

Usina Coruripe issues an important note with the Unions



Usina Coruripe, a 100-year-old company that produces 500 million liters of ethanol annually, 20 million bags of sugar and generates 33,000 direct and indirect jobs, and the Unions that represent its employees, is hereby informing its customers, employees, partners and consumers that it is being victim of irresponsible attacks and with no evidence, perpetrated against its reputation in the press. This is an internationally operating company, composed of five units producing sugar, ethanol and electricity from biomass, which makes all its employees proud.

Given the untrue information disseminated by inconsequential sources for media outlets, Usina Coruripe will take the appropriate legal measures to hold the authors of these allegations judicially responsible.

Here is the truth:

On April 27 this year, an inspection conducted by the Special Mobile Group of Labor Inspection detected signs of labor irregularities in two of the 498 sugarcane suppliers of Coruripe. In all business contracts, suppliers are committed not to make use of any labor that is outside the legal determinations, nor analogous to slave labor. Usina Coruripe practices zero tolerance with this type of conduct and therefore, as soon as it became aware of the facts, terminated the contract with the supplier company.

By virtue of a legal agreement made by the Public Ministry of Labor (MPT), on July 10, 2010 (read the full text here <https://transparenciasinacoruripe.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Acordo-2010.pdf>), the inspection of working conditions in the fields of the supplying companies was the sole responsibility of the Sugarcane Producers Associations, in addition, of course, to the responsible authorities. Note: legally, Usina Coruripe was prevented from inspecting its suppliers.

Therefore, the information given to national and international media outlets, according to which Coruripe was responsible for illegalities committed in the field owned by independent cane suppliers, is false. So much so that the MPT fined only the cane producing companies, under the accusation of exploitation of labor analogous to slavery. These companies took full responsibility for the facts and, by means of a TERM OF CONDUCT ADJUSTMENT, have committed to regularize the working conditions and financially repair the damage caused to the workers.

Exercising its constitutional role, the MPT, changed its previous position and understood that, now, the best would be to give Usina Coruripe permission to collaborate with the agency in monitoring labor practices of these independent suppliers. Coruripe was willing to sign an agreement on August 11 (read the full here [Acordo-2022.pdf \(transparenciausinacoruripe.com.br\)](https://transparenciausinacoruripe.com.br)) and since then created a task force dedicated to inspect 72 items related to safety and working conditions in the independent sugarcane supplier companies. All irregularities found must be corrected. Otherwise, it will be reported to the competent authorities, which will adopt the legal penalties. Learn more about this task force here <https://transparenciausinacoruripe.com.br/>.

As if none of this were valid, incorrect information and twisted versions about Usina Coruripe have been frequently passed on to the press with strong ideological bias and with the sole and exclusive purpose of attacking the Company's reputation.

The most recent version currently in circulation disqualifies the agreement signed between the Public Ministry of Labor, sugarcane producers, and Usina Coruripe. The argument is that the Public Ministry of Labor does not prosecute anyone for slave labor. This is serious because it underestimates the authority of the prosecutors responsible for the agreement.

There is no evidence whatsoever that relates Coruripe to slave labor situations. The company has created and maintains an exclusive channel for complaints against irregular working conditions that can be accessed here <https://transparenciausinacoruripe.com.br/denunciar/>.

The company owes nothing, its leaders have not been denounced, do not answer to criminal investigation and have never incurred penalties or convictions for practicing, promoting or covering up slave labor practices.

For a century, Usina Coruripe has always been proud of the high standard of social responsibility that guides its operations, maintaining a decent and correct relationship with its employees. In its management policy, the company fosters women empowerment according to the UN parameters, employees' improvement and professional development, recycling and sustainability in its five industrial plants.

Coruripe's management in labor and socio-environmental scopes is recognized by several certificates, awards and especially by the communities surrounding the areas where it is present, contributing to job and income generation. Usina Coruripe's care with safety and welfare of its workers caused the company to implement, in 2013, the Zero Accident Program, which reduced by 95% the incidents with leaves. The initiative, recognized by the Workers Unions of the sector, accredited the company to receive the Dupont Safety & Sustainability Awards, one of the most important and prestigious in the world in occupational safety. All the awards and certificates can be seen here <https://transparenciausinacoruripe.com.br/>.

Usina Coruripe and the Unions that represent its over 8 thousand workers will not allow 100 years of history, awarded and recognized by the market and society in general, to be tarnished by irresponsible profiteers of good faith of journalists, whose sole purpose is to destroy what we built together with much effort, sweat and devotion.

Usina Coruripe

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