

Dear Joa and Lilian,

Thank you for the message and I appreciate the frankness.

I personally did not find your message all that inflammatory, but by highlighting us particularly it's not a surprise most people were offended.

Irrespective of how the text was to be understood, you must have known at some level it would draw a strong reaction from people.

Perhaps that was your objective.

Thank you for the invitation to your house. We have been very busy lately with all sorts of medical tests and exams, which is one of

the reasons I have not been in my office. But we will surely accept the kind invitation at some future date as my mom will be here for a while now.

There is really no need to meet me to explain anything. This message was sufficient to explain your perspective. But if you both will attend

the 55 year anniversary dinner of IMECC, then you will have a chance to meet us there. It is important to mention that my mother knows nothing about this episode.

Best regards, Waleed.

On Thu, Sep 21, 2023 at 12:07PM joa < joa@math.uni-bielefeld.de > wrote: Dear Waleed,

we would like to ask you for a personal conversation. We passed many times your office, probably you work at home, just as me. Right after festa junina I called your office number, but had confused your name, so in error I called Saeed and he explained me the error and gave me the right complete name. Ask him.

We loved your traditional dress and wanted to praise it as the most excellent way of preserving tradition.

The negative part of the text was not directed to you but to those who abused the most traditional clothing to destroy tradition, those that betrayed the honest Caipiras in the election by insisting being counted together. We missed to make this clear in the text, so the text can be read/understood in two extremely opposite ways.

Lilie and me wanted to invite you and you Mum for a coffee in our house, Lilie regretted that during the festa there was no opportunity to meet your Mum, so we passed your office some days after the festa.

Anyway, since I signed the letter and you read it the other extreme way,

I would like to sincerely apologize (preferably in person).

The few conversations we had so far were extremely nice, I would never ever think of you the way you understood the letter.

Please note the perfection in Portuguese of the letter. This is why WE would like to ask for a conversation in person. We can pass your office any time, just let us know please.

Many regards, Joa and Lilian

