

## Script GARIS

### 1. Work Conditions

7'49 Even the wc's are dirty and unhealthy. We have no water. We have no pause to go to the office and eat, we gotta eat right in the street. Sometimes, with all the heat, even the food goes bad. So, all this contributed to our revolt. 'Cause the 'gari' works for almost nothing you see? While they demand a lot from us. However, the manager, all he gets, all he is able to get – for example, our office was three times champion of the '0 skip day' system. What is this system? If a majority of the workers from a certain office has skipped work for a minimum number of days, if they have very few medical leaves... You see? Like really skipping work. Absenteeism is what they call it. Absenteeism. So the manager gets a bonus of 1900\$, you see! What about us? They prepare a morning coffee with the director and the president and they raffle out of 10% of the workers, 10%! And they raffle a basic food nest. Like a bonus of some 75\$. Raffled between 10% of us workers. So this really piss us right, why? 'Cause if you skip a day, you get 5 penalties. Which are: one, they take out one day's pay; you lose the day cause there's this NPL, Non Paid Leave, Sunday, and you get a verbal warning. Which is not even verbal cause you have to sign a document right? And above all, all this is taken into consideration when you have your holidays. So, a lot of shit over a day you skipped.

9'54 And sometimes we're working and we're exhausted. Those garbage trucks, they need 4 workers, but they work with only 2. There's work overload!

Sometimes they work 12h. 12h a day to be able to go over all the garbage collection from the shift. We should work 8h20, but those of us who work with the trucks sometimes we are forced to work up to 12h. So that's 4h plus to be able to get the job done and still we have no overtime. They put hours together and make them a day of leave. And that was one of our biggest claims. Why? Well, we work on Sundays and we get nothing for working on Sundays.

19'13 Cause the workers, here in the west side, have awful conditions; they must wake up 3 or 4h earlier, take a full ride, as you just saw on the train. But the time you came was empty. When you go back you'll see. So the conditions are awful...also depends on the schedule. Shitty conditions, traffic making it difficult getting to work. There's no mobility, no logistics. So all this together makes it harder on the worker. We loose more time getting to work than actually working. And when we finally get to work we're already tired.

10'41 I don't know the system there, but here the Sunday, we don't work on Sundays. So what happened? Because they didn't pay for Sunday work, we would change days. For example, if work a Sunday, I take a day off on a Monday or a Friday, but I get nothing out of it. And it's the law here that Sundays the pay doubles and an extra day off. We got nothing of that. Now, finally, with this strike, after all the claims, we conquered that. And if we skip a day they take back a Sunday and that Sunday we don't get paid at all for working. So they take that back, as he just said, and a lot of other things. So there was already a lot they were taking from us. So then what? We work under a lot of pressure. That new guy, president of C.O.B.E., he came and he set targets for us. *You guys you have to meet these new targets.* He said we must have first world standards, as COMLURB (Urban Sanitation Municipal Company). So we told them, we said: *if our company is to be a top one, so should be our salaries.*

20'10 *We're from the registration 53.000. Some are from the registration 14.000. Meaning, 45 years of service at COMLURB, when they should retire with 25 years. They're almost doubling the retirement age. They keep working. Because of the health care plan. For exemple, a health care plan for someone who's 70 is like 600\$ or 700\$, a health plan. – almost minimum wage – So you're stuck to the job.*

11'47 *It should be that fair. Come on, really! Because COMLURB, it gives a high quality service, but they want to pay very little for such a quality service. We make everything happen in Rio de Janeiro, what we do here: we work the beach, we work the schools, we cut the trees. We take care of all of Rio de Janeiro. 'Gari' is always there, present. He's working, doing his thing. So much that you could see how it was without him. If he's taken out from the street the city get's destroyed, this wonderful city stops being so wonderful because it is the 'gari' that keeps the city wonderful. And they were not appreciating; we were being put aside. You do your work, just get this little money out of it, but always demanding, demanding, demanding... So what happened? We just got tired. We decided to stand and go on strike and finally getting what we demanded.*

