

Conectas Annual Report 2023



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letter from the director

After four years under a federal government administration that attacked and neglected actions to implement and expand human rights, the new federal administration, arriving in office in 2023 and made up of a broad swath of different political actors, made it possible to return to the dialog between the government and civil society organizations dedicated to defending the fundamental rights of the Brazilian population, of which Conectas is proud to be part. However, there were still major challenges faced throughout the year.

As seen on January 8, democracy is still in jeopardy. Therefore, Conectas Direitos Humanos worked on several fronts to ensure that the Federal Constitution would be upheld and not vilified. To strengthen the democratic space, we defended a safe internet without misinformation, immigrant rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and the expansion of the space for civil society to operate. The fight against racism and for gender equality was also on our agenda at different times in 2023.

On the one hand, the federal government established important ministries in the area of human rights, dedicated to causes such as those of Indigenous Peoples, Racial Equality, Women and, of course, the Human Rights department itself. On the other hand, historic rights violations continued to occur, requiring intense advocacy on the part of Conectas, including in the demand for greater agility from the federal government in presenting responses, as well as the provision of resources for the implementation of public human rights policies.

We also noticed an escalation of institutional violence in Brazilian states. In São Paulo, we actively worked with local movements and institutions in the rights defense and guarantee system (such as the public defender's office, the Brazilian national human rights council (CNDH), the police ombudsman, among others) to avoid abuse of authority by the police in the "Operação Escudo" operation, promoting high-profile initiatives, such as the complaint before the UN Human Rights Council and the legal action that resulted in control measures and mandatory

preservation of the program that required law enforcement officers to wear body cameras. We also contributed to rights defense measures related to violations that occurred in the state of Rio de Janeiro, particularly through the Favela ADPF (Action Against a Violation of a Constitutional Fundamental Right), in a swift reaction to protect the human rights of the State's main victims: black and impoverished people. We have continued to work on other core matters in the fight against institutional violence, including the fight against torture in prison units and therapeutic communities. Alongside social movements, such as those of mothers who lost their children to police raids, we also worked for justice, reparation and non-repetition in rights violation cases.

In the area of socio-environmental rights, we managed, through the judiciary and executive branches of power, to resume important programs and mechanisms in the fight against deforestation and the climate crisis. The Amazon Fund and the National Environmental Council (Conama), for instance, are once again part of the efforts that attempt to secure the future of the planet.

There were major challenges in this area. We fought against the invasion of indigenous territories and intervened to prevent the worsening of conflicts involving indigenous peoples. The work against slave labor was another highlight of the year, along with actions carried out with quilombola or rural communities impacted by large developments.

In the institutional area, our board of directors led Conectas with the mission of strengthening our perspective on the Global South, in addition to pursuing internal policies that value the team from an anti-racist perspective. The organization earned a registration with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With those registrations, we expanded our active participation in debates on human rights in international systems.

The only reason we were able to move forward, even during an internal transition process, was thanks to the tireless and professional work of our team, for which we are immensely grateful. Likewise, we acknowledge that everything we did was thanks to a network of partnerships, made up of organizations, movements and collectives extremely committed to upholding human rights. We hope you enjoy reading this report!

**Camila Asano, Marcos Fuchs,
Gabriel Sampaio and Júlia Neiva**

meet conectas



who we are

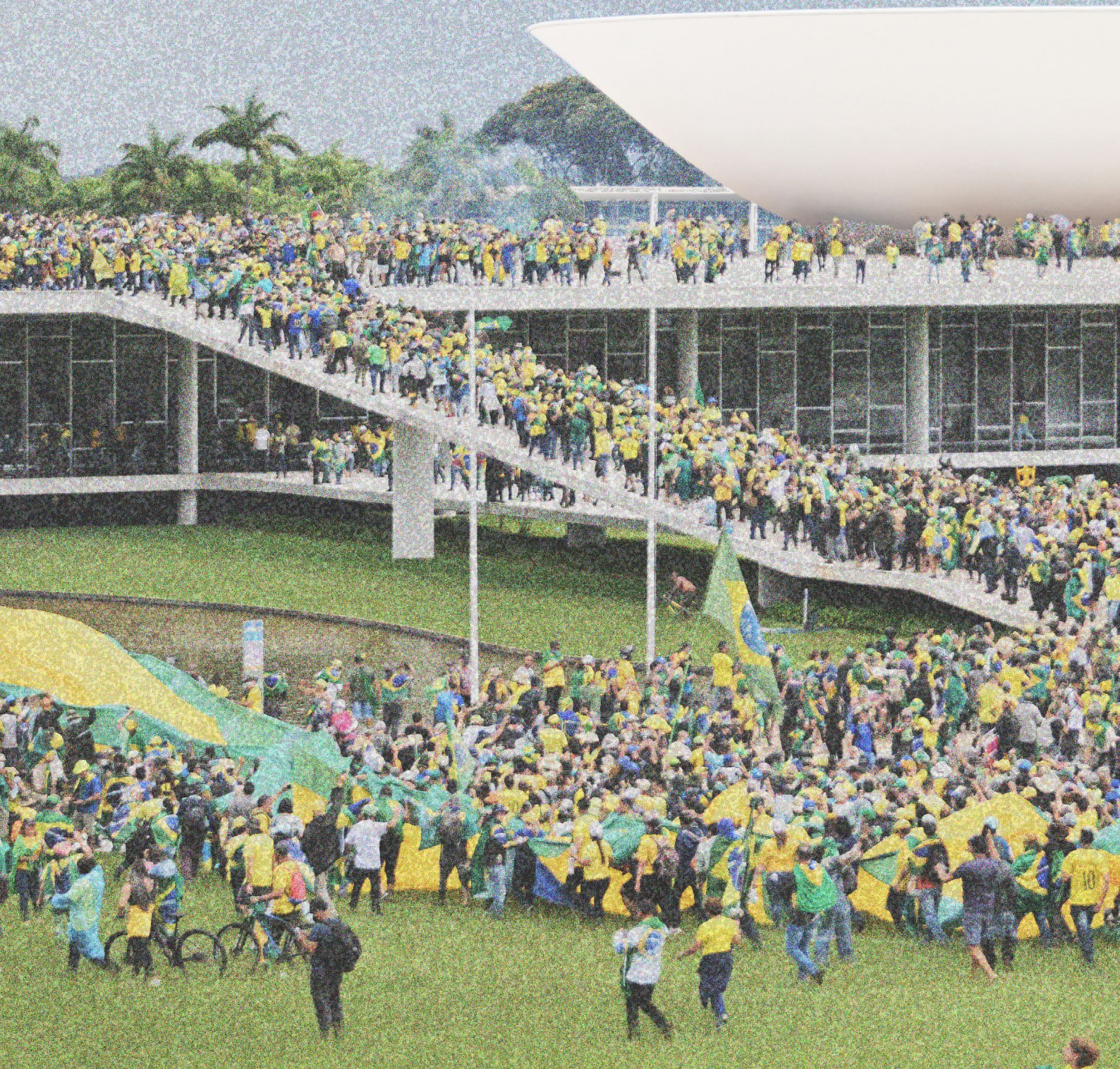
In addition to being a non-governmental organization, we are part of a living, global movement that persists in the fight for equal rights. Connected to an extensive network of partners spread across Brazil and worldwide, we are present and make ourselves heard in several decision-making spaces that contribute to the advancement of human rights from the perspective of the Global South. We work to protect and expand the rights of all, especially groups that are most vulnerable. We offer solutions, fight against setbacks and report violations to produce transformations.

mission

Implementing and expanding human rights and fighting inequalities to build a fair, free and democratic society from the perspective of the Global South.

vision

Facing injustices and proposing solutions that have a positive impact on people's lives, particularly for those most vulnerable.



strengthening the democratic space



strengthening the democratic space

DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY AND COUP ATTEMPTS ON JANUARY 8

On January 8, 2023, the Three Branches Plaza, in Brasília (DF), became the scene of unprecedented depredations, carried out by far-right groups, which constituted one of the most heinous attacks on Brazilian democracy in this century. The damage was not limited to physical infrastructure – democracy and democratic institutions were also under attack. These events are the culmination of a discourse marked by authoritarianism and anti-democratic tendencies that permeated the four years of the Bolsonaro administration.

Conectas was emphatic in condemning the actions and demanding that the aggressors and their financiers be held accountable. In its statement, the organization highlighted the urgency of promoting peace and stability in the country, in order to direct efforts to tackle crucial issues such as inequality, hunger, racism, violence and the defense of the fundamental rights of those most vulnerable.

The international condemnation of the attacks was also significant, with over 40 governments, organizations and international observers speaking out in defense of Brazilian democracy. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, reiterated the importance of respecting the will of the Brazilian people, expressed in the elections, and the integrity of democratic institutions.

