

Note from the Council of the Law School of the UnB

We, members of the Council of the Law School of the University of Brasilia, formed by the faculty and by representatives of the students and of the technical-administrative staff of the Law School, come to publicly affirm our unrestricted confidence in the Brazilian Electoral Justice, in the exercise of its competence to organize and conduct the electoral process, to guarantee popular sovereignty and in fulfillment of its constitutional mission to protect the democratic regime itself.

Implemented in Brazil in 1996, the electronic voting system is recognized for its efficiency and effectiveness, and throughout this period it has provided regularity, normality and security to the electoral process. It is worth remembering that last year, the National Congress rejected the printed vote proposal, confirming, once more, the confidence in the electronic ballot boxes.

The president of the Republic is responsible for maintaining, defending, and fulfilling the Constitution, respecting, among other things, the principle of separation and free exercise of powers; the Armed Forces are intended to defend the homeland and to guarantee the constituted constitutional powers. It is not up to the Minister of Defense to interfere in the electoral process, nor is it the responsibility of the Armed Forces to conduct this process. The repeated attacks by the head of the Executive Power against the National Electoral Court and the electronic voting system, with the support of members of the Armed Forces, are inadmissible. The personal offenses against the authorities of the Judiciary are intolerable, fomenting the population's disbelief in the smoothness of the process and putting the very holding of the elections at risk.

In this crucial moment, we place ourselves in the position of intransigent defense of Democracy, the basic principle of the Constitution of the

Republic, from which all the others derive, and we reaffirm our support for the institutions of the electoral system. Long live the Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil, which, in October, completes 34 years of validity! We want free elections and repudiate the attempts to annihilate the democratic conquests of the Brazilian people!