17.22 *We are the engine of this factory. We are the ones moving the money, just like he said. So we don't think it's right being marginalized just because we took it to the streets for better life conditions; because with this pay we are society's outcasts. We are excluded. We can't allow ourselves to go and take a walk, to go and enjoy the beach. And as for holidays – Christmas, Carnival, New Years – everyone is enjoying while we have to wake up at 2.30 am to be in the center, at Copa Cabana, to sweep, so that when the tourists come from the hotels...the motels...the hotels, they won't be stepping in pieces of glass. The beach has to be perfect you see? So, we are the ones making the city beautiful, that is recognized everywhere as being so beautiful. So, we never thought this to be right. We take care of the city – this is what we do – if the floor is clean is because the 'gari' cleaned it. And many times we are just invisible. Many times people go by us and they don't even say hi. That's just a matter of education; besides the uniform, besides what job. It's just plain education. The human being should have a good day or a everything ok. So all this together creates...It's been 6 years...How come in only a few year you became revolted? To go after things. I'll have to take it, that slave system? We live under a working slave system.*

## 2. Strike

0'00 I was there man. If you're not keeping up, then you're not keeping up with the overall increase on everything around us that we need to buy.

0'07 So then what happens: already in mid january some demonstrations were started right, like asking for the support of the union, asking the union to support us on...on our negotiations so that we...and they took a proposal right, a proposal that we thought was sufficient, was good. But then when they closed the deal, when they signed it, we saw that it was completely different from the one presented to us right, like, we were tricked. We were tricked.

0'40 So we went to another demo on the...on the 20th of february. We went there to demonstrate, right, and to get an explanation from the union people...why did they act like that? To know if and how this thing could be undone, 'cause we were not happy with what they were offering us.

1'01 And they had already signed. And they signed without even considering the category of the workers, they just signed for themselves. 'Cause the normal would be to have an assembly, with as much workers as possible, and there would be a vote regarding the salary...Kinda like so then, if you agree with an increase of I don't know how much percent, then some vote yes if they happy, or no if you're not happy. And there we took an estimate of what the category needs, so then what happens...but that didn't happen, they just got there and they signed, without even saying nothing to us.

1'35 We went there to get it done, like we demanded they would concede us the strike for the first of march and finally they gave it to us after insisting a lot right, we were there some 8 hours asking for the documents and they kept saying no and no and no, and we had a lot...I mean we had more than a thousand 'gari's outside the union doors asking and finally they gave it. So already on the same day some of our colleagues went by some offices, putting up flyers at the doors for those working that schedule or the other shifts so they knew the next day there was a strike. And so we did, me, him and some other guys who were there at the union the day before.

2'25 So then what happened: right as we were trying to get the people ready for the strike, the union goes and sends a document to the managers, to the offices, saying that the document they had sent the day before was worthless. Like, totally betraying us right? So at that point everyone got revolted, cause we had been doing demonstrations and saying: now look, if you don't hear us, if you don't pay attention to us, we'll stop at carnival. If you check the newspapers from the days before you'll see the threat was there, there was a warning of what we'd do and they didn't believe us cause they're used to seeing us in silence; cause there were 50 years of silence!

3'08 We start a demonstration...the next day they find a way to end everything. They get the judges to say that the strike is not feasible, the union comes and tries to make it go away. However, this year it did not

work out for them. Why? Cause this year there were many *difficult* 'garis', a lot of people insisting. Like rebel, really rebel...revolting against all that was wrong. So we pushed...we went, me, him and some others, a lot of others, we went to several offices, there's a total of 250 offices, 250 spots where people go before picking up work, and we started the strike process and we went over the union.

3'52 We said, you don't represent us, you don't appreciate us, so we are just gonna go on our way. We studied the constitution, we studied the law, we got – you see our colleague there reading all the time? -, so we saw we had gathered the conditions to move on and we did so. So next day what happened: the Mayor said we had to get back to work 'cause our strike was illegal (you got that?). Our strike was illegal so what happened: we were like, No!, we are going to keep on with the strike, the Mayor is just wrong, he's just wrong. We were like discussing so people, we keep on or not? And everybody was going: we keep on!. Always taking a vote, always following what the majority decided, either if to keep on or stop. So we together – the people – the category all discussing, not one, not two. It was all the category deciding what to do next. So we all decided to keep on with the strike for the third day.

4'52 On that third day some judge issued a document forcing us to go back to work. You got that? Saying our strike was illegal, that the way we were acting was unlawful.

5'04 But we were acting within the law, right. We were not being violent, not breaking, not doing anything out of the ordinary. But then, with those demos, with that thing with the Mayor, all those things, the media – the Brazilian media which is in the Mayor's pocket – was against us. You got that? Saying we were just a minority, that we were...

– Criminals!