Photo: Evariste Sa/AFP



GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

In January 2023, the Lula administration announced the return to the Global Compact for Migration as one of the reversals of the previous administration's anti-rights policies. The decision restored the country as an international reference when it comes to migration and granting asylum. According to the UN, 258 million people are displaced or migrants, representing 3.4% of the world's population. Though the number is concerning, at the start of Jair Bolsonaro's administration, in January 2019, the leader announced that Brazil would leave the Global Compact for Migration, signed the previous month by 164 countries. The idea of the agreement was to strengthen international cooperation on migration, highlighting 23 objectives, such as facilitating migration regularization, providing basic services for migrants and eliminating all forms of discrimination. The rationale for leaving was that the agreement represented a threat to national sovereignty, a decision that was widely criticized by Conectas.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION, ASYLUM AND STATELESS PERSONS

Between March 10 and 22, 2023, Conectas was part of the Task Force (GT, Grupo de Trabalho) of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP) created to support the National Policy on Migration, Asylum and Statelessness (PNRMA), set out in article 120 of the Migration Law (Law 13,445/2017) and currently pending drafting. The organization participated in axis 3 of the GT, the topic of which was "promotion and protection of rights, combating racism and xenophobia", by attending meetings between authorities and civil society and submitting written proposals, together with the Caritas of the Archdiocese of São Paulo.

After the end of the GT, by the date of publication of this activity report, the MJSP has not yet presented any version of the Decree that will establish the PNMRA.

AFGHAN REFUGEES

Since the escalation of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan in 2021, around 5.7 million people have been forced to seek asylum in other countries. A measure adopted by the Brazilian government at the time seemed to complicate this situation even further. In

Photo: Nelson Almeida/AFP



September 2023, 38 organizations, including Conectas, expressed their concern with the Interministerial Ordinance of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and Foreign Affairs (MJSP/MRE) No. 42, which limits the right to migration and international asylum seeking by conditioning the granting of humanitarian visas to the existence of available spots in shelters managed by civil society. This rule makes the Afghan population even more vulnerable. The organizations asked the government to revoke article 3 of said Ordinance and restate the commitment to the human rights principles present in Brazil's migration and refugee laws

RECEPTION OF MIGRANTS IN BRAZIL DEPENDS ON RACE AND COLOR, POINTS OUT DATAFOLHA

On June 20, the day World Refugee Day was celebrated, Conectas released an unprecedented survey carried out in a partnership with Datafolha. The survey showed that 61% of Brazilians, from a sample of 1,000 interviewees, think that the national government should have more policies and actions meant for migrants in vulnerable situations. Furthermore, 39% of them believe that the country should receive more people from other countries and 70% think that migrants should have access to public services, such as health and education, in addition to social benefits and social security. 68% of interviewees also agree with the phrase “no human being is illegal”. “We have good legislation with a human rights foundation, although it still needs to advance and improve”, said the then coordinator of the Program for Strengthening the Democratic Space at Conectas, Raissa Belintani.

[Check out more details about the Conectas/Datafolha survey](#)

LEGAL ABORTION IN THE BRAZILIAN UNIFIED HEALTH SYSTEM (SUS)

During her inauguration speech in early January 2023, the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, stated that she would revise measures that offended science and human rights. The promise was fulfilled on the 18th day of that month, when the department revoked six ordinances signed during the Bolsonaro administration and that contradicted the guidelines of the SUS (Brazilian Unified Health System). One of them, Ordinance No. 2,561, required medical staff to notify police authorities in cases of abortion due to rape. The Brazilian government also withdrew from the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family, an ultra-conservative

Photo: Marizilda Cruppe/Conectas



alliance that advocates for a restrictive concept of family and opposes the right to abortion, even in legal cases. The changes reflected intense work by civil society entities that fight for sexual and reproductive rights, including Conectas.

STF VOTES TO DECRIMINALIZE ABORTION

In September 2023, before retiring, justice Rosa Weber, who presided over the Supreme Court (STF, acronym in Portuguese) at the time, included the lawsuit calling for the decriminalization of abortion in Brazil on the virtual trial agenda. The lawsuit filed in 2017 by the Brazilian Socialism and Freedom Party (PSOL), with technical support from Anis - Instituto de Bioética, calls for the decriminalization of abortions carried out voluntarily by the pregnant person by the 12th week of pregnancy. Weber was in favor of decriminalization and her vote remains valid even after her retirement. However, Justice Luís Roberto Barroso, who began to preside over the Court, declared that he had no plans to resume the trial. Conectas is a party to the case as *amicus curiae*.

During the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council, five civil society organizations, including Conectas, defended the approval of ADPF 442. “We ask the Council to inquire the Brazilian State about the measures being taken to prevent mortality caused by unsafe abortions. We also appeal to the Federal Supreme Court to judge the action in favor of decriminalization”, announced the organizations.

Watch the video of the complaint filed before the UN

BRAZIL REJECTS ANTI-LGBTQIA+ RECOMMENDATIONS

During the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council, in March 2023, Brazil rejected recommendations from other member states that sought to restrict the definition of family and discriminated against LGBTQIA+ individuals. While Egypt asked Brazil to promote “policies to support the family as a natural and fundamental unit of society”, Russia recommended “providing full support to the institution of the family in its traditional understanding”. Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes stated that Brazilian public policies cover all forms of families, without discrimination. Conectas participated in the 4th Cycle of the UPR, submitting thematic reports on human rights in the country, and is part of the UPR Collective, a coalition of civil society organizations that monitors and influences this review mechanism.

Photo: Nelson Almeida/AFP



GENDER PARITY IN THE JUDICIARY BRANCH

“We must make a radical commitment to face social inequalities in our country, which includes issues of gender and race,” said Gabriel Sampaio, director of advocacy and litigation at Conectas. Sampaio gave oral arguments in the case that resulted in the implementation of a gender alternation system to fill vacancies in the appellate courts of the Brazilian justice system. In September 2023, this normative act was passed by the majority vote of the National Council of Justice (CNJ).

According to information from the JUSTA platform, the majority of judge positions are occupied by men (60% men and 40% women). This disparity is even more pronounced when it comes to justice positions, where men predominate (77% men and 23% women). Therefore, the higher the position in the judicial hierarchy, the lower the female representation. With the measure, courts are now obliged to issue notices alternating the creation of mixed and exclusive lists until gender parity is achieved.

DEFINITION OF TERRORISM UNDER DISCUSSION

In the Chamber of Deputies, three draft bills (PL, acronym in Portuguese) were processed with the intention of expanding the definition of terrorism — two presented by the Executive branch during the Jair Bolsonaro administration (732/2022 and 733/2022) and another proposed by then federal congressman Major Vitor Hugo (1595/2019).

During the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, in March 2023, Conectas, Artigo 19, Instituto de Defesa do Direito de Defesa (IDDD), Justiça Global, Terra de Direito and Rede Justiça Criminal (RJC) asked the body to inquire Brazil about the reckless expansion of the concept of terrorism. According to the organizations, this expansion could be used to criminalize legitimate protests and peaceful demonstrations.

[Watch the speech given at the UN](#)

DEFENSE OF CIVIL SOCIETY'S SPACE FOR ACTION

In June 2023, together with the organization Terra de Direito, Conectas held a parallel event at the UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with the purpose of establishing dialog with Clément Voule, then United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to free

Photo: Rômulo Serpa/Agência CNJ



assembly and association. In the same month, Voule had issued recommendations to the Brazilian State after a ten-day visit to Brazil in April 2022. The points of concern highlighted by the rapporteur were in the sense of promoting the implementation of democracy in the country and included the lack of resolution of the Marielle case, attacks on indigenous peoples and the existence of draft bills that worryingly expand the definition of terrorism. In addition to Voule, the organizations Conectas, Geledés, Terra de Direito and MST.

NEW UN TERRORISM RAPORTEURSHIP

In November 2023, we submitted suggestions for priorities for the work of the new UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights, Ben Saul, whose mandate shall last until 2026. In the document, the organizations highlighted concerns regarding the increase in vigilantism in Brazil in recent years, and the existence of attempts to criminalize social movements through anti-terrorism legislation. In addition to highlighting the importance of the new rapporteur maintaining open dialog and ensuring the participation of entities in international discussions on the topic, the concern with the effects of anti-terrorism measures in Latin America and the Caribbean was also highlighted as an essential point of concern and action.

REPUDIATION OF A VIOLENT RAID BY THE MILITARY POLICE DURING A VOTE TALLY AT ALESP

Over 30 organizations, including Conectas, published a note repudiating the Military Police raid at the Legislative Assembly of the State of São Paulo (Alesp) against demonstrators protesting as a result of the vote for the privatization of the state's Basic Sanitation Company, Sabesp. In addition to the use of pepper spray and batons, at least five people were injured and required medical care. In the document published in December 2023, the entities also warn that the Military Police's stance is incompatible with the right to freedom of expression, association, political and social participation, demonstration and the right to protest.

Photo: Divulgação Alesp



SAFE INTERNET

The “Internet for Trust” conference, held by UNESCO in Paris, France, in February 2023, discussed how to make the internet a safer and more democratic environment. One of the focuses of the meeting was the development of guidelines to regulate digital platforms. The event was a response to UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ global call to curtail the spread of misinformation and denial of scientific facts. Among the Brazilians present were justice Luís Roberto Barroso, influencer Felipe Neto and journalist Patrícia Campos Mello. “Recent experiences in Brazil can be important for the global effort to make the internet safe for all people and democratic institutions,” said Raissa Belintani, then coordinator of the Strengthening the Democratic Space program at Conectas, who was also present at the event.

PRIVACY AND DATA CONTROL

In the context of the pandemic and during the Bolsonaro administration, digital technologies that collected health information, biometric data and geolocation of the Brazilian population were adopted in an accelerated and disorderly fashion. This situation was worsened by failures in transparency channels and the lack of information about these acquisitions.

