



Annual Report Conectas 2019

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Juana Kweitel
executive director



Camila Asano
programs director



Marcos Fuchs
legal and finance director

Letter from the directors

Built from the efforts of those who opposed the dictatorship, participated in the *Diretas Já* (Rights Now) movement and worked to strengthen civil society after the promulgation of the Constitution of 1988, the Brazilian democracy has been put to the test with the arrival of Jair Bolsonaro to the presidency.

Since the elections, Bolsonaro, a controversial and conservative figure, made clear his authoritarian agenda based on civil rights setbacks, cracking down on crime, weakening environmental legislation, a pro-gun platform and hate speech.

A lot can be said about the Bolsonaro government. What cannot be said is that its attitudes came as a surprise. Since the first day of his government, the president has been committed to implementing his campaign promises, irrespective of how much his proposals represent violations of the Constitution, human rights or the democratic values of transparency and participation.

In such a challenging context, Conectas has not shied away from its responsibility as a civil society organization dedicated to the defense and promotion of human rights and the democratic rule of law. We are aware of our responsibility and the role we play, and we needed to redouble our vigilance and be quick making decisions and taking actions. This resulted in the resistance stories that you may read on the following pages.

Without adopting an inappropriate tone of optimism, we learned to celebrate each victory and each setback to the government's high-handedness. We have participated in various alliances and mobilizations organized by civil society, we have denounced attacks on rights in international forums, we have drawn the attention of the press to issues of public interest, we have gone to court to challenge decisions or defend advances and we have been in the National Congress to talk with lawmakers and present arguments and technical opinions. More than ever, we have put into practice the best of everything we have to offer society in defense of the cause that justifies our existence.

We do not doubt that "Bolsonarism" will continue to test the limits of our democratic institutions, and it is too early to say when and how Brazil will emerge from this period. But the role of civil society in strengthening democracy is more apparent than ever. We are very proud to be part of this broad civilian resistance front.

It is important to recognize that all this work is the result of the tireless efforts of our staff, each one in their specific role, but all working together towards a common goal. We would also like to thank the members of our Board, the foundations and donors who believe in the impact of our work and the many organizations and social movements that stood with us throughout 2019. It is their values, ideals and commitments that unite us and motivate us to continue our work.

Juana Kweitel | Camila Asano | Marcos Fuchs

Who we are

We are a civil society organization dedicated to the promotion and defense of human rights. Created in 2001 through a joint effort by professionals, academics and activists, Conectas was born with the goal of integrating and strengthening the international human rights movement, especially in the countries of the Global South.

We work on the struggle for equality of rights through an extensive network of partners and on several fronts to propose solutions, prevent setbacks and denounce violations. We want to promote positive changes for people, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

Our Mission

To enforce and promote human rights and combat inequality to build a fair, free and democratic society from a Global South perspective.





How we work

A free and active civil society is a fundamental part of a solid democracy. We work to strengthen organizations, social movements and activists and we forge national and international partnerships so we can work together on more urgent causes. We provide a place for sharing of experiences and we respond to emergencies of people and groups that have had their rights violated



Litigation

Conectas has a team of lawyers ready to challenge in court any actions by governments and companies that conflict with the Constitution, affect the rights of the most vulnerable groups or cause democratic setbacks. We conduct strategic, judicial and extrajudicial litigation, nationally and internationally, in particular in the Supreme Court and the Inter-American System.



International action

Since 2006, Conectas has had consultative status in the UN. This allows us to denounce to the international community the various rights violations that occur in Brazil and help activists and social movements tell their stories to the rest of the world. We urge the UN and the Inter-American System to pressure the Brazilian State for changes and for accountability for its domestic policy. We monitor and influence the foreign policy of Brazil and other countries of the Global South so they contribute to the strengthening of human rights.



Collaboration and partnerships

A free and active civil society is a fundamental part of a solid democracy. We work to strengthen organizations, social movements and activists and we forge national and international partnerships so we can work together on causes that are more urgent. We provide a place for sharing of experiences and we respond to emergencies of people and groups that have had their rights violated.



Advocacy

We are present in decision-making arenas influencing political discussion with technical and non-partisan contributions in favor of the promotion and defense of rights. We propose solutions and pressure the public authorities to implement them. We demand transparency from the State.



Communication and engagement

We influence the national debate by presenting arguments and stories of public interest to the media. We disseminate narratives that promote human rights and oppose setbacks while mobilizing people in campaigns for the defense of rights and democracy.

Our Vision

To address injustices and propose solutions that have a positive impact on people's lives, particularly the most vulnerable in society.

Our working areas

Conectas works to guarantee rights and strengthen democracy. To achieve this, it operates in the following program areas:

Combating Institutional Violence

We confront and denounce violations committed by the State, especially on four fronts:

Persons deprived of liberty

We work to end mass incarceration and for the State to observe the law and guarantee the dignity of persons deprived of liberty.

Strengthening Democratic Space

We block attempts to shrink civic spaces and criminalize social movements. We defend the rights of minority groups and work in collaboration with activists from the Global South.

Migration

We defend public policies that observe the principles of Brazil's New Migration Law and that respect the rights of migrants and refugees.

Development and Socioenvironmental Rights

We seek to hold the State and corporations accountable for human rights and environmental violations. We have the following courses of action:

Impacts of the extractive industry

We monitor and denounce the impacts of large-scale projects that affect the lives of traditional communities and the environment in a drastic and permanent manner.

Oversight of police activity

We monitor violations and abusive use of force by agents of the State, calling for codes of conduct, the reduction of killings by the police and external and internal control mechanisms.

Right to protest

We work to guarantee the constitutional right to freedom of expression and assembly.

Drug policy

We propose an approach to the drug problem that focuses on public health instead of criminal policy and highly militarized police action.

Religious mobilizations and the rights agenda

We defend a secular State, freedom of faith and religious pluralism.

Tackling structural racism

We call for the development and implementation of historical reparation policies and we support affirmative action for the black population.

Defense of civil society

We denounce and block initiatives to criminalize and limit the work of human rights organizations, movements and defenders.

Foreign policy and human rights

We monitor and influence the positions taken by Brazil in multilateral forums.

SUR Journal

We influence the global human rights agenda through the production, promotion and dissemination of research and innovative ideas by voices from the Global South.

International Human Rights Colloquium

Every two years, we stage a conference for human rights activists from the Global South to share knowledge and promote an international network of rights defenders.

Combating contemporary slavery

We influence the legislative and executive agenda to strengthen public policies that combat contemporary slavery.

Financing for Development

We monitor and encourage human rights policies adopted by development finance institutions.

Climate, environment and human rights

We seek to adapt political, economic and social processes to the commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

_Combating Institutional Violence

Brazil is one of the most violent countries in the world. According to the 2019 Atlas of Violence, compiled by the Brazilian Public Security Forum and Ipea (Applied Economics Research Institute), there were 65,600 murders in Brazil in 2017. Of these, more than half (35,783) were young people aged between 15 and 29. An increase of 37.5% in ten years.

The data show that 75.5% of the victims were black and that 72.4% were killed with firearms.