5'33 Criminals! Calling us all these names. Calling the workers criminals, mobsters. Putting armed police in the offices to force us to work. Armed cops! And when they saw it wasn't working, that even the police themselves was taking our side, they put private security guards, armed, to force us to work. Threatening us, showing off their guns, saying: *You are going to work! You are going to pick up the garbage! You see that? You are going to work.* Showing off guns to the workers.

6'09 'Cause we always got together in the offices, so to be sure that the guys were not going to work. Why? 'Cause all the TV networks, particularly Globo, were all the time saying that the strike was over. So not all of us were demonstrating as to know the strike was not over. So they broadcasted nationally: the strike is over. The 'garis' have accepted a deal. So we had to go back to the offices to explain to our colleagues that the strike was not over, and when we got there, again police was there. By then there were these guys that we call 'P2', they're wearing plain clothes but they carry a gun, and they threatened: *You are going to work!* Some colleagues did go to work under threat. With this they just got all the category even more pissed. No, we are gonna stay on strike! We stay on strike! They even threatened to lay off 300 workers. That caused a great up heal, cause many have families... We all have families. We have our bills to pay. And some started getting worries. But still we resisted. Why? 'Cause we knew what we were fighting for was fair. And we were just being humiliated.

7'19 This right here, in this case it's his, is a dismissal letter. Dismissal letter.

The dismissal letter telling us to show up in the company's HQ.

To terminate the contract.

To terminate the contract. It's the procedure to end the contract, you see. It was when they announced the 300 had already been laid off. You see? I got it after the strike was over. Why? Well, here we live in the west area, things get here in the last place.

They too slow.

### 3. Connection with June revolt

PART 3- What happens is that all the demos have influenced a lot the workers of CONLURB, including the increase of bus fare, they had to decrease, but now it increased again... I was also in the demos against the increase, it happened all over. I don't like any political parties. In my work my political party is the hoe, is the broom, my party is the work. I am not engaged with any politics, got it? I want my salary, my right, nothing else. I struggle for a better country, where there is no hunger. How come a country abundant like this, where

a lot of food come from to the world, there are so many hungry people? A country that exports so many food while people starve in there? It is absurd, it is wrong, it is badly distributed... some people have too much, while others don't have anything.... it needs to end. This demos that happened all over Brazil has wakened a lot of workers and it only tends to grow. So now the politicians and the government need to do something that will benefit society so they can stop this demonstration wave that could end up in a civil war in Brazil.

- we were inspired by them, because we saw a lot of students fighting against the bus fare increase and they don't even pay it. So they were not doing it for themselves, they were doing it for the people... so like I said, even before we started the strike, when we started to demonstrate, there was already support from students, some from UERJ (Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro), they came with banners "we are with you". Afterwards came the teachers, from public schools and also university teachers. So there was this integration, not only the Gari, but also this group, some people from last year demos, some, not many, the "leaders" from last year demos were there supporting us and their presence there was very important. Because they also helped us motivate the other workers to join, because we would say to our co-workers, trying to inspire them: this people are not gari and fight for our right, so if you are a Gari you have to fight your own rights... So using this argument we convinced many colleagues to fight for their rights, some didn't want to for many were afraid, but we, thank god, managed to conquer it thanks to the working class unity.

- what is interesting about last years demos that everybody showed up because of the 25 cents... the 25 cents served as the catalyst that made people go to the streets but the demands were many, like better education, better health system, social equality, less taxes... so, the brazilian unhappy with the system was there... so us gari we suffer the prejudice, because now people come and say: now the gari are having a good salary, but no.... actually the doctors are not being well paid, the teachers are not well paid, the police is not well paid... you know... and we suffer discrimination after this rise... specially from people that went to the university in didn't get a job or never managed to work on their field... so that is why everybody demonstrated together... but the gari were the least fortunate class and didn't do a thing, because if they rise our salary, automatically there will be a rise in the salary of guards, firemen, police.... can you see the importance of us being at the streets? the gari took care of the city and never had a decent salary, or was recognized.... so this demos oh last year, the 25 cents, showed how unsatisfied the brazilian workers are with the country management.

12'54 And we even had the support of college students, they came, they set up banners saying *We stand with you*. And that was important as we understood people were in favor of us and the strike. When we marched on the streets, people were not complaining about the garbage, they clapped and said: *You are right!* As we passed on downtown, people were throwing papers, scrapped papers with us. They hung orange banners from the windows, wore orange shirts, they... They supported us. 'Cause what happened? We are a class that was being forgotten... Being paid a salary that...that wouldn't allow us to actually live in this society. Because the pay does not allow proper housing, conditions for free time, conditions for proper education, proper health. You see?