The period was also marked by increased government spending on the acquisition of hacking equipment and spy software, violating the rights to freedom of expression, association, privacy and intimacy. The persistent fragility of control mechanisms and the unwillingness of responsible institutions to monitor the use of these technologies effectively and with the participation of civil society worsen this scenario.

In March 2023, during the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, Conectas, Artigo 19, Data Privacy Brasil and Transparência Internacional Brasil denounced this scenario and asked the agency to inquire the government about the data collection carried out during the pandemic, in addition to spending on hacking equipment and spy software.

[Check out the full speech](#)

FIGHTING MISINFORMATION

Still in 2022, amid the rapid spread of disinformation in the Brazilian digital environment, academic entities and civil society organizations, such as Conectas, joined forces to face this challenge, creating the Articulation Room against Disinformation (SAD, acronym in Portuguese). In February, the initiative published a document detailing problems in the policies of digital platforms during the 2022 elections and recommending new changes. In April 2023, the collective released the document “The regulation of digital platforms in Brazil: positioning of civil society organizations and academic entities”. The report highlighted the pressing need to establish a new regulatory framework for digital platforms in the country. The proposals presented include the creation of an independent and autonomous regulatory body, which is multisectoral and entails levels of social participation. The organizations recognize that this is the only way to increase the transparency of big techs, strengthening accountability mechanisms and mitigating the negative and harmful impacts of disinformation on human rights.

Furthermore, in June of the same year, SAD released a new set of consensuses regarding the Fake News Draft Bill (PL 2630/2020). In the document, the group highlights the importance of Brazilian regulation on the topic, including holding digital platforms accountable for boosted content, promoting transparency and creating a regulatory body, as fundamental measures to combat the spread of misinformation.

Check out the full reports on the regulation of digital platforms:

- » [O papel das plataformas na proteção da integridade eleitoral](#)
- » [Regulação das plataformas digitais no Brasil](#)



VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR CASE

After suffering yet another case of racism, the player Vinícius Júnior, a Brazilian striker who plays for Real Madrid — from Spain, which is part of the European Union —, used the networks to speak his mind: “Isolated episode number 19. And counting...”. Between 2021 and 2023, there were ten such occurrences. In May 2023, more than 160 civil society organizations, including Conectas, delivered a letter to the EU Delegation in Brazil demanding measures to fight racism not only in football, but throughout society, especially in the bloc countries. “Our yearnings would be met by energetic and concrete actions addressing not only the episode of last May 21st before *La Liga* and everyone involved, but also for football to be interpreted as a public policy with the construction and concrete implementation of actions that have the core focus of fighting racism”, state the entities in the letter.

NEW AFFIRMATIVE ACTION LAW

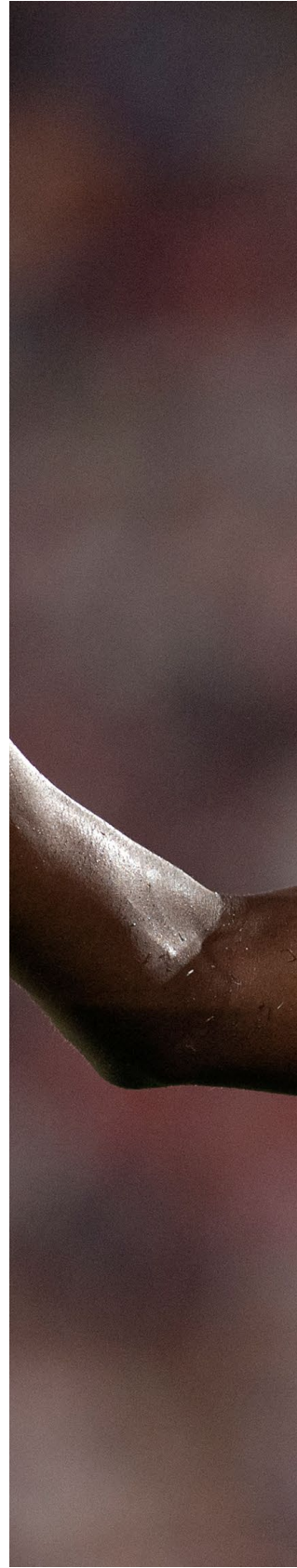
In the period between 2012, when the Affirmative Action Law was enacted, and 2019, there was a significant increase of 205% in the presence of students from public schools, self-declared black, brown and indigenous people in the classrooms of the country’s universities. This datum is highlighted in a study conducted by the Laboratory of Studies and Research in Social Economy of the School of Economics, Administration and Accounting of Ribeirão Preto of the University of São Paulo and by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

In November 2023, this legislation underwent a review and was sanctioned by President Lula. Among the amendments introduced, the inclusion of quilombola people in the vacancy reservation policy, the prioritization of students in social vulnerability situations to receive student aid, the expansion of affirmative action policies for postgraduate studies at federal universities and the determination of a review of the affirmative action program, every 10 years, by the responsible ministries.

“It is crucial to highlight that these changes were the result of the demands of the black movement since the 1970s, in response to the abuses of the military dictatorship, gaining even more strength during the country’s redemocratization process in the 1980s”, stated Hallana de Carvalho and Jefferson Barbosa in a statement published by Geledés.

Conectas monitored and supported advocacy actions related to the agenda in Congress led by black movement organizations.

Photo: Jorge Guerrero/AFP





E-BOOK DISCUSSES RELIGIOUS RACISM IN BRAZIL

The term “religious racism” has been claimed by civil society organizations and leaders of African-based religions as being more appropriate than “religious intolerance” to name a practice that threatens the freedom and existence of peoples who worship at terreiros. The expression “religious intolerance” is considered restricted, as it does not adequately address the targeting of this type of crime against cultural heritage and the African civilizational legacy as a whole. In September 2023, Criola, Conectas and Portal Catarinas, with the support of Synergia, released the e-book “Religious Racism: a look through new lenses at the violations related to the growing tension between religious freedom and freedom of expression”. The publication is the result of a cycle of discussions held virtually by the organizations, throughout 2022, addressing different aspects of religious racism in the Brazilian and Latin American context, with the purpose of expanding dialog with sectors of civil society and strengthening actions to overcome it.

[**Access the e-book**](#)

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN GAZA

The conflict between Israel and Hamas, which began on October 7, 2023, is now considered the deadliest in the history of Gaza. UN officials have expressed concern regarding both the level of violence and the multiple violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. In his first call to the international community, on October 11, Secretary-General António Guterres reinforced: “Civilians must be protected at all times.” The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, also joined the call for an immediate end to the conflict, as well as for the safety of the population. Conectas reinforced the calls from UN authorities and joined other global organizations in asking that weapons not be supplied to the Israeli Army.

BRAZIL RESUMES MANDATE AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

In October 2023, with 144 votes, Brazil won a mandate on the UN Human Rights Council for the sixth time since the body’s creation in 2006. In its commitment document, the country promised

Photo: Lucio Tavora/AFP



to act “in the three dimensions of time: past, present and future, which are intertwined and inseparable”. During the hearing, held a month before the election, Conectas questioned the government about how the country intended to comply with the United Nations’ recommendations on the decriminalization of voluntary abortion. The Brazilian delegation highlighted the high priority of the issue and mentioned that the State already allows three forms of legal abortion, also acknowledging, at that time, the structural inequalities that mainly affect black women.

Photo: Juan Seguí Moreno / Flickr / Agência Brasil





Photo: Michel Dantas/AFP



defense of social environmental rights



defense of social and environmental rights

AMAZON SUMMIT

The Amazon Summit, which took place on the 8th and 9th of August, in Belém, Pará, was an important international event in Brazil in 2023. Proposed by President Lula in April, the idea was to revive the ACTO (Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization), which brings together the countries that make up the Amazon: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

Watch the video about the Amazon Summit, produced by GT Infra, FBOMS, GTA, FMCJS and Conectas Direitos Humanos

AMAZON FUND: RESOURCES TO PROTECT THE FOREST

The Amazon Fund was created in 2008 with the purpose of funding actions to reduce emissions from forest degradation and deforestation. In 2019, the environment minister at the time, Ricardo Salles, stated that the federal government would use the money from the initiative, coming from countries such as Norway and Germany, as compensation for land expropriation in protected areas. In the same year, the Bolsonaro administration issued decrees that paralyzed the Fund's operations, ending its technical and guiding committees. This resulted in the retention of around BRL1.5 billion that would be allocated to projects to prevent and fight deforestation in the Legal Amazon.

In 2020, Conectas acted as *amicus curiae* in a lawsuit that arrived before the STF challenging these decrees. In November 2022, the STF decided that the suspension of the Amazon Fund violated the 1988 Federal Constitution and ordered its reactivation. On the first day of his administration, President Lula announced the recovery of the

program, as well as the FNMA (National Environmental Fund, acronym in Portuguese), the oldest environmental fund in Latin America, also prohibiting artisanal mining on indigenous lands.

