

## Jhonatan Hernández - 1

Hello, good afternoon, my name is José Jhonatan Hernández López, I'm 18 and I'm speaking from the city of Lima, in Peru. Regarding the question I was asked, about what we think in regards to the present context of education and about the other human rights, before answering this question which, besides, seems to me very interesting, I want to stress some issues we face in general. One of them is the lack of political will – and we have seen it and keep seeing it now. Also the lack of social responsibility from each person, from each Peruvian, adding to it the lack of commitment, without neglecting the fact that we do not recognize people as human beings and for not recognizing them, for this ignorance towards people, what we see now is the lack of respect, the crime issue, the ethical faults issue in our justice system. Well, but I don't want to dwell too much upon that because I want to face the question, regarding the current state of education.

I just finished school, so I can give you something more experiential about education. I consider that education, both primary and secondary, is the basis and the reflection of all education we see now, of all education that now we see these rulers – who are now debating who will take charge, who will not, who wants, who has more votes – have. In regards to education, I must say we don't have an inclusive education, we don't have an education that acknowledges differences, we don't have an education that respects people with disabilities. We don't have an education with inclusion, that knows and recognizes, that recognizes the Andean communities, the Amazon communities, the Afro-Peruvian communities, the LGTBQ communities and this is the most important and the foundation of what it means to be a citizen and thus it is something very urgent that we have to attack, to face.

Concerning infrastructure, sadly in regards to Lima, and I say this at a personal level, not all education centers count on basic services, not all education centers count on ramps for wheelchair users, not all education centers count on electricity, water, and well, adding to that the cleaning issues and, sadly, they reflect the fact that we don't have a culture of cleanness, we don't have a culture of taking care of our environment, where we walk, stroll, work, and this can be seen around our schools, there is trash and us girls, boys and youths leave them normally, as if it was nothing. Also there is the insecurity issue, and this is the point implicated in sexual violence, sadly. Education centers don't count on cameras to see who goes out and who gets in, with whom, when, where. In addition, unauthorized vehicles are always outside education centers, moto-taxis, non-formal cars which, sadly, put at risk both the security of girls, mainly, and boys too, and not only of them, but of all the people who go to that place.

Also, well, now concerning what this teaching method is. Sadly now it is visible and I'm sorry for that, we don't have trained teachers and I don't say this to blame teachers, but we also have a fragile curriculum, for example, we don't have teachers who speak sign language, we don't have teachers who speak *aymara*, we don't have teachers who can teach their classes in Braille, and this is something very sad because it unfortunately prejudices one's development. In addition, we don't have teachers capable of solving conflicts, both violence-related conflicts, since many

times the existing protection protocols are unknown, or also the *Ruta Única de Atención* [*Single Route of Care*]<sup>1</sup> is unknown. Many teachers, and [sometimes] it's even themselves who abuse girls, boys and adolescents, they are abusing schoolchildren themselves and sadly, since the system protects the evil and unprotects the good, many times these teachers who are already recognized, already seen, already detected offenders continue teaching in the same education centers and if not, what happens is that, when such a teacher is detected, he/she is sent to a different education center where this teacher will keep doing the same thing. Now apart from that, we still have teachers whose minds consider certain topics as taboo topics, such as comprehensive sexual education, even knowing that comprehensive sexual education (ESI, for its acronym in Spanish) is the main tool to prevent undesired pregnancy, adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, besides, it adds to a life project.

Changing to a different subject, there is economy. As I already mentioned, we have a very fragile education system and curriculum, for example, the things one learns in the first grade of secondary school in private school are barely taught in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade in public school. And there is more to it in what refers to poverty issues. Why? Because a person who has money goes to a private school where he/she will, of course, perform better, where of course they have trained teachers, in comparison, a person leaves public school with a quite basic education, very simple, and besides it's an education that doesn't lead to the development of soft skills.

Changing subjects – and this really seems to me very important to approach –, there is the uniform. In Peru, the uniform worn by boys, girls and adolescents is more important than their right to education being enjoyed. That is, for not being well dressed with the school clothes or uniform, sadly they are not allowed to enter, or they are discriminated, sometimes it influences one's ratings. We are in a country in which to be good looking is preferable to having a sharp mind, and [it is preferable] to all boys, girls and adolescents being able to enjoy their right to education. Also, without setting aside the public services issue, not all education centers count on security codes for cleaning services. Many have flooded toilets with water running out. In many cases, WC doorknobs don't work. Many don't even have a door and this is something very deplorable because it goes beyond affecting kids' integrity, it also affects the education center surroundings.

