

cR

Centro
de Referência
Paulo Freire

**Este documento faz parte do acervo
do Centro de Referência Paulo Freire**

acervo.paulofreire.org



InstitutoPauloFreire

TODAY



P PAULO FREIRE

Paulo Reglus Neves Freire was born in Recife, in the northeast of Brazil, one of Brazil's poorest region. He died of heart failure in São Paulo, Brazil on May 2, 1997. His early experiences of employment brought him into direct contact with poverty, working first in the Industrial Social Service (SESI) and later in the Cultural Extension Service of the University of Recife.

Paulo Freire developed the process of conscientization («Paulo Freire's Method») as authentic education. His process identified literacy with political awareness, enabling the oppressed to acquire both skills and power. His thought on the philosophy of education was first expressed in his

doctoral dissertation at the University of Recife, and later in his work as Professor of the History and Philosophy of Education in the same university, as well as in his early experiments with the teaching of illiterates. The methodology he developed was widely used in literacy campaigns and was considered such a threat to the old order that Freire was jailed immediately after the military coup in 1964. Released seventy days later and encouraged to leave the country, Freire went to Chile, where he spent five years working with UNESCO and the Chilean Institute for Agrarian Reform in adult education programs.

He then acted as a professor at Harvard University's School of Education, and worked in close association with a number of groups engaged in new education experiments in rural and urban areas. Then, for 10 years, he was Special Consultant to the Office of Education of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, working as an educational adviser to Third World governments, especially in Africa.

In 1980, he returned to Brazil, after 16 years of exile, to «re-learn» his country, working as professor at the State

University of Campinas and at the Catholic University of São Paulo. In 1989, he became Secretary of Education in São Paulo, the largest city in Brazil. During his term of office he made a great effort to implement literacy movements, to revise the curriculum, and to increase the salaries of educators.

Paulo Freire was a man with a great sense of humour yet at the same time a man disgusted by all types of injustice. He was the father of five children, by his first wife, Elza. After her death he married his ex-student, Ana Maria.

Paulo Freire is the author of the best-selling *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* as well as *Education: the Practice of Freedom*; *Education for Critical Consciousness*; *Pedagogy in Process*; *Pedagogy of the City* and *Pedagogy of Hope*. His work has been the subject of hundreds of Ph. D. dissertations in recent decades. He received dozens of Honoris Causa doctorates from universities all over the world and numerous prizes, including UNESCO's Peace Prize in 1987. On April 10, 1997, his last book was launched, entitled *Pedagogy of Autonomy* ■