No. of murders in Brazil and murders of young people (aged 15 to 29)

Source: Atlas of Violence 2019*

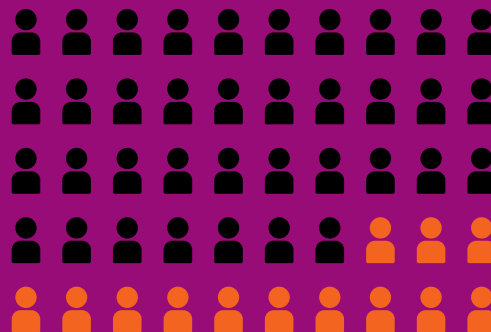
— Brazil
— Young People (15 to 29)



*Os dados do Atlas da Violência 2019 são relativos ao ano de 2017

Murders by race, in 2017

● 75,5% Blacks
● 24,5% Non-Blacks



"Anti-crime" package

On February 4, 2019, the then Minister of Justice and Public Security, Sérgio Moro, sent Congress a broad set of measures aimed at combating crime, popularly known as the "Anti-Crime Package". Despite the modern makeover, the bill doubled down on the punitive approach and on swelling the already collapsing prison system by proposing harsher sentences and a reduction of rights. It also included Jair Bolsonaro's campaign promise by offering carte blanche for the police to kill – the so-called **exemption from illegality**.

We worked on several fronts to debate the bill, point out its irregularities and strengthen the mobilization network against its implementation.

- We were one of 70 organizations that organized the campaign "Anti-crime Package, a fake solution".
- Our advocacy team worked closely with the National Congress, participating in public hearings, producing technical notes and discussing changes to the package with lawmakers.
- We promoted debate and pointed out the problems with the bill, in articles and public statements.

The intense pressure from civil society caused the Lower House of Congress to concede. Both the 'exemption from illegality' and other serious aspects of the bill, such as plea bargaining and the legal figure of the "habitual offender" were removed from the text approved by the house members.

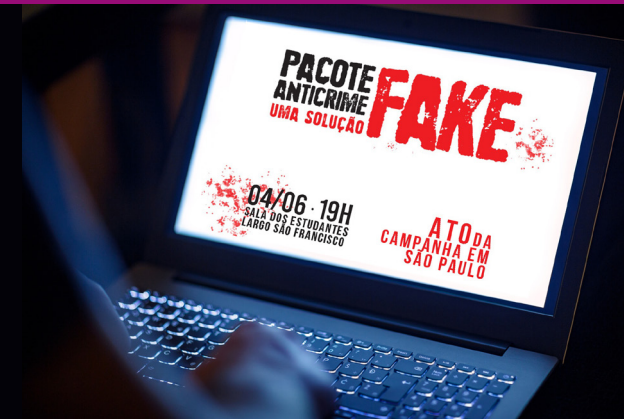
What is meant by exemption from illegality?

"Exemption from illegality" is a mechanism provided for in the Brazilian Criminal Code that, in practice, makes an illegal act legitimate. Article 23 of this law establishes three situations in which this is possible:

- In case of flagrant necessity;
- In legitimate self-defense;
- In strict compliance with legal duty or in observance of the law;

Currently, the Code states that any of these cases will only be punished if it is found that there were excesses,

whether intentional or not. The bill presented to be voted in Congress altered article 23 of the Criminal Code, determining that the judge could reduce the sentence by half or not enforce it at all if the "willful or negligent excess" committed by an agent "results from excusable fear, surprise or violent emotion". In other words, anyone who commits an act of violence or even murder, whether intentional or not, can be acquitted if they prove that they acted under strong emotion.



“What has become known as the 'anti-crime' package is nothing more than a set of amendments that restrict criminal rights and guarantees and that do nothing to address the key problems of public security and the criminal justice system,”

Gabriel Sampaio, coordinator of the program to combat institutional violence at Conectas

#DescriminalizaSTF



Pending in the STF (Supreme Court) since 2015, Special Appeal No. 635,659 will determine whether drug possession for personal consumption should be considered a crime. The session, which was scheduled for June 2019, was postponed until November 6 but withdrawn from the calendar due to political pressure.

As an amicus curiae in the case, Conectas took the opportunity to promote debate on Brazilian drug policy as a cause of mass incarceration and criminalization of the black population from the urban outskirts.

As things currently stand, people arrested with drugs can be charged as dealers or users. Given the absence of an objective definition of these categories, police chiefs will often accept the testimony of the arresting officers as irrefutable evidence.

→ We launched, in partnership with IBCCRIM (Brazilian Criminal Sciences Institute) and PBPD (Brazilian Drug Policy Platform), a grassroots advocacy campaign to urge the Supreme Court justices to vote in favor of the decriminalization of drug possession in the country. The petition is still open. Sign and share <https://www.drogastf.com.br/>

→ We promoted debate and engagement on the topic with the leading media outlets

Small-time trafficking is not a "heinous

In 2016, the Supreme Court recognized small-time drug trafficking as a petty crime that, as such, should not be considered a heinous crime. At the time, it was estimated that the ruling could benefit more than 80,000 people, by establishing pre-trial detention only in exceptional cases, permitting sentence progression after serving one sixth of the sentence and enabling these prisoners to apply for presidential pardon. Three years later, the courts continue to ignore the decision of the Supreme Court for small-time traffickers. This is the finding of the report "Prison at

Any Cost" released by Conectas. The study looks at cases of people who committed crimes under the Drug Law and meet the requirements of small-time trafficking.

→ Conectas is advocating for the Supreme Court to issue a Binding Precedent on small-time trafficking. This would make it mandatory for the whole Justice and Public Security system to comply with its decision and it would strengthen the court's interpretation, giving more proportionality to the enforcement of the Drug Law.



Access the report "Prison at Any Cost" here (Portuguese version):
<https://www.conectas.org/publicacoes/download/prisao-a-qualquer-custo-sumario-executivo>

Witzel's war against the favelas

The state of Rio de Janeiro was the stage of various cases of human rights violations caused by the actions of public security agents. Together with a number of other organizations, we reacted to the illegalities and offensives of the police in the black peripheral territories by denouncing them internationally and calling for a response from the international human rights system. An official statement from the UN Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions, Agnes Callamard, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS (Organization of American States) submitted to the governor of Rio de Janeiro, Wilson Witzel, questioned the abusive use of force against poor communities in the city's outskirts.

Among the many cases this year, Conectas deeply regrets the death of the musician Evaldo dos Santos Rosa, who was killed on the afternoon of April 7 in Guadalupe, in the northern region of Rio de Janeiro. The car Evaldo and his family were traveling in was hit by more than 80 gunshots during an army operation.

// The Rio government is running roughshod over domestic and international laws concerning human rights and is turning citizens into targets through a stated policy of summary execution. We hope that the Rio government and the governments of other Brazilian states are aware of their obligations and will refrain from encouraging violence in underprivileged areas,"

Juana Kweitel, executive director of Conectas.



