

INSTRUÇÕES

- 1 – RESPONDA SEMPRE DE ACORDO COM O TEXTO.
2 – UTILIZE RESPOSTAS CLARAS, OBJETIVAS E COMPLETAS.

Letter from Mia Couto to President Bush in “Savana”, March 21st, 2003

Mr. President:

I'm a writer from a poor country. A country that was once on your black list. Millions of Mozambicans were unaware of what harm we had done to your country. We were small and poor: what threat could we pose? Our weapon of mass destruction was after all being used against us: it was famine and misery. Some of us found it weird the criteria which led to our name being exposed while other nations were gaining from your sympathy. For instance, our neighbor - South Africa with its apartheid - blatantly violating human rights. For decades we were victims of that regime's aggression. But the apartheid regime was worthy of a more lenient attitude called the “positive involvement”.



Mia Couto

Well, I - a poor writer from a poor country - had a dream. I dreamed that I was not a man but a country. A country that couldn't sleep because it lived terrified by terrible facts. And that terror compelled it to make a demand. And I demanded that the United States of America proceed to the destruction of their weapon of mass destruction. Because of the terrible dangers I demanded more: that UN inspectors would be sent to your country. What terrible dangers was I afraid of? What did I fear from your country? Unfortunately it wasn't a dream. Facts were the reason for my fears. The list was so long that I will just name a few:

- The United States was the only nation to drop nuclear bombs upon other nations;
- Your country was the only nation condemned for “illegitimate use of force” by the International Justice Tribunal;
- American forces trained and armed extremist Islamic fundamentalists (including Bin Laden) under the pretext of overthrowing the Russian invaders in Afghanistan;
- Saddam Hussein's regime was being supported by the USA while committing the worst atrocities against Iraqis;
- The invasion of East Timor by the Indonesian military was supported by the USA. When the atrocities were known, the Clinton administration's reply was “it's a matter of the Indonesian government's responsibility;
- In December 1987, the United States was the only country (along with Israel) to vote against a motion condemning international terrorism. Still, the motion was accepted with the favorable vote of 153 countries;
- Biological and chemical terrorism was carried out by the USA: the orange agent in Vietnam, a plague virus in Cuba which for years devastated the pig production there.

I woke up from the nightmare of that dream to the nightmare of reality. The war you decided to start may depose a dictator. But we will all become poorer. We will be facing bigger problems in our already volatile economies and we will have less hope in a future governed by righthood and moral. We will have less faith in the power of the United Nations and international law.

Mr. President:

Iraq isn't Saddam. It's 22 millions of mothers and children and men who work and dream as any American. We worry about the horror of Saddam Hussein's regime which are quite real. But we forget the horrors of the previous gulf war in which over 150.000 people lost their lives. Saddam's weapons are not killing the Iraqi people, the sanctions are. Those sanctions have already killed half a million Iraqi children. But the war on Iraq isn't about to begin. It began a long time ago. I don't want my children (or yours) to live dominated by fear or to think that in order to live in peace they will need to build a fortress and that they will only be safe when they spend a fortune on weapons.

The American bishop Robert Bowan wrote you a letter at the end of last year. As a Vietnam veteran, he knows what war is like and he wrote: "You claim the USA is the target of terrorism because we defend democracy, freedom and human rights. That is absurd, Mr. President! We are the target of terrorists because in most places in the world our government supported dictatorship, slavery and exploitation." At least may we find moral and truth in your argumentation. Me and millions of other citizens were not convinced when we saw you justify this war.

Don't worry Mr. President. We - the small nations of this world - do not intend to demand your resignation for the support provided to all those dictators. The larger menace lying over America is not the weaponry of any third party. It's the lies in the heads of your own citizens. The danger is not Saddam's regime or any other regime. But the sentiment of superiority your government seems to have. Your major enemy is not on the outside. It's within the USA. And that war can only be won by the Americans themselves. I would like to celebrate the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. And celebrate it with all Americans. But without hypocrisy or argument for the mentally diminished. Because we, dear President Bush, the people of the smaller countries, we have a weapon of mass destruction: we can think.

MIA COUTO

Translation by Ralitsa Zaitseva

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INSTRUÇÕES

RESPONDA AS QUESTÕES 1 E 2 EM INGLÊS, RESPOSTAS EM PORTUGUÊS NÃO SERÃO ACEITAS PARA ESTAS QUESTÕES.

PRIMEIRA QUESTÃO

What are the **real** and **ideological** weapons of mass destruction cited in the text by the author as being used **against** and **by** the smaller and poorer countries?

SEGUNDA QUESTÃO

According to the text, Mia Couto states that he lived terrified by terrible facts and that compelled him to make demands. What are these demands mentioned in the text?

RESPONDA AS QUESTÕES 3 E 4 EM PORTUGUÊS, RESPOSTAS EM INGLÊS NÃO SERÃO ACEITAS PARA ESTAS QUESTÕES.

TERCEIRA QUESTÃO

Based on the text, list **four** facts that justify Mia Couto's fears.

QUARTA QUESTÃO

What does the letter writer perceive as being the real threat to the USA?