Brazil’s Landless Workers’ Movement, Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST) in Portuguese, is a mass social movement formed by rural workers and by all those struggling for land reform and against injustice and social inequality in rural areas. The MST was born through a process of occupying latifundios (large landed estates) and became a national movement in 1984. Over nearly three decades, the movement has led more than 2,500 land occupations with about 370,000 families – families that today have settled on 7.5 million hectares of land that they won as a result of the occupations. Through their organizing, these families continue to push for schools, credit for agricultural production and cooperatives, and access to health care. In this presentation, Judite Stronzake will provide an overview of MST and lead a discussion about its history and ongoing work.

About the presenter: Judite Stronzake has been a member of the MST since its founding in 1984. In addition to being in a leadership position in the MST, she is the coordinator for "Formação," or political education, for Via Campesina in Latin America. As that title might imply, she has extensive experience in pedagogy and rural education, as well as the experience that being a 30-year member of the MST brings. After eight years living in an informal encampment, Judite has lived in a formalized settlement in Copavi since 1993. She speaks Portuguese and Spanish.

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