Combating torture in Brazil under attack

In June, the government of President Jair Bolsonaro published a decree dismissing the eleven experts serving on the MNPCT (National Mechanism to Combat and Prevent Torture), a body of the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights that is responsible for investigating torture and mistreatment in prisons. The Mechanism had already been facing serious budgetary difficulties and was dealing with a political clash with Minister Damare Alves, who in February had blocked funding for the experts to travel to Ceará to investigate allegations of torture in the prison and youth detention systems. The dismissal of the experts was overturned by the Federal Court of Rio de Janeiro.

How does the National Mechanism to Combat Torture work?

The MNPCT is part of the National System to Combat and Prevent Torture, which was established by Law 12,847/2013. The Mechanism is formed by eleven independent experts who have unrestricted access to facilities for the deprivation of liberty, such as detention centers, prisons, psychiatric hospitals, shelters for the elderly, youth detention centers and military disciplinary centers. The experts write reports with recommendations for the competent authorities, who can use them to take the appropriate action. The system also includes the National Committee to Combat Torture, of which Conectas has been a member since 2016.





// **São Paulo is the Brazilian state with the highest number of prisoners in the country. So the creation of a mechanism to prevent and fight torture is essential to monitor violations in prisons and to make recommendations to the authorities**

Gabriel Sampaio, Institutional Violence Program coordinator

São Paulo vetoes the combat of torture

Federal law 12,847, which created the National Mechanism to Combat and Prevent Torture and proposed the creation of state-level mechanisms, was approved in 2013. The states of Alagoas, Espírito Santo, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Sergipe, Rio de Janeiro and Rondônia already have their own mechanisms in place.

In February, the governor of São Paulo, João Doria, vetoed the law approved by the São Paulo state legislature that created the state-level mechanism to combat and prevent torture. In a statement, United Nations experts criticized the decision by the governor.

Conectas was one of nearly 50 civil society organizations that published a joint letter condemning the veto.



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_Development and Socioenvironmental Rights

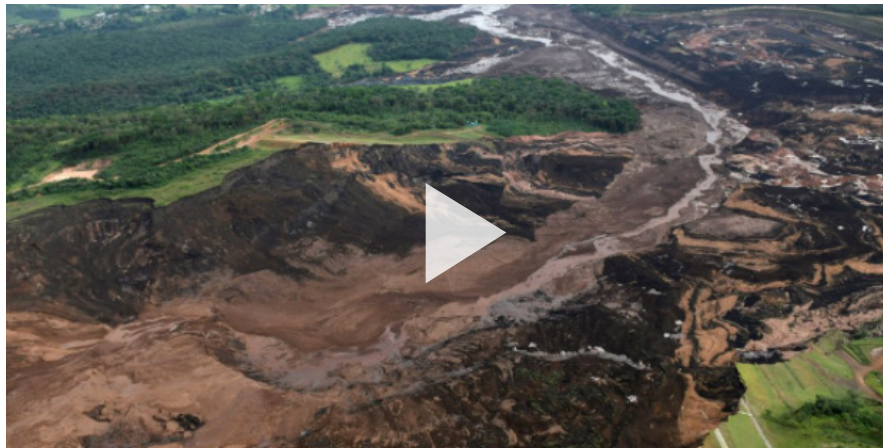


An avoidable tragedy

On January 25, a sea of toxic mud unleashed after the collapse of an iron ore tailings dam owned by the mining company Vale struck the town of Brumadinho, in the state of Minas Gerais. Just three years after the Doce River disaster, in the town of Mariana also in Minas Gerais, this tragedy caused by the company left 259 people dead and 11 missing, as well as a trail of destruction.

A mission of experts from Conectas visited the site to assess how the authorities and Vale were handling the emergency response for the victims, families and those affected by the collapse of the dam at the Córrego do Feijão mine. Our visit resulted in a series of recommendations for government bodies, the justice system and Vale, which may be seen in this video.

Also in February, we submitted a complaint to the UN on the flaws and omissions of the Brazilian State and Vale that led to the collapse of the



Access the video here:
https://youtu.be/F9_KmMbTUf0



tailings dam in Brumadinho. The document was also signed by the Human Rights Clinic of UFMG (Federal University of Minas Gerais) and MAB (Movement of People Affected by Dams).

A month later, we presented a series of technical recommendations to the team of experts at CIAEAR (Extraordinary Independent Consulting Committee for Support and Recovery), which is responsible for providing support to the victims in Brumadinho. The recommendations include the adjustment of the recovery to international standards, namely the measures established by the UN, and the creation of an ongoing dialogue channel with the affected people, in addition to the supply of medical and legal assistance.

Vale leaves Global Compact

On May 28, Vale withdrew from the UN Global Compact, the world's largest corporate social responsibility network. The mining company's decision came after an international group of organizations, including Conectas, formally requested the United Nations in February to remove the company due to the collapse of the tailings dam.

Doce River tragedy: four years later

After the comings and goings of lawsuits and deals between governments and the company, the situation remains practically unchanged for the victims of the Doce River tragedy, even though it happened four years ago. On November 3 and 4, we took part in a series of activities organized by Caritas Minas Gerais, the people affected by the disaster and the State Public Prosecutor's Office, which included public events and also accounts by the affected people about how the collapse of the dam changed the lives of their families forever.

In December, together with representatives of the victims and with other civil society organizations, we served on a committee that traveled to the United Kingdom to meet with nearly 200 mining sector investors and the press to denounce the violations of the Brazilian mining model, so that tragedies like these are not repeated.

“It's shocking to see how, four years later, the situation remains practically the same. Thousands of people are suffering serious deprivation, because to this day they have not even received emergency assistance,”

Julia Neiva, coordenadora do programa de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Socioambientais da Conectas.



Rights withheld from indigenous populations

Before the international community, at the opening of the UN General Assembly in September 2019, President Jair Bolsonaro repeated what he has been saying since he was elected: not an inch of indigenous land would be demarcated if it depended on him.

On two occasions, the federal government attempted to strip FUNAI (National Indian Foundation) of its authority to demarcate land, transferring it to the Ministry of Agriculture. Both times, the Supreme Court blocked the attempt.

In a hearing at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held in May 2019, we denounced – in partnership with AIDA (Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense), International Rivers, Fórum Teles Pires and Operação Amazônia Nativa – setbacks in the protection of the rights of Brazil's indigenous people.

“Giving the Ministry of Agriculture the competence to demarcate indigenous lands is a way of subjecting the rights of these peoples, guaranteed by the Constitution, to the interests of agribusiness and to an unacceptable developmental vision”,

Julia Neiva, Coordinator of Development and Social and Environmental Rights



Forest in flames



According to data from INPE (National Space Research Institute), deforestation in the Amazon devastated an area of 9,165 square kilometers in 2019. This is the largest recorded deforestation in the biome of the past five years.

In August, we signed together with another 50 civil society organizations a complaint to the G7 on the policies implemented by the Brazilian government to dismantle environmental legislation and inspection agencies, the spread of fires in the Amazon and the declarations made by President Jair Bolsonaro, who even blamed NGOs for starting the fires.