UNDERSTAND HOW THE AMAZON FUND WORKS

Source: Ministry of the Environment

BRL 3 billion Amount that the Amazon Fund has in cash to finance new projects

donations made in 2023

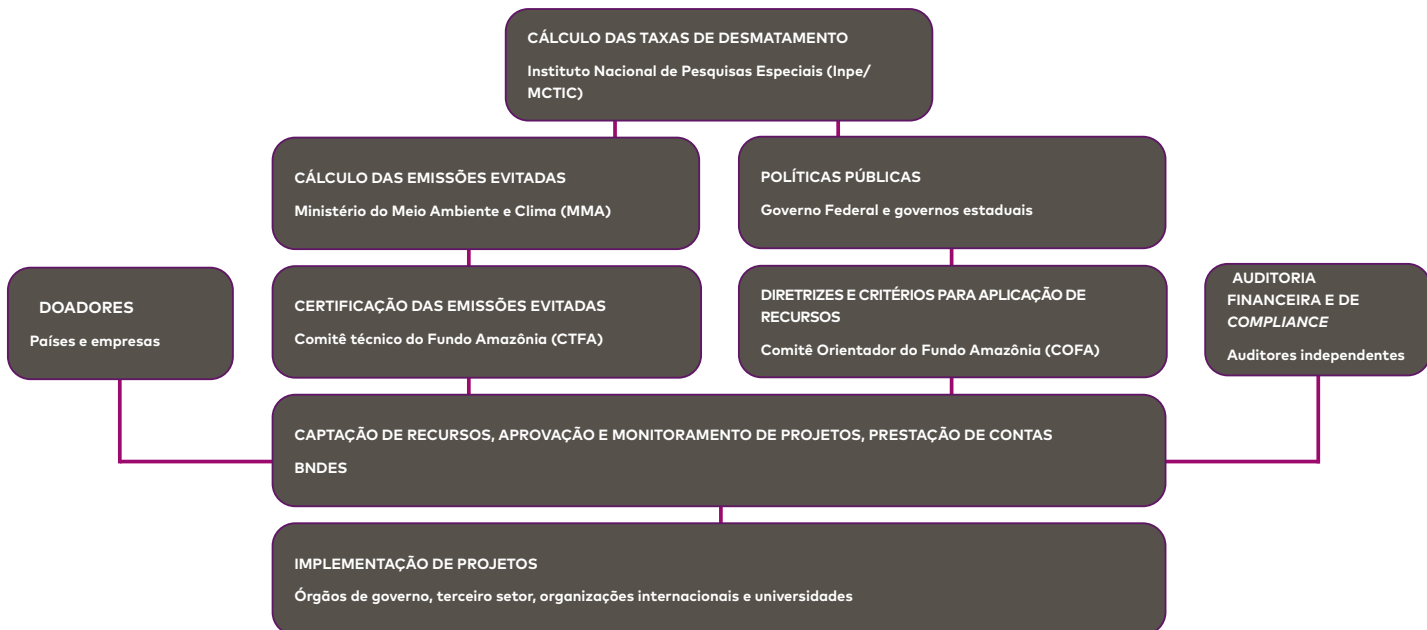
BRL 497 million UK
BRL 186 million Germany
BRL 28 million Switzerland
BRL 15 million United States
total: BRL 726 million

announced donations that have not yet been transferred

BRL 2.4 billion United States
BRL 245 million Norway
BRL 218 million United Kingdom
BRL 107 million European Union
BRL 107 million Denmark
total: BRL 3.1 billion

BRL 483.6 million amount committed by February 2024

Approved projects: **1) Network Agroecology; 2) Territorial Management; 3) Safer and Sovereign Amazon**



Source: BNDES

CLIMATE RESPONSE

In 2019, the British newspaper The Guardian implemented a significant change in its editorial language, opting to replace terms such as “global warming” and “climate change” with expressions such as climate “crisis”, “emergency” or “collapse”. This change attempted to convey a sense of urgency to a wider audience, emphasizing the need for immediate actions given the situation. Following a similar approach, Conectas launched the document “Boosting Climate Action from Human Rights” in September 2023, during a seminar by the National Justice Council (CNJ).

This report presents eight crucial points to realign climate governance in Brazil. Among the measures, highlights include the need to integrate issues of class, race and gender, as well as the fight against environmental racism. Furthermore, the document emphasizes the importance of securing the rights of indigenous, quilombola and other traditional communities. It also highlights that strengthening institutions is fundamental to creating a safe environment for climate action and human rights defenders.

The full report is available for free download, download it now:

FAIR ENERGY TRANSITION

In Chapada do Araripe — a region that encompasses the states of Ceará, Pernambuco and Piauí —, one may find the quilombola community of Serra dos Rafaéis. This community stands out not only for its historical resistance, but also for its harmonious integration with nature, living sustainably and depending on the region’s natural resources, such as cassava crops. However, the lives of these families began to be impacted by the increasing installation of wind complexes in the area. Faced with the threat, the community created its free, prior and informed consultation protocol, based on ILO (International Labor Organization) Convention 169 and other national and international legal instruments. Launched in May 2023, the document was produced in partnership with Instituto Maíra, Conectas, CONAQ, the Public Defender’s Office of the State of Piauí and the International Accountability Project. The idea is to make all entities aware of the community, its territory and its rights. “We must be consulted on anything that will impact us,” the document states.

Download the protocol
Find out more about the community in the document “The case of Chapada do Araripe”



YANOMAMI TRAGEDY

It is concerning that cases of forced marriages between miners and indigenous people in exchange for food, rape of minors, kidnappings, grooming and slave labor have not received due attention from the federal government between 2019 and 2022. In addition to these crimes, the report “Yanomami sob ataque” (Yanomami under attack, in a free translation), by Hutukara Associação, also pointed out the estimated presence of 20,000 miners within the Yanomami Indigenous Land (TI, acronym in Portuguese), the largest protected reserve in Brazil, located in the states of Amazonas and Roraima.

Facing a sanitary crisis, in January 2023, the federal government declared a Public Health Emergency of National Importance. Even with the intervention, in the same year, the Ministry of Health (MS, acronym in Portuguese) reported 363 deaths among the Yanomami, which represents an increase of 6% compared to the 343 deaths report in 2022. According to the MS, indigenous deaths were underreported during the Bolsonaro administration, which is why the figures could not be compared. Regarding deforestation, however, according to the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), in 2023, there was a 95% reduction in the deforested area in the Yanomami TI.

During a press conference, the Minister of Indigenous Peoples, Sonia Guajajara, acknowledged that the actions in the first year of the Lula administration were not enough, despite spending BRL 1 billion on emergency actions. Regardless, indigenous leaders have noted that, as Ibama and Federal Police agents were relocated, prospectors gradually returned. In response, the government announced that, instead of special operations, it would install permanent strategic bases within the territory.

BRUTALITY AGAINST THE GUARANI MBYA PEOPLE

At the end of May 2023, a protest organized by indigenous people of the Guarani Mbya people resulted in violent clashes on Rodovia dos Bandeirantes, in São Paulo, where tear gas grenades, rubber bullets and water jets were used. The indigenous people were demonstrating against a measure to hinder land demarcation in Brazil, Draft Bill (PL) 490/2007, which ended up passing the Chamber of Deputies and later receiving an urgent vote in the Senate as PL 2903/2023. In September, the brutality of the military police during the incident was highlighted as an example of violations against freedom of expression. This complaint was filed before the UN by the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (Apib, acronym in Portuguese) in collaboration with Conectas.

THE DEATH OF TYMBEKTODEM ARARA

Tymbektodem Arara, better known as Tymbek, was a teacher and scholar of the Arara language. President of the Kowit association, he fought tirelessly for the protection of the Cachoeira Seca Indigenous Land, in Pará. In October 2023, he was found dead in a river. A month earlier, alongside Conectas and Instituto Maíra, Kowit had denounced violations of indigenous rights in Brazil, during the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council. Due to the lack of transparency in the circumstances of his death, these same organizations reinforced the request for the Federal Police in Pará to conduct a swift and complete investigation into the case.

Photo: Luiza Buchaul/ Conectas



MARCO TEMPORAL (TIMEFRAME THESIS): THE DEFENSE OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES

The year 2023 put a spotlight on the clash between the Federal Supreme Court (STF) and National Congress. In September, the majority of supreme court justices (nine against two) concluded that the thesis of the temporal milestone for land demarcations was unconstitutional, understanding that even areas not occupied by indigenous people in 1988 may be linked to the tradition and ancestry of these peoples.

In October, the same topic — which was also being processed in Congress and attempted to transform the thesis into Law — was approved by the Senate in just four months. The proposal had passed the Chamber of Deputies in May, after a 17-year wait. Eleven organizations, including Conectas, submitted an urgent appeal against the measure to the UN. The request, which denounced the unconstitutionality of the bill, was also sent to the Presidency of the Republic and other ministries. Lula sanctioned the draft bill made by Congress, but vetoed the main points. In early December, Congress overturned the presidential veto. The matter was extended into 2024.

Before that, in June, Conectas joined other civil society organizations to demand a response from the state of São Paulo regarding the violent police repression against the demonstration against the temporal milestone thesis made by the Guarani community of the Jaraguá Indigenous Land, blocking the Bandeirantes Highway.



PACT FOR THE FUTURE

The Future Summit is a meeting that seeks to bring together leaders from different countries, with the purpose of establishing a new global agreement to promote advances for the benefit of people and the planet. According to the president of the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, this is a “crucial event in 2024”. To achieve the objectives, the Summit developed an action plan called “Pact for the Future”, which sets out resolutions on how countries should act to fulfill their commitments. In order to collaborate with this process, Conectas submitted a document with proposals on two essential themes to be discussed: international peace and security, as well as science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation.

