

COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT

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MEMBERS AND FOUNDERS

Ailton Krenak Indigenous leader, environmentalist and writer | **André Singer** Political scientist, journalist, professor with the Political Science Department, University of São Paulo (USP) | **Antônio Cláudio Mariz de Oliveira** Lawyer, former São Paulo State Secretary of Public Security | **Belisário dos Santos Jr.** Lawyer, former São Paulo State Secretary of Justice | **Cida Bento** Psychologist, co-founder of the Inequalities and Labor Relations Studies Center (CEERT) | **Cláudia Costin** Economist, former Minister of State for Administration and Reform | **Dalmo de Abreu Dallari** (in memoriam) Lawyer, Professor Emeritus, School of Law, University of São Paulo (USP) | **Daniela Mercury** Singer and activist | **Fábio Konder Comparato** Lawyer, Professor Emeritus, School of Law, University of São Paulo (USP) | **José Carlos Dias** Lawyer, former Minister of Justice | **José Gregori** (in memoriam) Lawyer, former Minister of Justice | **José Luiz Del Roio** Journalist, former Senator, Republic of Italy | **José Vicente** Lawyer, Dean, Faculdade Zumbi dos Palmares College | **Laura Greenhalgh** Journalist | **Luiz Carlos Bresser-Pereira** Economist, former Minister of State for the Treasury, Administration, and Reform | **Luiz Felipe de Alencastro** Historian, Professor Emeritus, Université de la Sorbonne, France | **Manuela Ligeti Carneiro da Cunha** Anthropologist, former president of the Brazilian Anthropology Association | **Margarida Bulhões Pedreira Genevois** Sociologist, former president of the Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of São Paulo | **Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida** Political scientist, Professor Emeritus, School of Philosophy, Letters, and Human Sciences, University of São Paulo (USP) | **Maria Victoria Benevides** Sociologist and political scientist, Professor Emeritus, School of Education, University of São Paulo (USP) | **Oscar Vilhena Vieira** Lawyer, Director, School of Law, Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) | **Paulo Vannuchi** Journalist, political scientist, former Minister of Human Rights | **Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro** Political scientist, former Minister of State for Human Rights | **Sueli Carneiro** Philosopher, founder of Geledés | **Vladimir Safatle** Philosopher, professor, School of Philosophy, Letters and Human Sciences, University of São Paulo (USP)

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DEAR FRIENDS,

With this institutional report, the Arns Commission celebrates half a decade of activities. Five intense years have already passed. Prompted by signs of backsliding for human rights in Brazil, the Commission was set up in 2019. Its 22 founding members include former Ministers and Secretaries of State, academics, activists and journalists, all eager to join forces in responding to a situation that would prove to be of the utmost severity.

The mission of the Arns Commission was inspired by a commitment to assign top priority to the most vulnerable segments of the Brazilian population, particularly women and youth, Black and indigenous people, quilombo residents, and LGBTQIA+ individuals, on whom the burden of inequality still weighs heavily in Brazil. The pandemic struck in 2020, leaving our second year fraught with uncertainties about an unknown but clearly lethal virus. That was when the entire nation was plunged into chaos by the actions of an incompetent and authoritarian President who was also a denialist.

But I can testify that the Arns Commission never faltered. Working alone or in networks with other organizations in Brazil and elsewhere in the world, we built the Pact for Life and Brazil, alongside entities such as the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB), the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB), the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC), the Brazilian Academy of Science (ABC) and the Brazilian Press Association (ABI), demanding emergency aid for the neediest during (and because of) the pandemic, for the first time.

Obstinately, we hammered on courthouse doors, seeking Justice for wrongdoings that affected countless communities, some leading to massacres. We went to the International Criminal Court and the Permanent Peoples Tribunal, reporting crimes resulting from ongoing violations of the fundamental rights of Brazil's indigenous peoples. We clamored in defense of democracy and the rule of law, when efforts were made to override Brazil's election system. This was a long journey, headlined by the press, documented on our website (www.comissaoarns.org), and preserved in the institutional reports we released each year.

Democracy breathed freely again in 2022, after Brazil's sovereign elections. But the Arns Commission still kept its guard up: expanding staff to include associate members, it continues to act in defense of indigenous peoples, denouncing police violence against mostly Black and poor segments of the population, combating rural violence, and urging public policies that redeem the dignity of the homeless. At the international level, it engages with the inter-American system and to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In December 2023, it was awarded the Innovare Award. It was with much emotion that I accepted this honor on behalf of the Commission in Brasília. Awarded by the Brazilian Judiciary, it is named after my late friend Márcio Thomaz Bastos -- like me, a lawyer, a former Minister of Justice, and fervent defender of human rights.