The G7 is a group of the world's seven most developed countries, formed by: Germany, Canada, United States, France, Italy, Japan and United Kingdom, which meet once a year. At the meeting, which was held in France, the Brazilian indigenous leader, Kayapó Raoni Metuktire, personally delivered the letter to the French president, Emmanuel Macron.

Environmental licensing on the agenda

Under discussion in the Lower House of Congress is Bill No. 3,729/2004, also known as the "General Environmental Licensing Law". The bill has been updated in a substitute text that provides for exemption from licensing for the majority of farming activities and infrastructure projects. If the bill is passed, rural producers engaged in agricultural cultivation or cattle rearing or in construction work to modernize and expand their existing facilities will no longer need authorization to carry out these activities.

In June, Conectas participated in a public hearing with the working group created by the Lower House of Congress and presented a technical report with a series of proposals and suggestions for the bill of the General Environmental Licensing Law. Among the recommendations are human rights and environmental guarantees and protections, in addition to the inclusion in the licensing process of agencies such as Funai (National Indian Foundation) and Incra (Land Reform Agency), which are both responsible for protecting historically vulnerable populations.

On August 8, the rapporteur of the bill, Congressman Kim Kataguiri, ignored an agreement made with civil society and proposed a new text with serious setbacks to environmental licensing. The new bill compromises the environmental and social quality and legal security of projects with the potential for impacts and serious damage to society. A date has not yet been set for voting on the bill in the Lower House of Congress.



Climate change law

In December, during the 25th COP (United Nations Conference on Climate Change), Conectas launched the Climate Litigation Guide. The document was presented during the panel “Prospects for Stronger Climate Litigation in Latin America: cases, approaches and opportunities” that we organized in partnership with iCS (Climate and Society Institute) and AIDA (Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense).



In partnership with the website JOTA, Conectas produced a series of ten articles to promote the production of legal content in the field of Law and Climate. With the participation of national and international experts, the articles address issues related to climate change and human rights, the international legal framework for climate change, sustainable financing, strategic litigation, greenhouse gas emissions trading regulations, among others.



Read the publication here (Portuguese version):

<https://www.conectas.org/publicacoes/download/guia-de-litigancia-climatica>



Read the articles here (Portuguese version):

<https://www.conectas.org/noticias/confira-10-artigos-de-especialistas-sobre-direito-e-clima>

Slave labor in Brazil

Immediately after taking office, President Jair Bolsonaro abolished the Labor Ministry and redistributed its resources and responsibilities to two other ministries (Economy and Women, Family and Human Rights). This initiative raised concerns over the continuity and coherence of policies against modern slavery, although to date it has not affected the publication of the 'Dirty List'.

Throughout 2019, Conectas was on its guard against any attempt to weaken the policing of contemporary slavery or to suspend the publication of the so-called "Dirty List", which gives negative publicity to companies involved in the exploitation of workers.

The organization participated in a dialogue between civil society and lawmakers for the creation of a bill on production chain transparency to make consumer countries aware of the risks associated with labor and human rights violations in different supply chains. The text of the bill is still being drafted.

Recommendations on Business and Human Rights

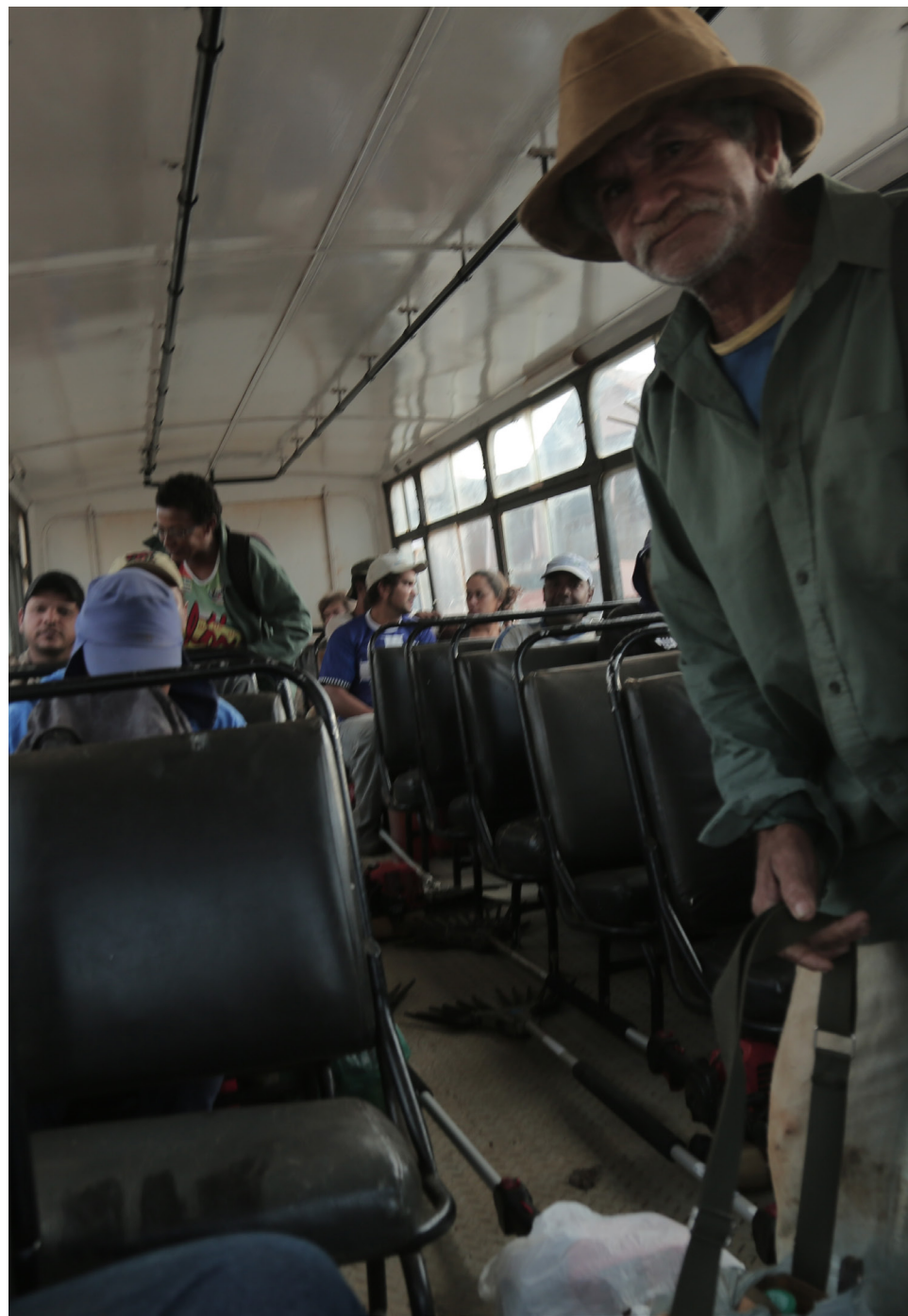
Access the publication here:



In 2016, when Brazil received the official mission of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, which visited sites impacted by the actions of companies, including Mariana in the state of Minas Gerais and Belém and Altamira in the state of Pará, Conectas made its first assessment on the compliance with the recommendations made by the experts. Three years later, we launched the 2nd Report Monitoring the Recommendations Made to Brazil by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, in which we updated the data and analyzed the developments since the working agenda proposed in 2016.