Photo: Gabriel Guerra/Conectas



THE DEATH OF MOTHER BERNADETTE

In addition to being spokesperson and representative of the Pitanga dos Palmares quilombo, in Simões Filho, Mãe Bernadete Pacifico played an essential role in caring for the community, always being present to offer guidance, schedule tests, distribute basic food baskets and report instances of violence and attempts at land seizures, as coordinator of the National Coordination of Quilombos Articulation (Conaq, acronym in Portuguese). On August 17, 2023, she was shot to death inside her home. Since 2017, with the murder of her son Binho, attacks on terreiros and religious leaders of African origin have been on the rise. In October, Conaq and Conectas alerted the UN Human Rights Council about the violence in the country and asked the Brazilian state to take responsibility for the death, adopting concrete response measures.

LIVES IN TERRITORIES UNDER PRESSURE

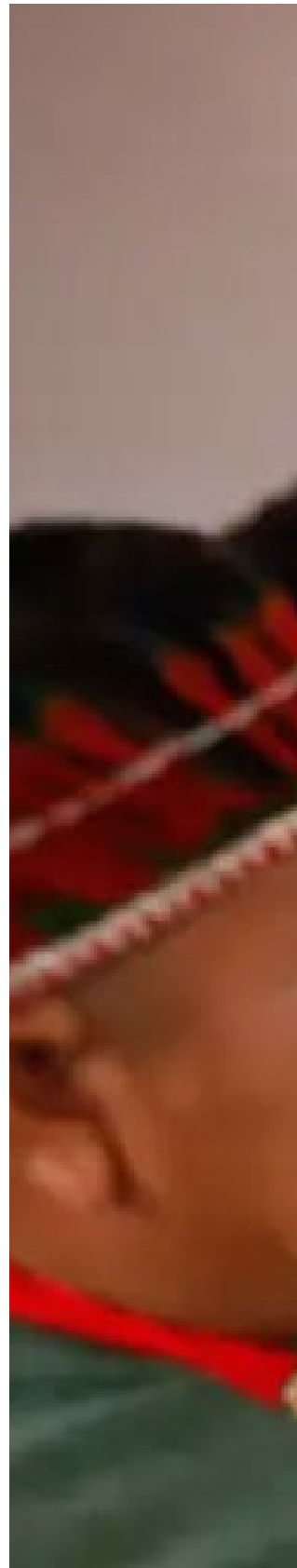
A report released in September revealed the concerning situation of indigenous lands in Brazil. Prepared by Conectas in partnership with Instituto Maíra, Associação Etnoambiental Kanindé, Jupaú - Associação do Povo Indígena Uru-eu-wau-wau and Kowit - Associação Indígena do Povo Arara da Cachoeira Seca, the document “Lives in territories under pressure: Uru-eu-wau-wau, Paiter Suruí and Arara peoples”, showed cases such as the Cachoeira Seca TI, in Pará, by then inhabited by 100 Arara indigenous people and over 3,000 non-indigenous people, who reside in the region illegally. Other lands, such as the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau indigenous land, in Rondônia, and the Sete de Setembro indigenous land, in Rondônia and Mato Grosso, are also threatened. Loggers, land grabbers and prospectors invade the land, causing deforestation and threatening the lives of residents. The report shows that, for as long as the threats persist, indigenous leaders will face violence and impunity.

The report is available online. Download now

GOVERNANCE GAPS AND THE OECD

In 2022, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) approved the plan for Brazil's accession process to the group, establishing as requirements alignment with its fundamental values, which include fair trade, transparency, human rights and

Photo: Paulo Pinto/Agência Brasil



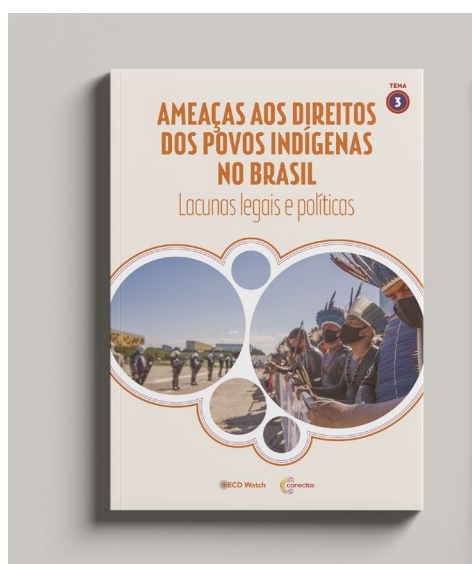


environmental sustainability. In other words, to be accepted as a full member, the Brazilian government would need to demonstrate its ability to adhere to the good practice standards established by the organization, which seems to be an obstacle.

Two reports prepared by Conectas, OECD Watch and the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) detailed serious threats to the rights of indigenous peoples and gaps in labor and social protection in Brazil, among others. Submitted to the OECD, these reports highlighted the country's misalignment with the organization's values, especially with regard to environmental protection and human rights. The 2017 Labor Reform is mentioned as a negative example, resulting in an increase in informality and precarious work. These analyses attempt to contribute to greater transparency in Brazil's accession process to the OECD, highlighting the urgent need for reforms and improvements in these areas.

Access the reports:

- » **Threats to the rights of indigenous peoples in Brazil**
– Governance gaps
- » **Labor rights and social protection in Brazil**
– Governance gaps
- » **Deforestation and climate change in Brazil**
– Governance gaps



PRECARIOUSNESS OF WORK

A group of 207 men were enticed to work in wineries in Rio Grande do Sul with the promise of earning up to R\$4,000, however, they ended up involved in one of the cases of forced labor with the greatest repercussion in 2023 in Brazil. These workers faced inhumane conditions, including attacks with broomsticks, bites and pepper spray. They were woken up with electric shocks at 4 am and forced to work until 9 pm without any rest breaks.

During the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, held in March, Conectas, Adere-MG (Articulation of Rural Employees of the State of Minas Gerais), Business Human Rights Resource Center and Oxfam Brasil urged the international community to reject products of forced labor in Brazil. Furthermore, these entities highlighted the importance of approving Draft Bill (PL) 572/22, which proposes the National Framework on Human Rights and Business, establishing guidelines to promote public policies in this area.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF COMPANIES IN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS?

According to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, formulated in 2011, companies must take responsibility for observing human rights in all their operations. This includes avoiding causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts and implementing appropriate policies and processes to identify, prevent, mitigate and remedy these impacts. However, these measures are still seldomly adopted voluntarily. In October 2023, 30 social organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Conectas, signed a joint declaration on the impacts of business activities in the region. The organizations also addressed the problem of forced labor, suggesting the accountability of financial institutions, in addition to strengthening dialogue between the United Nations, civil society and affected communities, and the implementation of state mechanisms for monitoring and controlling corporations.



**fighting
institutional
violence**



fighting institutional violence

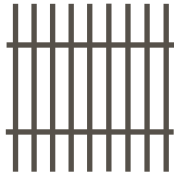
OPERAÇÃO ESCUDO: EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IN POLICE LETHALITY IN SÃO PAULO

“The operation was successful.” This is how the governor of São Paulo Tarcísio de Freitas classified Operação Escudo, carried out by the Military Police (PM), which left 28 dead, in 40 days, between August and September 2023, in the Baixada Santista region (SP). In September, Conectas and the Mães de Maio Movement filed a complaint before the UN Human Rights Council, urging the body to demand action from the Brazilian government. According to the entities, the police raid had a logic of “institutional revenge” after the death of military police officer Patrick Bastos Reis.

In the same month, the Public Defender’s Office of São Paulo and Conectas filed a public civil lawsuit asking the Court to force the Government of São Paulo to install body cameras on police officers working in the operation. Since 2020, the São Paulo Military Police has implemented the device in several of its battalions, including Rota. However, since the 2022 election campaign, governor Tarcísio de Freitas has expressed his opposition to the measure. Despite not overturning the use of cameras, at the start of his term in office, the governor reduced the program’s funding.

In partnership with researchers, the majority of whom are black, as well as civil society and the German Consulate, Conectas released the study “Implementation and Analysis of Uniforms and Vehicles of Public Security and Prison Agents”. The work highlights the importance of using the devices, and reveals a series of gaps in the control and security of the use of this technology, such as the manipulation of cameras in order to circumvent the image storage system.

OPERAÇÃO ESCUDO AND STATE VIOLENCE



Total arrests: 630
 Black people arrested: 395
 White people arrested: 195

♂ Men: 590

♀ Women: 40

62%

percentage of arrests of black people

21

people were arrested every day, on average, in 38 days of operation

72%

of the arrests involved crimes without violence or serious threat

61%

they had no criminal record

92%

there were no weapons seized in these cases

*Arrests made between July 27 and September 4, 2023

Source: Public Defender's Office of São Paulo

THE IMPACT OF BODY CAMERAS

57% there was a reduction in the number of deaths resulting from police interventions after the installation of body cameras in the SP police station.

BRL 7 million: this is the value of the program's monthly expenditure

In 1 day, the equivalent of 9 years of images are recorded.

35% this is the drop in investments in the program in 2023. The value went from BRL 152 million to BRL 97.6 million in the period.



Source: Getúlio Vargas Foundation and USP, São Paulo State Security Secretariat, UOL.