In regards to other rights and their condition, I want to start saying that the right to health, as much as the right to education, the right to a dignified life, the right to food, the right to housing and many others, these rights and the exercise of these rights are not effective in all regions in this country. On this matter, it is actually possible to see that at least we have the basic services, we have education, but if we go a little further, we will see beyond first sight. We see that our brothers, boys, girls, adolescents, youths and people in general don't have access to these and sadly, their lack of access is linked to their economical condition. Making myself clear, the ones who have more money, who have more cash, enjoy their rights, in comparison,

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<sup>1</sup> “Ruta única de atención” is a set of actions, processes, care and strategies to address violations, in order to provide protection, recovery and restitution of rights to victims.

the ones who don't cannot eat, they cannot go to school, they cannot receive medical care in a healthcare setting, in a health center, for not having money.

In regards to participation in Peru, in fact and, well, it already can be seen, we are in the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and thus I have seen and I'm a witness that many organizations, boys, girls, adolescents are coming out to show their faces at protests and sadly these protests are many times criminalized, taken as something bad, and these people who protest for their rights and fight to have their voices heard are even being treated as rowdy. Here in Peru, they are even called *senderistas* [members of the guerrilla *Sendero Luminoso*], communists; this is something really sad because we are seeing the right to participate as something bad.

In regards to the right to, and, well, to the principal of survival, here we see and I already said that one with no money cannot live, for example, let's take this to the healthcare system (SIS, in Peru), the SIS doesn't attend all the basic needs it should and must attend. A person can dye waiting for a donation, a person has to get money in any possible ways to get medicines that are not available in SIS as they should. Because SIS, as its name says, means Seguro Integral de Salud [Comprehensive Healthcare Insurance] and therefore, being a State institution, it should treat us the best way possible, there is no need for someone who has money to be the only one to get them [the medicines], or not, for example, I have seen and I'm a witness and I have some relatives who are SIS members and sadly they have to buy medicines, they have to buy pills, even though the whole national system and all national institutions are kept by all of us with our taxes.

And now I will go on with the recommendation I'd give to all young people who are the next generation of voters, just like me, for whom I want to highlight two points, a good one and a bad one: the bad one is that I fell very ashamed of what has happened and is still happening in my country. I'm ashamed that these authorities who one day were elected by the people, are now – well, they are already out – but they did everything except for working for the people, which was their main goal and the initial goal of all congressmen, not to mention the justice system. A few months ago we saw how they negotiated the imprisonment or incarceration of a suspect of abuse and assault, they even asked if the girl had been deflowered or not, if she had been violated, we also have seen and listened to, and now more than ever thanks to the media above all, the recordings are coming out, cases are coming out, showing the kind of investigations being made by the justice system, the fact is that justice here is negotiated, here a person's dignity doesn't matter.

But let's change to the next point, because I don't want to miss it. Now thanks to many boys, girls, men, women, people, adolescents and older people who are taking positions and realizing this is not going to change if people themselves don't make it now, and now I feel very grateful for the many opportunities being given so people can express themselves. Currently, so many boys, girls and adolescents who are now graduating in schools, the youth attending the university, and people who have already lived and know experiential history a little better are rising and joining their sides. I know that so many boys, girls and adolescents, as well as youths, are the present and the future of this country, and I guess I have realized what a government

with no education is, what a government with no ethics is, and I believe now we are voting to correct those mistakes and to be better as people and therefore, not as much for a personal good as for a global good, a national good, because this not only...a bad leader doesn't only affects you, but he/she affects a whole group of people in an entire country, and this is a country many of us should thank.

And I believe now in these elections, I invite you to be part of this change. And by that, I don't refer to a revolution or a transformation, but to the improvement of things that already exist, looking at things that have worked, things that are working and things that don't, and, of course, we must improve, develop, promote what is working, and search for an alternative that brings us better solutions to what is not working. Now this voting, these elections and our congressmen are in our hands. We are about 30% of the people and now we have the power, and I believe that, as part of the responsibility for having such power, it is important to make sure that we vote well informed, it is important to think about each vote each person gives.

Here it is so important that each boy, each girl, each young person, each adult vote consciously – and by that I don't mean affinity voting, but also to vote being aware of proposals. I invite you all to review the congressmen', I beg your pardon, the candidates' CVs, in order to find out if any of them has a criminal file or any judicial problem and if this is not resulting in sanctions for them, but it is always important to see in what kind of issues they are involved in and how and why their cases are going. Now what I know is that the power is in our hands and this is why we have to vote with responsibility and commitment, for our vote on this January elections is what will change this term and what will prepare the next term, so the next elections, when this term starting in January finishes, will be better and at least have a new start and at least there is respect between powers and also respect among people.