Access the publication here (Portuguese version):

<https://www.conectas.org/publicacoes/download/2o-relatorio-de-acompanhamento-das-recomendacoes-da-brasil-do-gt-da-onu-sobre-empresas-e-direitos-humanos>



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_ Strengthening The Democratic Space



The political agenda of attacking NGOs

On his first day in office as president, Jair Bolsonaro seemed determined to put into practice his campaign promise of “ending all forms of activism”. Published on January 2, Provisional Executive Order No. 870/2019 gave the Secretary of Government of the Presidency of the Republic the authority to “supervise, coordinate, monitor and observe the activities and actions of international bodies and non-governmental organizations in the national territory”.

In response, we promoted the issue in the media and strongly influenced lawmakers in the National Congress, warning of the risks of trying to control civil society and infringe on the constitutional right of association. We also endorsed an open letter signed by more than 40 organizations addressed to General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, Minister of the Secretary of Government of the Presidency of the Republic.

In May, the joint commission analyzing Provisional Executive Order No. 870 decided to remove from the Secretary of Government the power to monitor the activity of non-governmental organizations.

Activists arrested

The climate of attack on civil society organizations, emboldened by the presidential discourse, culminated in November in the arrest of four firefighters from Alter do Chão, in the state of Pará, and a police raid of the offices of PSA-Projeto Saúde e Alegria (Health and Happiness Project). PSA is an NGO that for three decades has been doing recognized work promoting sustainable development with riverside communities in Pará.

In response, together with four other civil society organizations, we submitted a complaint to the United Nations and the IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) asking for immediate action to be taken with regard to the attempts to criminalize the NGO and the arrests of the four firefighters charged with starting fires in the Amazon rainforest.

We also took part in the mission of the CNDH (National Council of Human Rights), on which we serve as an alternate member, to Santarém, in the state of Pará, from December 2-4. Over the course of these three days, we met with the detained firefighters, the Federal Public Defender’s Office and the State Public Prosecutor’s Office, which is the body responsible for the external oversight of police activity. The agenda also included a hearing with the mayor of Santarém and talks with representatives of social movements and leaders who have been threatened. Indigenous people, members of local quilombola communities, fishermen and rural workers all spoke about the escalation of conflicts in the region with loggers, illegal land-grabbers, ranchers and agricultural producers. The firefighters were released on November 28 and we continue to monitor the case.



Civil society effectively influenced the National Congress and managed to overturn the article of the Provisional Measure that guaranteed control of organizations by the State.

Protection of migrants and refugees

In July, a decree signed by the then Minister of Justice, Sérgio Moro, enabled the summary deportation of migrants based on the mere suspicion that they are involved in terrorism, organized crime or drug trafficking, among other things. Ministry of Justice Decree 666/19 violates the New Migration Law (13,445/17) as it denies migrants the right to a fair trial and to due legal process.

The document gives the Federal Police the power to take arbitrary decisions and it sets a time limit of just 48 hours for a notified person to submit their defense or voluntarily leave the country. This procedure violates international commitments assumed by Brazil. Just days after its publication, 60 organizations, among them Conectas, released an open letter in which they call for the immediate repeal of the decree.

In the following month, the Prosecutor-General, Raquel Dodge, in one of her final acts while still in office, filed a case in the Supreme Court requesting the suspension of the measure proposed by Minister Sérgio Moro.

In October, Moro replaced Decree No. 666 with a new text. The new decree, no. 770, modified some aspects of the previous text. The time limit for migrants under suspicion to submit a defense, for example, was extended from 48 hours to five days.

Despite the retractions, we published a joint statement together with more than 20 organizations that work with migration in which we denounced one of the most problematic aspects of the decree that remained intact: the attempt to alter what is set out in the Migration Law



through executive action. Another problem identified by the organizations is the high level of subjectivity of the text, which leaves it up to the police authorities to decide whether or not someone may remain in the country. For these reasons, we asked the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to repeal the decree.

In the National Congress, the guarantees provided in the Migration Law were also threatened by the bill (no. 1928/19) that proposed serious setbacks to the law. Created to suggest the granting of temporary visas to young migrants who want to work in the country, the bill was substituted by one that proposed a ban on entry or the deportation of people suspected of involvement in terrorism without the right to a fair trial. In October, the Senate rejected the bill.



Supreme Court guarantees protection for victims of political persecution

On August 6, the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court unanimously vetoed the extradition request of the Brazilian-naturalized Turkish citizen, Ali Sipahi. Sipahi has lived in Brazil for 12 years and was taken into custody in April at the request of the Turkish government, which has accused him of "supporting and being a member of a terrorist group", the classification given by President Erdogan to the Gulen Movement founded by his government's opponents.

In his vote, the rapporteur of the case, Justice Edson Fachin, stated that article 82 of the Migration Law (13,445/2017) forbids extradition when "the extradited person will face a show trial in the petitioning State" and he stressed the lack of a guarantee of an impartial trial in Turkey. Appearing as an amicus curiae in the case, Conectas argued that the extradition request should be denied.

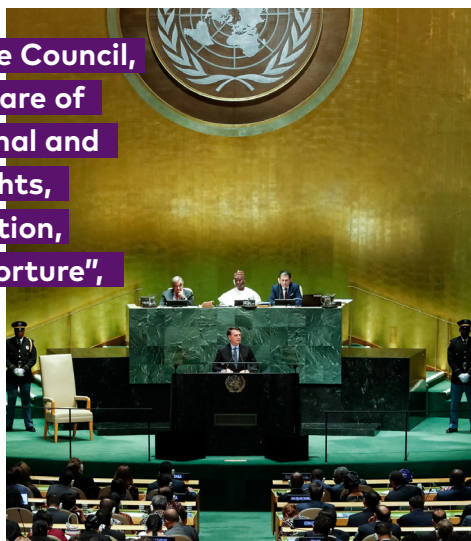
Brazil at UN HRC: candidate with a bad record

On October 17, elections were held in New York for countries competing for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council for the term from January 2020 to December 2022. With 153 votes, Brazil guaranteed its seat for another three years and, as a result, it will be able to propose and vote on resolutions. Along with Brazil, the other countries competing for the two seats available to the GRULAC (Latin American and Caribbean Group) were Venezuela and Costa Rica.

Since the creation of the Human Rights Council, in 2006, Conectas has had consultative status in the UN. For the first time, however, we recommended that Member States reject Brazil's candidacy, as we believe the Bolsonaro government opposes the historic positions built by Brazilian diplomacy on matters of human rights. We also released, together with nearly 200 other Brazilian organizations, a joint manifesto against Brazil's candidacy.

// "While occupying a seat on the Council, it is essential that Brazil is aware of its responsibilities in the internal and external defense of human rights, including issues such as migration, refuge and the fight against torture",

Camila Asano, Conectas' programs director



Distribution among regional groups



What is the UN Human Rights Council

Created in 2006, the Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system with the role to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. The Council holds regular meetings at its headquarters in Geneva to address human rights violations and make recommendations to Member States. The body has a mandate to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require attention over the course of the year. The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States, which are elected by the UN General Assembly.