Photo: Rovena Rosa/Agência Brasil

RACIAL PROFILING: BLACK IS NOT A SUSPECT

A police investigation sparked discussions about racial profiling in the country, showing that racist police approaches are an obstacle to equality and social justice. In the document, the police report that “they saw a black individual in the distance, who was in a typical drug trafficking scene, as he was standing next to the curb of the public road and a vehicle was stopped next to him as if he were selling/buying something”. With him, 1.53 grams of cocaine were seized, of which the man admitted to being a user. Even so, he was reported for trafficking and sentenced to 7 years, 11 months and 8 days in prison.

In February 2023, the STF analyzed the case. Eight human rights organizations, including Conectas, filed a memorial petition arguing that the practice of racial profiling is discriminatory. In March 2023, Conectas filed a complaint with the UN, demanding that Brazil urgently combat structural and institutional racism.

[Watch the oral argument by Gabriel Sampaio, from Conectas, in the case of racial profiling](#)

MAY CRIMES

Presented by deputy Orlando Silva (PCdoB-SP), a draft bill popularly known as the “Mothers of May law”, in reference to the tragic events of 2006 in São Paulo and Baixada Santista, in which over 600 executions took place. The victims, for the most part, were young people between 15 and 24 years old, black and living in the outskirts. On May 31, 2023, the Commission on Human Rights, Minorities and Racial Equality held a public hearing to discuss the proposal and debate the reception of mothers and families of victims and/or survivors of violent State actions.

The mission to Brasília regarding the PL included a partnership with the Black Initiative for a New Drug Policy and took activists from the Independent Mothers of May Movement from different states in the country to mobilize ministries and legislative politicians at the state level around the project and the demands made by the movement for years.

Through this articulation, the movement secured financial support from the Ministry of Women for one of its researches and the project “Memory Centers for Contemporary Victims of State Violence: Memory, Life and Future” was proposed by the Ministry of Human Rights and presented to the Movement in December of the same year. Through this project, the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, through the National Secretariat for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights and the General Coordination for the Memory and

Photo: Dikran Junior/AFP



Truth of Slavery and the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved People, intends to consolidate its political activities to ensure the right to memory of contemporary victims of State violence from several parts of the country.

While on this topic, in June, mothers from different Brazilian states who fight against lethal state violence were in Brasília in a delegation that brought together different movements and organizations. In the federal capital, they met with representatives of the federal government and other authorities. They demanded, among other things, actions to reduce violence in peripheral territories and against the black population and policies to assist victims, including family members of lethal violence.

JUSTICE AND MEMORY

In October 2023, Conectas, together with the Independent Mothers of May Movement and the UNIFESP Center for Forensic Anthropology and Archeology and launched a project supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) to strengthen the search for justice and memory of the victims of state violence in Brazil. The project focuses on São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia and Ceará, and offers training in forensic anthropology, human rights, advocacy strategies and process documentation, aiming to expand access to the rule of law for affected families, especially black women, and promote dialogue between academic and mothers' knowledge.

COMPLAINTS AT THE UN: DRUG POLICY, COMBATING TORTURE AND PRISON LETHALITY

During the 53rd Session of the United Nations Council, Conectas made a complaint directed to the special health rapporteur, highlighting the importance of care policies for people who abuse alcohol and other drugs, denouncing a case of torture in which military police officers, when arresting a person accused of theft and who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, used ropes to carry the individual.

Another complaint filed during the 53rd session was directed to the special rapporteur on summary executions, following the publication

Photo: Allison Sales/AFP



of a report on deaths in prison. Furthermore, the speech denounced the systematic violations of the rights of family members of having access to information about people in custody.

MILITARY CRIMES IN COMMON JUSTICE

“Military Justice in Brazil does not offer conditions to meet the demands of holding military personnel accountable for crimes committed against civilians”, considered Gabriel Sampaio, director of Advocacy and Litigation at Conectas, when the STF once again analyzed, in February 2023, whether agents of the Armed Forces who commit crimes against civilians must be tried by the Common Justice. The discussion took place within the scope of ADI 5032, filed by the Attorney General’s Office (PGR), which requested the Supreme Court (STF) to declare unconstitutional parts of Complementary Law No. 136/2010, which expands the jurisdiction of the Military Justice to allow military personnel to try cases of crimes against civilians. . Conectas, Grupo Tortura Nunca Mais, the Federal Public Defender’s Office (DDPU) and the Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences were admitted as amici curiae in the action.

HUMILIATING SEARCH: FAMILIES CONDEMNED TO EMBARRASSMENT

Intimate searches are humiliating by nature. They are a painful procedure faced by family members of incarcerated individuals, including children, women and the elderly, in order to access prison units. These searches usually involve the need to completely undress and perform repeated squats. In February 2023, the São Paulo Court of Justice (TJ-SP) resumed the analysis of a public civil lawsuit filed by Conectas in 2014. The lawsuit sought to condemn the State of São Paulo for pain and suffering due to the carrying out of humiliating strip searches on family members of inmates during visits to the Provisional Detention Centers I and II of Guarulhos, between 2011 and 2013.

To raise awareness about this violence perpetrated by the State, in November 2023, Conectas and Amparar (Association of Family and Friends of Prisoners and Inmates of Fundação Casa, acronym in Portuguese) launched the “Invisible Bars” booklet. The document highlights the unconstitutionality of these practices, emphasizing that no sentence should go beyond the convicted person, providing a

**Read the full
booklet**

detailed analysis, and highlighting violations of fundamental rights. The objective is to inform and raise awareness about rights and inform about the need for changes in the Brazilian prison system to ensure humanitarian justice.

2023 PARDON

During the month of June, Conectas and several other civil society organizations and social movements came together to support the presidential pardon proposal. Among the main points of the proposal were the pardon and conversion of the sentence in case of prison overcrowding, for victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, pardon for people sentenced to a fine, cumulatively or not with the incarceration sentence, in addition to specific measures for women, elderly people and those with disabilities, those responsible for children up to 12 years old, the trans population, indigenous people, adolescents deprived of their liberty and those subject to security measures.

TORTURE IN PRESIDENTE PRUDENTE

In 2025, during a raid by the Rapid Intervention Group (GIR, acronym in Portuguese) in the Semi-Open Annex of Presidente Prudente (SP), approximately 240 detainees were victims of cruel acts of torture, which included both physical and psychological aggression. The officers overstepped their boundaries, inflicting serious injuries without finding justification in the detainees' actions, merely confiscating items such as handmade pipes, playing cards and a 25-cent coin.

A joint complaint by the São Paulo Public Defender's Office and Conectas to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) revealed the alarming degree of neglect on the part of the judicial and extrajudicial authorities responsible for monitoring and controlling the prison system. In September 2023, this complaint made history by becoming the first Brazilian case admitted by the CAT, the body responsible for supervising compliance with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Furthermore, it was the first case from the São Paulo Public Defender's Office to be admitted by a body overseeing human rights protection treaties ratified by the United Nations.

PRISONS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE

International concern about the fight against torture in Brazil was highlighted in a complaint filed by Conectas at the UN. During the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, in March 2023, the organization pointed out the weakening of the National System for Preventing and Combating Torture during the Jair Bolsonaro administration. One of the main points of attention was in relation to custody hearings.

Cases such as those in prisons in Rio Grande do Norte — with reports of systematic torture, mistreatment and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments, such as electric shocks to the feet — demonstrate a serious humanitarian crisis. In April 2023, IBCCRIM (Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences) and Conectas filed a complaint with the UN about the situation in Rio Grande do Norte (RN).

In the same month, the Committee Against Torture (CAT) carried out a review of the measures adopted by Brazil on the subject, after a period of 20 years since the last evaluation, due to the State's delay in submitting its reports. The review included analysis of reports submitted by the government and Brazilian civil society entities, including Conectas. The CAT's conclusions were released in May, pointing out important measures to be taken, such as curtailing the excessive use of force by law enforcement agents, eliminating overcrowding and aligning with international standards, in addition to developing a network of preventive mechanisms against torture in all states.

In October, in a public hearing at Alesp (São Paulo Legislative Assembly), experts from the National Mechanism for the Prevention and Fight Against Torture, a body linked to the Ministry of Human Rights, stated that they had found spoiled food, water with larvae, unventilated cells and prisoners with necrosis in São Paulo state prisons. The agency carried out inspections in 10 of the 182 prison units in the São Paulo Countryside and Greater Metropolitan Area. Pregnant women were found in women's prisons without prenatal care and without sanitary pads.

In an article for *Mídia Ninja*, Roberta Marina dos Santos, project advisor in Conectas' Fight against Institutional Violence program, and Vivian Peres da Silva, project coordinator at the Institute for the Defense of the Right to Defense (IDDD), commented on the report, stating that it is crucial to defend the mechanisms for the prevention and fight against torture at all levels, national and state, as well as the committees set out by Brazilian legislation. It is also essential that the Executive and Legislative branches of power work together, with the active participation of civil society, to prevent and fight against torture in the country.

Photo: Luiz Silveira/Agência CNJ



X-RAY OF THE PRISON SYSTEM



644.794
in physical cells



190.080
under house arrest

154.531 people in prison carry out some work activity

83.028 prison officers
average number of prisoners per officer: **8**
recommended average: **5***

757.277 recorded crimes committed
by prison pop
41% (311.987) violent crimes

*Resolution of the National Council for Criminal and Penitentiary Policy

Source: CNJ

THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL STATE OF AFFAIRS IN PRISONS

The STF recognized the unconstitutional state of affairs in the Brazilian prison system and ordered the federal government, in collaboration with the states, to develop a plan to resolve violations of fundamental rights in the country's prisons within six months. This decision, made on October 2023, came after a lawsuit filed by PSOL in 2015 — inspired by a 1997 precedent from the Colombian Constitutional Court. In 2027, in its request to join the case as amicus curiae, Conectas highlighted the deterioration of conditions since then, especially for black people, and highlighted the importance of custody hearings to report cases of torture and ill-treatment.

