

PRESS RELEASE

From the beginning of this whole situation, the CES management had the ultimate goal in mind: Boaventura de Sousa Santos is responsible for what happened.

Today I took the most complicated step of my entire career. But I give it firmly and with the conviction that it is the right thing to do. Today I present my resignation as Associate Director and Emeritus of the Center for Social Studies, which I founded. Far from being a defeat, I consider it a liberation, because mismanagement can have irreparable effects.

As you well know, during the last 18 months I have been the subject of a harsh process of unfounded accusations against my good professional work. Since the beginning of this brazen process against me, it has become increasingly clear that it has been orchestrated by the leadership of the CES and that its only purpose is political. From the board of directors of the CES there has been a clear predetermination of all actions aimed at exculpating any malpractice of the center and placing the responsibility on the founder, that is, on me.

From the first minute, **I focused all my efforts on trying to collaborate with the clarification processes, I did not hide, I tried to avoid media circuses and make this a fair process for all parties.** To do this, it is essential to know what I am accused of, so I have requested access to the relevant documentation in order to be able to exercise my due defense by all possible means. The management of the CES has not only lied about my situation but has repeatedly denied me access to any documentation that would allow me to know, once and for all, what I am accused of and what I have to defend myself against. In recent days, I have even received threats that are unacceptable and that have led to this outcome.

Is this what we want? Is this the best way to shed light on the events that affect us collectively as a society?

What should be a fair trial, in which a person subject to accusations receives concrete information that he or she can verify, has become an inquisitorial process.

When the Commission of Inquiry issued its opinion in which no direct responsibility was determined against me, arbitrarily and without waiting for any other

event, **the management of the CES began a persecution through a more than dubious initiative of private investigation entrusted to lawyers, without any kind of guarantees**, without allowing access to existing evidence or data and applying techniques contrary to the rule of law and typical of the criminal law of the enemy, and whose ultimate and main objective was and is me. In this way, they would avoid any responsibility that may correspond to them as a result of the complaints filed. It should be recalled that the report of the Independent Commission also stated that the versions presented by various complainants and defendants were often incompatible with each other, making the evaluation of evidence unfeasible. **So, what are they trying to hide?**

In addition, the investigation has overlapped partially, self-interested and arbitrarily with the criminal and civil investigations that have been launched, without giving me the possibility of a minimum defense. This situation could lead to clear criminal and civil liability on the part of the management of the CES and the private investigators themselves, who should be brought to justice immediately.

I have tried to be respectful and cooperative with all the initiatives that have taken place at the CES, but it is clear that the hunt against me has taken on unbearable and illegal dimensions, so I cannot go any further. Interfering in the middle of an open judicial proceeding is nothing short of illegal.

It is up to the courts, the **Public Prosecutor's Office and the Civil Court of Coimbra to judge the facts, guaranteeing impartiality and without the political contamination caused by internal disputes in the CES**. I will continue to fight for the truth in these instances.

Coimbra, November 26, 2024

Boaventura de Sousa Santos