See how the elections work here :

<https://www.conectas.org/en/news/how-elections-for-the-un-human-rights-council-work>

Transparency and participation

The Bolsonaro government has posed enormous challenges to democracy, social participation and government transparency. In January 2019, through Decree 9,960/19, the federal government changed the rules of the Freedom of Information Law, increasing the number of public servants that have permission to assign the status of “top secret” to public data. Conectas signed, with another 20 civil society organizations and various experts who work in the field of transparency, a joint letter criticizing the government’s decision. In the letter, they also point out the lack of public debate in arriving at this decision, as well as the government’s move away from policies that promote transparency and fight corruption.



After criticizing the National Human Rights Council, Minister Damara Alves exonerated the entity’s general coordinator (Photo: Valter Campanato / Ag. Brazil)

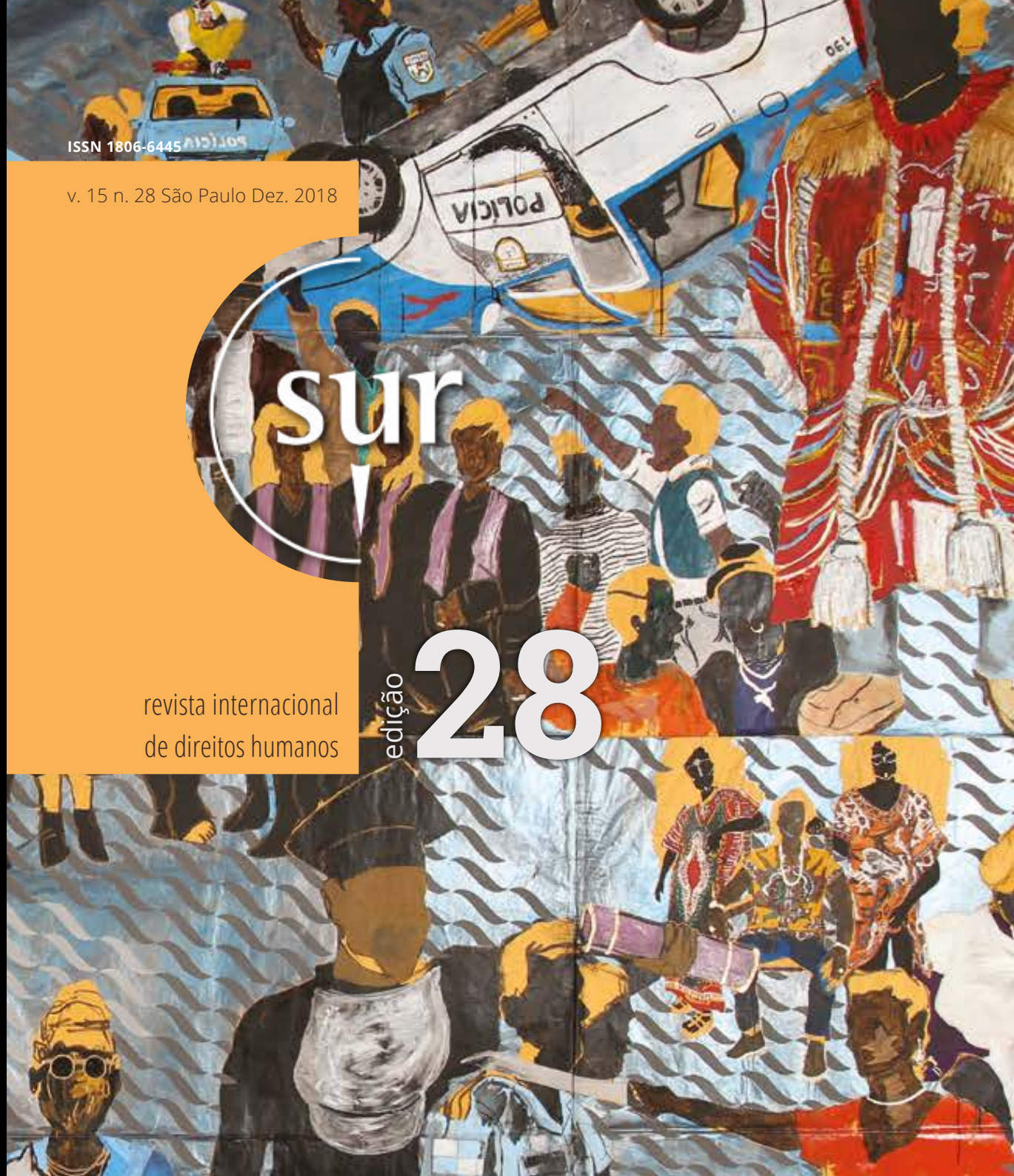


Decree signed by Vice President Hamilton Mourão changed rules of the Access to Information Law to hinder public transparency

In August, Minister Damara Alves dismissed Caroline Dias dos Reis, the Coordinator-General of the CNDH (National Council of Human Rights), an organization that reports to the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights. Reis had been appointed in December 2018 by the members of the Council. In a statement of condemnation published hours after the dismissal, the CNDH stressed that this “will enter the Council’s history as one of the biggest attacks it has suffered”.

To denounce the interference of the federal government in the CNDH, Conectas drafted a manifesto together with more than 70 civil society organizations that points out the irregularities of these maneuvers, which infringe, among other things, on the administrative independence of the Council.

Sur – International Journal on Human Rights seeks to influence the global human rights agenda by producing, promoting and disseminating research and innovative ideas, primarily from the Global South, on the practice of human rights. The journal is published in Portuguese, English and Spanish with free online access. A hard copy edition is also distributed to the principal libraries, universities, international organizations and cultural centers around the world.



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sur

revista internacional
de direitos humanos

edição

28

How racism affects the rights of the black population

Launched in January, issue 28 of the SUR Journal was titled “Race and Human Rights: Moving Structures”. The issue contains 17 articles written by 23 authors from six countries, among them the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, E. Tendayi Achiume, and researchers such as Denise Carrera, Juliana Borges, Nathália Oliveira, Thiago Amparo and Thula Pires.

Sueli Carneiro was the guest editor on this edition. She is the founder and current director of Geledés – Black Woman’s Institute and one of the leading voices of black feminism in the country.

Issue 28 also includes:

- the short documentary “Luto para nós é verbo”, produced by the filmmaker Natasha Néri, author of the award-winning book “Auto de Resistência”;
- 18 works of art in a collection called “Afro-Atlantic Histories”, curated by Hélio Menezes and Lília Schwarcz, which was named the best exhibition in the world in 2018 by The New York Times;

For the first time, the journal offered three grants to black authors with a view to encouraging and supporting activists and researchers to write about their experiences and/or research on racism and human rights in Brazil. Each grant recipient was given an amount for three months equivalent to a postgraduate grant in Brazil, between October and December 2018, and they also received mentoring while producing their articles.

