

SUBMISSION

Summary, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions in Santos

Santos, November 18th, 2024.

Submitted to the following United Nations Special Rapporteurs:

Sr. Morris Tidball-Binz, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Sra. Akua Kuenyehia, Chair of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in the context of Law Enforcement

Ms. K.P. ASHWINI, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Conectas Human Rights respectfully addresses the United Nations Special Procedures to raise awareness regarding a tragic case of police lethality in Santos and to bring to the international community's attention the escalating pattern of police violence in this region.

On the night of Tuesday, the 5th, a police operation took place in Morro de São Bento, Baixada Santista, during which authorities report that a patrol was allegedly attacked by armed individuals. However, this version is contested by the local community.

During this police operation, a gunfire resulted in the deaths of Ryan da Silva Andrade Santos, a four-year-old child playing in the street, and Gregory Ribeiro Vasconcelos, a 17-year-old teenager. Two more people were also injured. Unfortunately, Gregory's funeral had to be canceled due to the body's condition after being unrefrigerated for over 24 hours. It was also mentioned that a gunshot to the face made an open-casket ceremony not possible.^{1 2}

¹ Source:

<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/2024/11/familia-de-adolescente-morto-pela-pm-em-santos-fica-sem-velorio-e-sem-cortejo.shtml>

²Sources:

<https://noticias.uol.com.br/cotidiano/ultimas-noticias/2024/11/06/filho-de-vitima-da-operacao-verao-crianca-de-4-anos-morre-em-acao-policial.amp.html>

<https://g1.globo.com/google/amp/sp/santos-regiao/noticia/2024/11/06/crianca-de-4-anos-e-adolescente-sao-mortos-em-confronto-policial-no-litoral-de-sp.ghtml>

<https://www.metropoles.com/sao-paulo/crianca-de-4-anos-morta-teve-pai-de-muleta-fuzilado-pela-pm-este-ano>

This incident tragically exemplifies the pattern of police violence inflicted on Black and marginalized communities in Baixada Santista. Ryan da Silva was the son of Leonel Andrade Santos, one of the 84 victims of Operations Escudo and Verão conducted in the area between July 2023 and April 2024. Leonel, who had a leg disability and relied on crutches for mobility, was, nonetheless, alleged by the involved officers to have been armed and to have fired at them.

We draw attention to the fact that the officers involved in the operation leading to Ryan's death were not equipped with body cameras. The implementation and regulation of body cameras on police uniforms are crucial measures to curb abuses by law enforcement during interventions. Such cameras have proven effective in reducing fatalities, both among civilians and law enforcement personnel. In São Paulo, police lethality dropped by 62.7%, from 697 deaths in 2019 to 260 in 2022, according to research by the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety (FBSP).

Additionally, according to FBSP and UNICEF, during the years 2021 to 2023, out of 15,101 recorded intentional violent deaths, 2,427 were caused by state security forces (16% of the total), making these actions the second leading cause of violent deaths among adolescents.

Beyond its inefficacy, which endangers both officers and civilians, the public security approach in São Paulo—marked by increasing police lethality—reveals a system of public security rooted in institutional violence and racism directed at Black and marginalized populations.

The signatory organizations urge the UN mechanisms to call upon Brazilian authorities to ensure an impartial and independent investigation by the São Paulo State Public Prosecutor's Office, the police oversight bodies, and especially the state government authorities. Additionally, it is essential that affected families receive appropriate reparations, including institutional support to address the multidimensional needs resulting from these violations.

REQUESTS

Based on the reported facts, the subscribing organizations request to United Nations Mechanisms to urge the Brazilian authorities to adopt the immediate measures listed below (which are based on the recommendations of the international bodies over the last years):

- a.** The Brazilian State be questioned about such events, especially regarding the characterization of flagrant and continuous violent actions by the police forces in the State of São Paulo;
- b.** The Brazilian State, and specifically the State of São Paulo where there is already a program of body cameras on the uniforms of security agents, be required to mandate the use of cameras during all police operations;
- c.** That the Brazilian State be recommended to temporarily remove from active policing duties those agents involved in deaths during police operations and provide psychological/therapeutic

<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/amp/cotidiano/2024/11/crianca-de-4-anos-e-morta-em-suposto-confronto-entre-pms-e-criminosos-em-santos-sp.shtml>

<https://www.metropoles.com/sao-paulo/4-anos-morre-operacao-santos>

support to them for as long as necessary for treatment/orientation, reserving them only for bureaucratic or administrative functions;

d. The State must recommend that security agents from units where police officers have died in operations receive psychological and social support and do not participate in operations aimed at investigating the facts or responding to such deaths;

e. The Brazilian State should be questioned about the protocols employed to prevent the use of lethal force and the victimization of the civilian population, especially Black people, in accordance with UN Human Rights Council Resolution 43.1 and the Basic

f. The Brazilian State should be demanded to ensure comprehensive assistance, reparations, and access to investigations for the families of the victims and all individuals who have suffered violations during all investigative and procedural phases;

g. The Brazilian State should be recommended, through the São Paulo State Public Prosecutor's Office, to fulfill its constitutional functions and take measures to exercise external control over police activity in the specific case, with the investigation and accountability for the practice of any improper conduct by public agents;

h. Investigative and judicial authorities must consider in good faith, in the cases reported above, the hypothesis of extrajudicial executions, with a central component of racism.

The signatory organizations respectfully request UN Special Procedures to issue a press release drawing attention to the seriousness of the situation and expressing the opinion of the OHCHR on the incompatibility of the Aforementioned police operations with international human rights standards. In addition, we ask that the mandates make a statement on social networks and available communication channels as soon as possible so that we can raise awareness globally.³

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