

Recife Hoje

RECIFE - QUARTA-FEIRA, 26 DE ABRIL DE 2100

TRAGÉDIA NA CIDADE

THE LOST CITY OF RECIFE

SEA LEVEL RISE AND RECORD RAINFALL LEADS TO HISTORIC LEVELS OF DISPLACEMENT AS ENTIRE COMMUNITIES FALL INTO THE OCEAN

Thousands of Palafitas Residents still missing, Tens of thousands still displaced.

For many residents of Recife's palafitas, what had been a daily struggle suddenly became a mortal danger. Over the past year tens of thousands of residents of the palafitas have lost their homes as their foundations collapsed sliding into the sea. For some, they were able to evacuate and reach safe havens closer to the interior of the city. Many others were not so lucky, slipping into the sea along with their homes, most of them elderly. Their families still hold hope that they may reach some closure. Maria Costa, a woman whose family has lived in São José's palafitas for 4 generations. "I remember waking up in the middle of the night to the sound of a crash, running out to the living room and feeling our house sliding"

"I was able to get my children out, but my parents room was just gone". This is a story that has been heard thousands of times over the past 6 months. When asked for a response city officials have expressed their condolences but stand by their claim that they urged evacuation prior to the spiraling situation in Sao Jose.... Continued on A5



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City Officials Vow to Help the Displaced

In light of the unprecedented devastation and displacement city officials have vowed to assist those affected. At a press conference on Monday, Recife Vice Mayor was quoted as saying "Recife has faced situations like this in the past, we will do everything we can to assist those affected, but it's important that we build back up our economic infrastructure". At the end of the conference the vice mayor announced the launch of a new rebuilding effort "Bounce Back Recife". Notably absent from the conference was Recife's Mayor Silva, who has spent months meeting with businesses based in Recife, and at the time of the conference was touring the Recife harbor. Local business groups and the international business community have been hesitant to remain in Recife due to the damage to logistical infrastructure, which could jeopardize Recife's status as a major international port. Additionally, community NGOs have criticized the city's response as continuing a legacy of lacking urgency and placing greater focus on the impacts on businesses over communities. Facing unrest on all sides.... Continued on B6



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Dutch NGOs and Aid Workers answer the call for International Assistance

As a part of an bilateral agreement reached between Brazil and the Netherlands, Dutch NGOs and development agencies have begun to arrive in Recife to begin work on land reclamation projects.

The Netherlands has been a global leader in recent decades on land reclamation projects, most notably in Bangladesh. What remains unclear is how feasible the projects are, and how the land will be dispersed post-reclamation. Community organizations representing the now displaced palafita residents have called for the lands where they previously resided to be returned to them, but city officials have been unwilling to make that commitment due to the unsanctioned nature of those developments. Leaks from within the mayor's office show that some of the lands slated for reclamation are intended to be utilized for economic development in the mayor's "Bounce Back Recife" Project. Others have questioned the focus on reclamation projects, with calls for a focus instead on building resilience in the remaining communities.



OTHER CITIES

- São Paulo facing record droughts, Military Occupation nears its Second Year
- Rio Landslides, Unseasonably high rainfall and soddy construction were at fault for the collapse of Rocinha, thousands feared dead.