// Sur is perhaps the most important human rights journal in the world. It is encouraging, at this time, that this edition is committed to contributing substantially to the theme of racism and human rights in Brazil, including content from academia, philanthropy and activism and offering a wide-ranging panorama of the seriousness and gravity of the issue of race in Brazil and around the world,”

Sueli Carneiro, guest editor

A look at religion

Issue 29 of SUR looks at how religion is intrinsically connected to human rights considering the different religious faiths, the immigration processes and freedom of worship and expression. Released in August, the issue contains 25 articles written by different authors from more than ten countries, including Brazil, France, Egypt, Thailand, Palestine, Iran and the United States.

The publication is divided into six areas that give an international perspective on the topic, its connection to the cause of migration, the relationship between politics and religious activities, the threat of religious dogmatism, spirituality expressed through art, and freedom of religion and its contribution to the struggle for rights. It also has a photographic section that explores the plurality and beauty of different spiritual ceremonies.



Access issue 29 of Sur Journal:

<https://www.conectas.org/en/news/conectas-launches-magazine-on-religion-and-human-rights-in-brasil>

_The Colloquium in 2019

The 16th edition of the International Human Rights Colloquium took place in October and was attended by nearly 50 human rights defenders from Brazil and other countries such as Hungary, the Philippines and Palestine.

Given the spread of conservative policies and the anti-rights movement in Brazil and around the world, the event represented an important space for integration and exchange between rights defenders from the Global South. The participants could share their knowledge, experiences and strategies to promote the advancement of their agendas.

// "The human rights movement faces participation constraints that in many cases imply a direct attack on the lives of its activists. In this context, it is important to have a support network for us to grow stronger and share our experiences of resistance and struggle for rights,"

Camila Asano, programs director at Conectas



The International Human Rights Colloquium

The history of the Colloquium coincides with the foundation of Conectas. Held every year since 2001, the main objective of the event is to bring together human rights activists and organizations from the Global South to share experiences and knowledge. Over the years, the Colloquium has been attended by more than 1,600 participants from 85 countries and has become one of the world's largest and most traditional human rights conferences. With a motto of diversity, the event is a symbol of the strengthening of the struggle for human rights around the world, in pursuit of a more dignified, just and equal society.



16th INTERNATIONAL

HUMAN RIGHTS

COLLOQUIUM



This edition of the Colloquium included activities in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco and Brasília, and the participants - divided into four groups - could see the fieldwork conducted by Conectas and its partner organizations in recent years.



Brasília

The activity focused on political advocacy in the National Congress and the participants visited the offices and committees of the Lower House and the Senate, and they also spoke to representatives of the Federal Prosecutor's Office and visited embassies;

São Paulo

In addition to visiting the Quilombaque Cultural Community and the Aparelha Luzia Cultural Center, the group also accompanied the work of the following organizations that monitor police violence in the state:

- CAAF (Forensic Archeology and Anthropology Center of the Federal University of São Paulo), which is working on the identification of the human bones found in a secret grave from the time of the military dictatorship in the Perus cemetery; and
- CDHS (Human Rights Center of Sapopemba), which provides direct support to the local population in the tackling of police violence and prevention of genocide.

Pernambuco

They visited the work conducted by the Suape Forum, which fights to guarantee the rights of quilombola communities affected by the construction of the Suape Industrial Port Complex. In Recife, the team participated in events and debates organized by GAJOP (Office of Legal Counsel to Grassroots Organizations);

Rio de Janeiro

In the state capital, they got to know the work of the organization Redes da Maré, to see up close the challenges faced by activists and residents in one of the largest complexes of favela communities in the city; and they also visited the State Public Defender's Office and held meetings to monitor the international work of the organizations CEJIL (Center for Justice and International Law) and ISER (Institute for Religious Studies) on Rio's public security policy;



Recognition

Camila Asano, programs director at Conectas, was one of nine women honored by Alesp (São Paulo State Legislature) in the 5th edition of the Beth Lobo Human Rights of Women Award. The award ceremony took place on March 8, International Women's Day, in the Juscelino Kubitschek Hall of Alesp.



"Recognition from democratic institutions is important as we are going through a delicate time in terms of human rights. Having recognition from solid institutions that guarantee the rights of all people, particularly minorities, is fundamental,"

Camila Asano, diretora de programas da Conectas.

Human rights on the news agenda

A press committed to the defense of human rights is essential for the monitoring of important issues and for the mobilization of civil society. Because of this, we have developed actions aimed at expanding coverage and training professionals.

→ Course on Journalism and Human Rights - targeted at university students of journalism and other disciplines who are interested in human rights. The course is one of the modules of the Reporter of the Future project, organized by the OBORÉ communication agency with the support of ABRAJI (Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism) and IPFD (Institute of Research, Training and Dissemination in Social Public Policies). The course was taken by 20 selected students in September and October.

→ Online human rights course - in January, one hundred professional journalists participated in the 2nd edition of the training program organized in partnership with ABRAJI.

Who are the potential donors to human rights causes

Released in May, in partnership with CEAPG (Research Centre on Public Administration and Government) of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation, the new study "Behavioral Research on High-Income Donors" outlined the social, demographic and behavioral profile of potential Brazilian high-income donors. The project was supported by the BIS Fund of GIFE (Group of Institutions, Foundations and Enterprises) and was intended to identify the motives and interests of this segment of the population with regard to donations to human rights causes.



"Historically, organizations turn to international foundations to fund their activities. Nowadays, in a context of attacks on activism and threats of intervention in the work of NGOs, we need to diversify our funding to the fullest,"

Juana Kweitel, executive director of Conectas.



Do you want to see the results?
Access them here

<https://www.conectas.org/en/news/original-research-outlines-the-profile-of-high-income-donors-in-brazil>

Our events

Cine Human Rights

Use the beauty and the different narrative forms of the seventh art to promote reflection and broaden the debate on topics such as rights, justice and equality. This is the goal of Cine Human Rights, a partnership between Conectas and SESC 24 de Maio, in downtown São Paulo. The free film screenings from this 1st edition began in February, always on the last Wednesday of the month. After each screening, guests associated with the topic discuss the film with the public.

Ideas Fair

The 5th Ideas Fair, an annual event organized by Conectas in partnership with Sesc Pompéia in commemoration of International Human Rights Day, was held on December 14, in São Paulo. A total of 20 projects were exhibited, in the most diverse formats, focusing on the promotion and realization of human rights in the following categories: visual and performance arts, short films (documentaries or fiction, up to 15 minutes long), photography, social and community initiatives, journalism and academic projects.

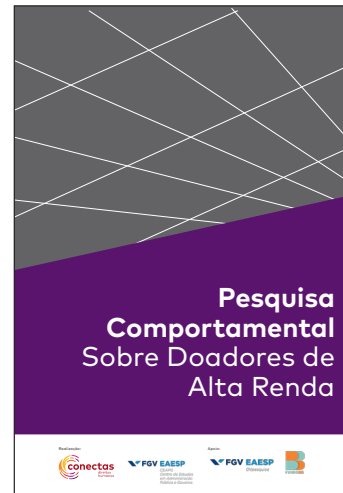
Vladimir Herzog Award

The winners of the 41st edition of the Vladimir Herzog Award for Amnesty and Human Rights were the journalists Patrícia Campos Mello (Folha de São Paulo) and Glenn Greenwald (The Intercept Brasil). Hermínio Sacchetta, an icon of old-school newsrooms for entire generations of Brazilian journalists, was honored in memoriam. Conectas is one of the organizations that serves on the organizing committee of the Award.