13'58 The constitution says we have right to education. It's basic stuff. So why don't we have it? Because of the pay we get. And the Mayor saying he has no conditions to increase it. But we did some digging and what did we find? That the...the...how can I explain? The money COMLURB got, it was doubled. The budget they get for the year, from last year to the current, it doubled. Now, how does that work? The company gets double and the 'gari' gets the same? Where is the money going to? It's going to the directors, to the jobs they create so they can place their cousins, brothers, nephews... People who never were 'gari', never done nothing, who stay in their offices seating, while being paid 8000\$ or 9000\$. And we are being paid a salary of 800\$.

### 3. Connection with other cities/strikes

PART 3: - not really, because is not only far, but also, another city, so, they have another mayor, their money is differently used, is a different system.... but we follow their activity and also send videos and words showing solidarity with them, because we support them, and expect they can do it correctly, because in Rio we really avoided having stuff destroyed, afterall if we do it, there is a law that says that the major (our boss) can fire us for misconduct... so we have been exchanging information, on how it happened here, so they can

organize themselves and insist, because we got strength after we insisted, there were days we were hungry or thirsty, we were under the sun, under the rain, insisting, for when we work we also many times work hungry, under the sun or rain, so I think that to fight for our rights it has to be the same way... or even with more determination! So we hope our colleagues can do it, we are not that close but we support them entirely.

#### 4 World Cup

PART 3: well some say we live in a democracy, that you are free to come and go, but when it comes to the world cup, they are about to approve a law that says if there is any demo during the world cup they are to be considered terrorism, and this is very serious... because Lula himself was also demonstrating in the past so he could be where he is now...they developed a system in the streets around Maracanã, that is the Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, and they have spent millions from our money to renovate the Maracanã... because like when you renovate your house, you spend more than you would if you built a new house... so in this streets that give access to the stadium, it won't be allowed even for people that live there to walk around there... imagine around 100 km around the stadium blocked... and you can't get home... why? for being afraid of the demo (THIS PART IS REALLY CONFUSING)... we are Brazilians but the country is not ours... ok people have the right to visit, through tourism insert some money... but we live here and for instance we were born and raised here and we never saw the CRISTO (MONUMENT), because it is not possible...

- about the world cup, i agree with what my colleague just said, this law they want to approve to call demos terrorism.... terrorism in the wonderful city (CIDADE MARAVILHOSA IS RIO DE JANEIRO'S NICKNAME) that is so passive, i don't get it! are we first world then? cuz terrorism is something from the first world... like england, u.s.a., we are now 1st world! so what can we propose to our politicians? that we wanna be like the first world! we already have 1st world terrorists, now we want the rest.... a decent salary, the Real (brazilian currency) should be worth a dollar.... the real must be worth it like germany's money... not only in the laws, i want to be like the american, i want my country to produce technology, and stop importing it... got it? so... when it comes to the world cup, we can see the reality, that we are 1st world too,... and also some want the world cup, some don't.... i can say that the poor people don't give a damn about it... the world cup is for foreigners.... they have spent millions building stadiums and some won't even be used... you know? this world cup is nothing but marketing in Brazil, the land of futbol, and what does that actually mean? we are know overseas as fools and clowns, that's what they say: indigenous, samba, canibalism, NO! here we have culture, developed human beings, the culture is so varied we don't only have samba! Gari doesn't like samba, gari stay away from samba... the poors can't go to the world cup matches because it is obcenely/absurdo expensive... with the money for one ticket I can buy a lot of things for my house... so, not everybody want the world cup.... but it is comming, will out team win? maybe germany, cuz they have a great team....

-the bill later is for us to pay... like it happened to the other countries...

-brazil has a terrible team, it can't win... there are others that are better, like germany, spain... our team has no zico, pelé or ronaldinho anymore like in the old times...

-pelé is football king, but now he is making millions by advertising it... (joke about pelé calling him old)

- what i propose is that they do the world cup and the olympics, the country is strong for it... but what happens after the investors leave? what do we do with these stadiums? what do we do with the companies if we don't produce, only import... so one needs to observe this, analise and think about it, there is no use in setting fire here, then look for asylum abroad and we stay here in the flames, because it is gonna burn all over.... for our country has no technology, we have here companies' factories from all over the world... and after the world cup is over? What will the people eat?