HARM REDUCTION

During the month of November, Conectas organized the submission of contributions to the United Nations Special Rapporteurship on the right to health, announcing the publication of a report in June 2024. The call for contributions was focused on harm reduction for drug policy and the main points raised by Conectas and partners were the setback in the legal frameworks on harm reduction in the country, the attempts to criminalize the practice of harm reduction and the criminalization of drug use and people in vulnerable situations associated with intense drug use.

GUN CONTROL

During Jair Bolsonaro's administration, the number of Brazilians authorized to own firearms increased considerably. The number of CACs (hunters, shooters and collectors, acronym in Portuguese) grew significantly, from 117,467 in 2018 to 813,188 in 2022, according to data obtained by G1 through the Access to Information Law with the Army.

In July 2023, President Lula signed a decree that implemented comprehensive measures to restrict the circulation and access to weapons in the country. Furthermore, the decree transferred responsibility for monitoring weapons and ammunition from the Army to the Federal Police. Thirty civil society organizations, including Conectas, praised the measure. The new rules also reduce the deadline for renewing registrations, strengthening inspection and modernizing weapon information systems. Furthermore, it strengthens the requirements for purchasing a weapon, requiring a psychological report from a professional accredited by the Federal Police and suitability checks in databases. The organizations highlighted the promotion of weapons as a political action in recent years, encouraging intolerance and militarization among civilians, which threatens both security and democracy.



litigation



litigation

Strategic human rights litigation is used by organizations such as Conectas to ensure that the rights present in the Federal Constitution and international treaties are observed by the Brazilian State. The intention is to demand structural changes from the State and companies based on court cases. In 2023, Conectas carried out this work in different courts, focusing on the Supreme Court (STF) and the inter-American (OAS) and universal (UN) human rights systems. The work was carried out, in many cases, together with other human rights organizations, social movements and public defender's offices.

CHECK OUT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LITIGATION AREA IN 2023 BELOW

ADPF 442: filed in 2017, action in the STF requests the decriminalization of abortions carried out at the discretion of the pregnant person until the 12th week of pregnancy.

Res. 106 CNJ: normative act for the implementation of a gender alternation system when filling vacancies in appellate courts of Brazilian Justice.

ADI 1625: under analysis since 1997, action challenges the revocation of ILO Convention 158 on arbitrary dismissals.

RE 1.017.365: indigenous peoples and socio-environmental and human rights entities ask the STF to secure the constitutional right to the territory of original peoples.

Public civil action against BNDES: presented to the Federal Court of the Federal District, by Conectas, the public civil action demands commitment by BNDESPar, a BNDES subsidiary, with climate goals.

ADPF 623: lawsuit in the STF questioning the lawfulness of the Bolsonaro government's decree that changes the composition of Conama (National Environmental Council).

ADPF 760: civil society asks the STF to determine the resumption of compliance with goals established by national legislation and international agreements entered into by Brazil on climate change.

ADI 5905: action by the Roraima government attempting to overturn an international treaty protecting indigenous peoples through the court system.

ADI 7582: action asking the STF to declare the unconstitutionality of the law passed this year by the National Congress on the timeframe milestone for the demarcation of indigenous lands.

PCN – Nestlé Case: complaint filed in 2018 by Conectas and Adere-MG before the National Contact Point (NCP) calls for the company Nestlé to be held accountable for cases of slave labor in its commercial chain.

CIDH – Guarani Kaiowá Case: Pataxó Indigenous people (BA) and human rights organizations ask the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to urge the Brazilian State to adopt measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of this indigenous people.

ACP – Operação Escudo: public civil lawsuit filed by Conectas and the São Paulo Public Defender's Office asking the Court to force the Government of the State of São Paulo ensure the use of body cameras by police officers who work in police operations (Operação Escudo and similar).

SL 16969 – Operação Escudo: Conectas and the Public Defender's Office ask the STF to suspend the São Paulo Court of Justice's decision on the use of body cameras by police officers during Operação Escudo.

HC – Racial Profiling: at the STF, a collective habeas corpus on police approaches carried out without objective criteria or based solely on skin color, in a practice referred to as racial profiling.

ADPF 793: known as ADPF for black lives, the lawsuit highlights actions and omissions by the State that culminate in the violation of

the constitutional rights to life, health, safety and decent food for the black population.

ADPF 347: lawsuit in the STF calling for recognition of the massive violation of fundamental rights in the Brazilian prison system.

ADI 5070: lawsuit questioning the creation of the State Department of Criminal Executions and the State Department of Police Investigations in the São Paulo Judiciary.

RE 635659: in the STF since 2015, it discusses whether possession of drugs for personal consumption is a crime.

IHR Court – Castelinho Case: lawsuit calls for the Brazilian State to be held accountable for a raid by the São Paulo Military Police that resulted in the deaths of 12 people in 2002 at the Castelinho highway, in the São Paulo state countryside.

IHR COURT – PEDRINHAS CASE

IACHR – Forced Disappearance Case: entities are asking the IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States) to hold the Brazilian government accountable for forced disappearances that occurred in the context of the May 2006 Crimes.

Constitutional Complaints no. 64803 and 64800: the lawsuits seek to prevent the security forces of the State of Rio de Janeiro and the City of Rio from collecting and taking teenagers to police stations and sheltering services without there being a crime committed *in flagrante delicto*.

Photo: Fellipe Sampaio/SCO/STF







advocacy



advocacy

Whether in the National Congress or in the International Human Rights System, Conectas' advocacy work follows the agendas of interest to society, proposes an approach based on rights and the defense of democracy, and denounces setbacks and violations. Since 2006, Conectas has had consultative status with the UN. In 2023, one of the highlights was the complaint admitted by the UN Committee Against Torture for torture and other human rights violations perpetrated by criminal police against arrested individuals in the city of Presidente Prudente (SP). Presented by the São Paulo Public Defender's Office and Conectas against Brazil, the complaint was the first Brazilian case admitted by the Committee. Another highlight of the period was the complaint filed by Conectas and the Mães de Maio Movement to the UN Human Rights Council about the human rights violations that occurred during Operação Escudo in the Baixada Santista region (SP).

URGENT APPEALS IN THE UN SYSTEM

Urgent appeal: National Council of Justice's administrative measure

Urgent appeal: Bill 2903

Urgent appeal: regarding serious violations of the menstrual dignity of persons deprived of liberty in Brazil.

Urgent appeal: Operação Escudo

Urgent appeal for updates on Operação Escudo

Urgent appeal: Torture and serious Human Rights violations in prisons in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil

Urgent appeal: Abusive searches in São Paulo, Brazil

**ADVOCACY,
PARTICIPATION
IN EVENTS
AND OTHER
ACTIVITIES**

Arara People Indigenous Land Invasions

Advocacy on the Review of Brazil by the UN Committee against Torture, submitting reports and making contributions and speeches in the dialog with experts

Advocacy on the Review of Brazil by the UN Committee on Human Rights, submitting reports and making contributions and speeches in the dialog with experts

Advocacy on the Review of Brazil by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, submitting reports and making contributions and speeches in the dialog with experts

Advocacy at the visit of UN Under-Secretary-General and special advisor Alice Wairimu Nderitu to Brazil

Advocacy at the Visit of the Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights

Advocacy at the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, giving oral speeches and participating in events and negotiating resolutions.

Advocacy at the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council, giving oral speeches and participating in events and negotiating resolutions.

Advocacy at the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, giving oral speeches and participating in events and negotiating resolutions.

Advocacy with leaders of the Arara people at UN human rights mechanisms in Geneva

CAT case regarding the Pedrinhas Penitentiary

Advocacy during EMLER's visit to Brazil, submitting reports and making contributions and speeches in dialogs with experts

