



INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR A NEW MUSEOLOGY (MINOM)

Condolence note for the destruction of the National Museum (Brazil).

On September 2, the fire consumed the National Museum, destroying scientific research, millennial heritage of humanity, part of Brazilian history, libraries, archives, extraordinary collections from amerindian and african ancestry, as well as unique specimens of Brazilian biodiversity. In the ruins of São Cristóvão Palace, at Quinta da Boa Vista, cultural references were lost from nations who had already been decimated and voices of Brazilian indigenous languages that only existed in the records of this institution. The works of generations of Brazilians and foreigners, their testimonies of lives and resistances, no longer exist. Extinct animals, which could only be known in the Museum, will no longer be seen and will no longer serve as a warning for the processes of destruction that need to be paralyzed.

The National Museum contradicted the prevailing logic and dared to produce high-quality, public, free, nonprofit science and education, albeit under unfavorable conditions. The National Museum was a popular museum and was affectionately embraced by Brazilians, particularly by the residents of the city of Rio de Janeiro and especially by the residents of the suburbs of the north and west areas of this city, including the poorest. The National Museum was the victim of neglect, the carelessness of successive governments, the cuts and containment of funds, and the contempt that Brazilian authorities and elites always voted for culture, history and science. It was a victim of the discontinuity of the public policies of culture, patrimony, memory and museums implemented since 2003, in the administration of the Minister Gilberto Gil.

MINOM is in solidarity with the direction of the National Museum and with all public servants – professors, technicians, managers, museologists and educators – well as with outsourced workers and students who have always acted, even in adverse

conditions, in order to offer the best for the Museum and the best Museum for the people of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the world. Many dedicated themselves to the National Museum and saw the work of a lifetime disappear overnight. We know that destruction has shocked the entire world, but we want to show solidarity with the community of Rio de Janeiro, which has lost a democratic and emblematic space of leisure, science, culture and education, where memories and affections were built and passed on from generation to generation. The work done by the National Museum in its two hundred years was not in vain; will remain alive in the memory of all those who have made it his beloved Museum.

Rio de Janeiro, September 7, 2018.

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