULAR SELF-DEFENSE!

WE ONLY HAVE EACH OTHER!!!

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