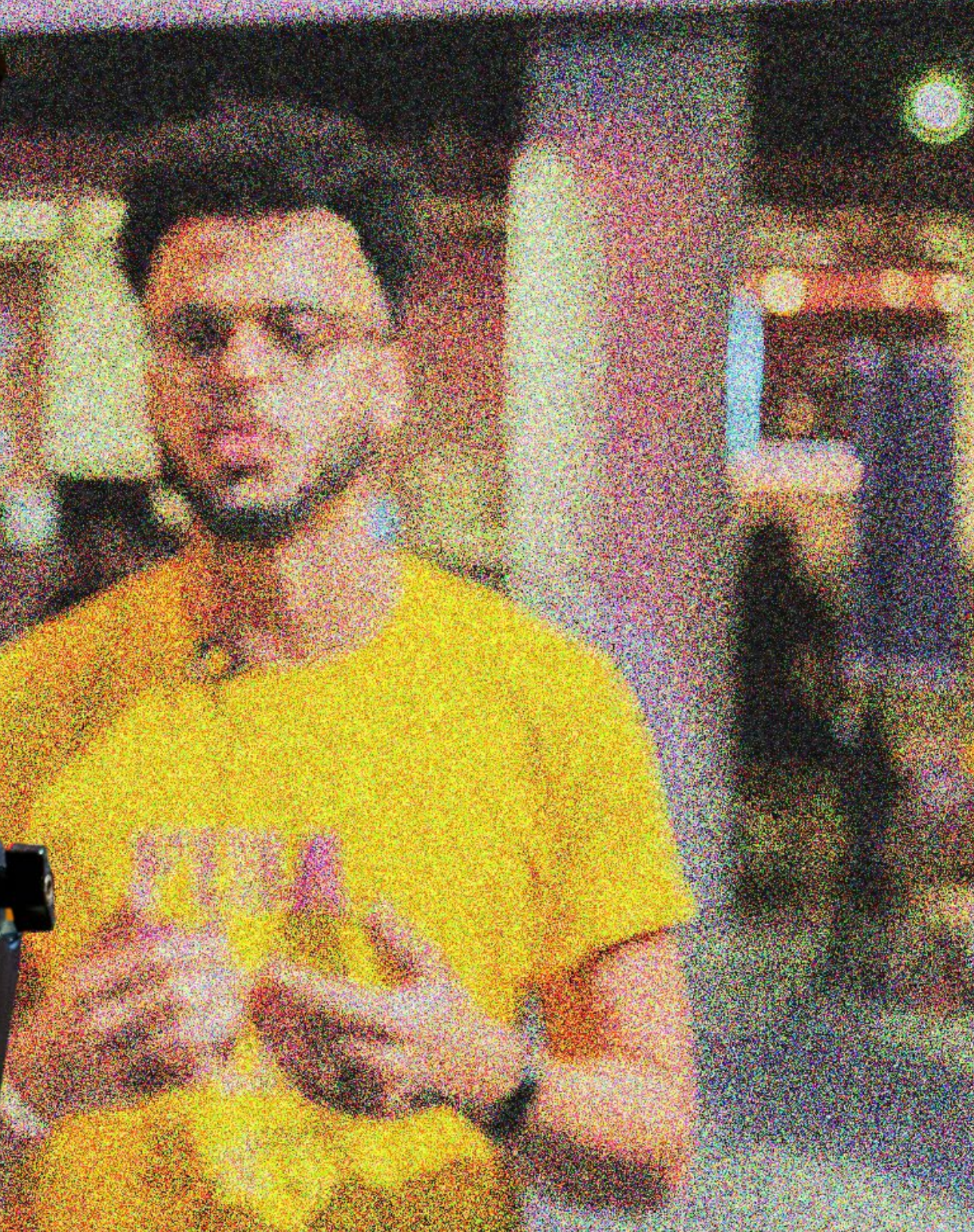
Participation in the UNESCO Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination 2023, in São Paulo

Advocacy at the 16th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - EMRIP

Photo: Coletivo Fênôá



communication



communication

Conectas' communication and engagement area uses several platforms and strategies to support the fight in defense of human rights. It works closely with other areas of the organization, particularly Advocacy and Litigation, to support the development of projects spearheaded by the programs. In 2023, the communication area offered support to the press, supported professional journalism and held events to promote reflections on the human rights movement. During the year, Conectas was mentioned more than 3,600 times in the press, accumulated 7 million impressions on its social networks and had 500,000 hits on its corporate website. See more details of this work.

MICROGRANTS FOR REPORTS

Agência Pública and Conectas signed a partnership to offer microgrants of BRL 8,000 and mentoring for reporters to investigate the socio-environmental impacts of energy production, both from fossil and renewable sources, in Brazil. The objective is to highlight the need for a fair energy transition committed to human rights, addressing issues such as environmental racism, access to energy and interactions with affected communities

[Read the reports
published by
Agência Pública](#)

SERIES ABOUT PM BODY CAMERAS

UOL and Conectas released a series of reports on the use of body cameras by military police officers in São Paulo. The first article revealed how the PMs learned to manipulate cameras to circumvent the image storage system, including methods such as deleting videos and changing recording dates. The second report highlighted that, while the federal government seeks to expand the use of these cameras across the country, São Paulo is moving in the opposite direction, discouraging their use and cutting the budget allocated to them.

Follow the series
of UOL reports

Photo: Coletivo Enoá





institutional

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MS
MS

institutional

CONECTAS AT THE OAS

Conectas was approved and registered as an organization with the OAS (Organization of American States), allowing it to actively participate in debates on human rights in American countries. With this, the organization can contribute to regional resolutions and policies on human rights during meetings of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, as well as at the body's General Assembly. The OAS, founded in 1948, aims to promote peace, justice, solidarity and collaboration among its member states, in addition to defending their sovereignty and territorial integrity. With 35 member states and 70 permanent observers, the organization is based on pillars such as democracy, human rights, security and development.

LAUNCH OF THE SUR JOURNAL

SUR magazine, published by Conectas, launched its 32nd issue with the topic "Possible futures: Is there a new normal?" This issue discusses paths for the human rights movement in the midst of a global political, economic and health crisis. The thematic axes include new configurations of global power, technologies and disinformation in democratic processes, and challenges for NGOs. The launch of the edition featured a conversation on the topic, with the participation of several experts, including magazine authors and organization representatives. The event took place in person at the headquarters of Ação Educativa, in São Paulo (SP).



FEIRA DAS IDEIAS

In December 2023, Conectas and Sesc 24 de Maio, in São Paulo, promote Feira das Ideias (Ideas Fair), in celebration of International Human Rights Day. The event brought together activists, social movements, collectives, students, researchers and journalists to present 20 projects that addressed topics such as menstrual poverty, gender equity, migration and asylum, anti-racism, climate justice, religious freedom, indigenous rights, gypsies, LGBTQIA+ rights, among others. The program included games, discussion panels, audiovisual productions, art and photography, as well as a conversation with representatives from organizations such as Amnesty International Brazil and Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil. The idea of the free event is to celebrate International Human Rights Week, highlighting the social impact of civil society initiatives.

[See how the Feira das Ideias went](#)

Photo: Coletivo Enoá



transparency

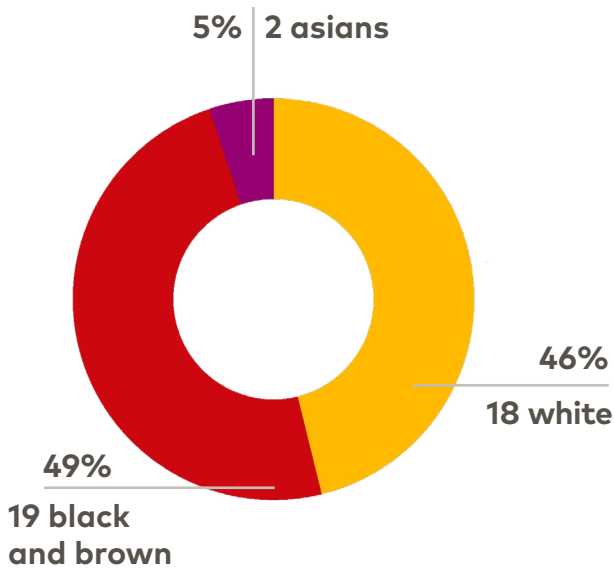
EMPLOYEES

39

27 female (1 non-brazilian)
10 male
2 non-binary

5 female are
management and
2 male

+ 1 volunteer



3 black and brown people are
management, 3 white people
and 1 asian



CONECTAS TEAM 2023



Photo: Gabriel Guerra/Conectas

financial statement

receitas 2023

Open Society Foundations	3.820.277
Oak Foundation	3.250.202
Fundação Fundo Brasil de Direitos Humanos / Laudes Foundation	2.538.971
Luminate Foundation	1.044.306
Ford Foundation	957.513
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	559.563
Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	359.734
Instituto Clima e Sociedade	300.000
Instituto Ibirapitanga	266.039
Stiftung Auxilium (Porticus)	258.027
Centre For Research on Multinational Corporation (SOMO)	255.515
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	227.700
European Climate Foundation	190.110
Instituto Galo da Manhã	174.291
Netherlands Embassy	91.876
Rockefeller Phylanthropy Advisors	76.430
United Nations Democracy Fund	42.723
Credit Card Donations	33.069
Volunteer Work	29.453
Others	20.691
TOTAL	R\$14.496.489

expenses 2023

Thematic Area	Initiatives	Expenses 2023 (BRL)
Administrative and Financial	Area subtotal	1.209.651
Fundraising	Area subtotal	992.387
Communication	Area subtotal	1.086.016
Institutional Development	Area subtotal	662.279
Fight against Institutional Violence	Incarcerated Individuals	698.159
	Control of Law Enforcement and the Use of Force	789.392
	Drug Policy	389.621
	Gun Control	405.978
	Area subtotal	2.283.150
Strategic Litigation	Strategic litigation	1.722.291
	Area subtotal	1.722.291
Strengthening of the Democratic Space	Defense of Civil Society	607.371
	Migration and Refugees	368.273
	Religious Mobilizations and Rights Agenda	359.277
	Defense of Race-based Affirmative Action	438.790
	Sur Journal	514.734
	Area subtotal	2.288.445
Incidence	Incidence	1.423.996
	Area subtotal	1.423.996
Defense of Socio-Environmental Rights	Development Funding	813.407
	Extractive Industry Impacts	1.182.760
	Fight against Contemporary Slavery and Precarious Labor	603.608
	Climate Justice	1.163.607
	Area subtotal	3.763.382
	GRAND TOTAL	15.431.598



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