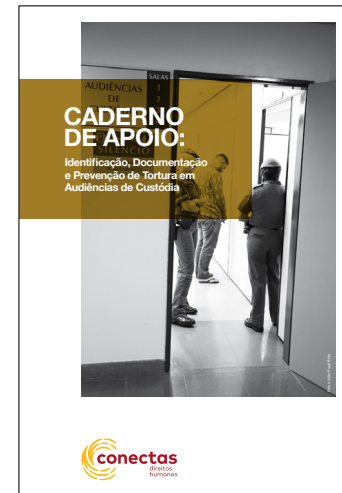


Production of knowledge

The production of knowledge and action-oriented research is one of the methods used by Conectas to influence key topics in the human rights movement. In 2019, the following documents were published:



→ Behavioral Research on High-Income Donors



→ Support Brochure: Identification, Documentation and Prevention of Torture in Custody Hearings



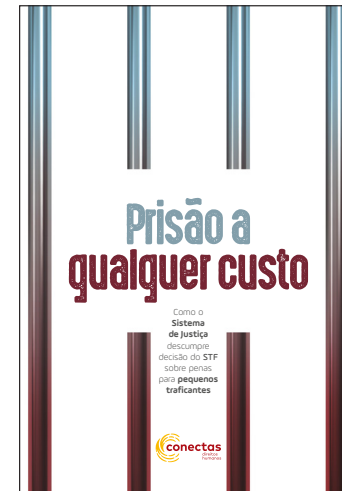
→ Climate Litigation Guide



→ 2nd monitoring report on the recommendations to Brazil by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights



→ Prison at any cost: executive summary



→ Prison at any cost: how the justice system is not complying with the Supreme Court ruling on sentences for small-scale drug dealers



→ The price of freedom: bail and fines in the criminal justice system



Access the documents published by Conectas in 2019:
<https://www.conectas.org>

Councils and Committees

Conectas also actively participates on civil society councils that monitor the enforcement of public policies on human rights.

National Council of Human Rights

We serve as an alternate member of the National Council of Human Rights, a body that reports to the Human Rights Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

Representative:
Camila Asano
Term:
2018-2020

National Committee to Prevent and Combat Torture

We are a member of CNPCT (National Committee to Prevent and Combat Torture), a body of the Ministry of Justice that aims to help combat torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment in detention facilities. We contribute by proposing actions and programs intended to eradicate torture.

Representative:
Henrique Apolinario
Term:
2018-2020

Municipal Commission for the Eradication of Slave Labor

We have been a member of COMTRAE (Municipal Commission for the Eradication of Slave Labor) in the city of São Paulo since 2014. We serve a two-year term, which is renewable for another two years.

Representative:
Camila Asano

Networks and Partners



Our staff



Women

16

Management
position

4

Non-Brazilians

2



Men

13

Management
position

3

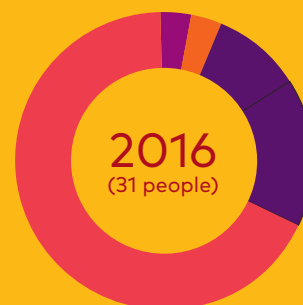
Non-Brazilians

1

Racial diversity

In recent years Conectas has been revising its affirmative action practices. The result is a more diverse team, including at managerial levels:

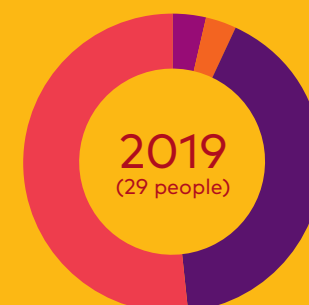
White
67,7%
People of color
25,8%
Oriental
3,2%
Not declared
3,2%



Management position

White
6
Oriental
1

White
51,72%
People of color
41,38%
Oriental
3,45%
Not declared
3,45%



Management position

White
4
People of color
2
Oriental
1

Age Range

up to 25

4

26 to 35

10

36 to 45

10

over 45 years

5

Report financial

Revenues 2019	(BRL)
Open Society Foundations	2,996,409
Oak Foundation Ltd	1,219,021
The Ford Foundation	977,380
Sigrid Rausing Trust	762,557
Anônimo	634,869
Instituto C&A	444,553
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	287,179
Somo ST Onderz mult Onde	149,674
Channel Foundation	122,632
Instituto Betty e A. Jacob Lafer	115,295
Instituto Clima e Sociedade - iCS	94,561
Derecho, Ambiente Y Recursos Naturales	84,042
Tides Foundation	76,662
Voluntariado	74,654
Optional Protocol to The Convention Against Torture – OPCAT OHCHR	68,618
Embaixada dos Países Baixos	59,735
Consulado Geral do Canadá	40,457
Doações de indivíduos	29,775
Grupo de Institutos, Fundações e Empresas	29,540
William S. Hein & Co. Inc	1,248
Total	8,268,860

Our work is supported by donations from national and international private foundations, as well as development agencies and individuals who believe in our causes and in the impact of our work. All resources raised are invested in our programs to promote human rights, to combat setbacks, and in denouncing violations as well as maintaining the necessary infrastructure to carry out this work.

Expenses 2019	(BRL)
Administrative and Financial	730,496
Fundraising	521,136
Institutional Communication	691,450
Institutional Development	454,020
Institutional Violence	1,512,465
Strengthening Democratic Space	1,301,946
International Human Rights Colloquium	677,500
Sur Journal	631,193
Development and Socioenvironmental Rights	1,575,920
Total	8,096,126

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legal and finance director

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coordinator, development and socioenvironmental rights

Leonardo Medeiros

coordinator, communication and engagement

Fernanda Miotto

coordinator, administrative and financial

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Pg. 16: João Paulo Brito/Conectas e Tiago Miotto/Cimi

Pag. 17: Miguel Angel Herrera; Fernando Martinho

Pag. 18: Miguel Angel Herrera; Fernando Martinho

Pg. 19: João Paulo Brito/Conectas

Pg. 20: Leonardo Medeiros/Conectas

Pg. 21: Marcos Machado/Agência Senado

Pg. 22: Leonardo Medeiros/Conectas

Pg. 23: Leonardo Medeiros/Conectas; Carlos Moura/STF

Pg. 24: Divulgação

Pg. 25: Valter Campanato/Agência Brasil e EBC/Agência Brasil

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Pg. 30: Marco Antonio Cardelino

Pg. 31: João Paulo Brito/Conectas e Bianca Moreira/Conectas

Pg. 32: Bianca Moreira/Conectas; Junior/Enoá; João Paulo Brito/Conectas;

Pg. 33: Bianca Moreira/Conectas



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