It is time to announce that I am resigning as President of the Arns Commission. After four years in office, I pass the baton to political scientist and educator Maria Victória Benevides, who is also one of its founders. The greatest legacy of our patron, Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, will be in good hands.

Last but not least, I am grateful for the support I received from the members of the Arns Commission throughout my term of office, with special greetings to our Honorary President, Margarida Genevois, a tireless example at 101 years old!

Cordially,

José Carlos Dias

”

ARNS COMMISSION AND ITS MEMBERS IN 2023

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE ARNS COMMISSION CELEBRATES HER CENTENARY

A founder and Honorary President of the Arns Commission, the sociologist Margarida Genevois celebrated her 100th birthday on March 10. Honored by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and many civil society organizations, she devoted her life to fighting for justice and human rights. Describing her, the lawyer and Commission co-founder Belisário dos Santos Jr. wrote:

"São Paulo Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns soon realized that Margarida was a human rights activist, and took her to the Justice and Peace Commission. There, she got to know another facet of militancy: the fight against the dictatorship. She was Dom Paulo's right hand, everyone says, working with political persecution victims, taking their statements, and reporting severe human rights violations that were common in those arbitrary times. This woman, who blended the roles of sociologist and 'honorary lawyer', knew that reporting an arrest could make the crucial difference, preventing deaths or involuntary disappearances. She was extraordinary in her denunciations of arrests and deaths and torture": <https://bit.ly/3ymg49h>

CIDA BENTO AND DANIELA MERCURY JOIN THE ARNS COMMISSION

In February and March 2003 respectively, Professor Maria Aparecida da Silva Bento (better known as Cida Bento), and pop singer Daniela Mercury became full members of the Arns Commission. Professor Cida Bento is a psychologist, activist and director of the Labor Relations and Inequalities Studies Center (CEERT), which strives to reduce racial and gender inequalities in the workplace. In 2015, the Economist listed her among the world's 50 Most Influential People in the diversity field. Bahia-born performer and activist Daniela Mercury brings priceless contributions to human rights, particularly issues related to indigenous peoples, the environment, racism, gender and LGBTQIA+. A UNICEF ambassador in Brazil since 2015, she is also a member of the Human Rights Observatory under the National Justice Council (CNJ). In 2013, she was among the National Human Rights Award winners in the Culture and Human Rights category, organized by the Human Rights Bureau under the Brazilian Presidential Office. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bjcmMf>





JOSÉ GREGORI 1930-2023

JOSÉ GREGORI: A LEGACY OF CONSOLIDATING HUMAN RIGHTS

A founding member of the Arns Commission, lawyer José Gregori passed away at the age of 92 on September 3. As National Human Rights Secretary (1997-2000) and Minister of Justice (2000-2001), he was one of the driving forces behind Brazil's National Human Rights Programs set up during the Governments headed by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. He was also involved in setting up the Dead and Disappeared Commission, investigating crimes committed during Brazil's civil-military dictatorship. Years later, this would lead to the establishment of the National Truth Commission, set up in 2012 during the Rousseff Administration. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3UDDHSD>



JAIME CROWE 1946-2023

TIRELESS DEFENDER OF MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS

The Arns Commission paid tributes to Father Jaime Crowe, who died of a heart attack at the age of 77 on February 19 in Ireland, his homeland. Arriving in Brazil in 1969, this Irish priest became known for his work in Embu das Artes, a town in the São Paulo Metropolitan Region, and Jardim Ângela, on the outskirts of the South Zone, rated as the most violent neighborhood in São Paulo. He became a byword in the struggle against violence and poverty, defending the rights of the poor and denouncing their abandonment by government authorities. Father Jaime participated actively in movements and organizations defending human rights, such as the Forum and Walk for Life and Peace, Ecclesial Grassroots Communities (CEBs), the Workers' Pastoral, and the Southern Region Human Rights Commission. He returned to Ireland in 2021. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3yvzvzm>

A KEY FIGURE IN BRAZIL'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

The Arns Commission publicly expressed its sorrow for the death of José Paulo Sepúlveda Pertence in Brasília on July 2. Forced out of office by the infamous Institutional Act 5 (AI-5) in 1969, he joined Victor Nunes Leal and other jurists, courageously defending dissidents and others politically persecuted by Brazil's civil-military dictatorship. Playing a key role in Brazil's return to democracy, Sepúlveda Pertence was appointed Attorney General by its newly-elected civilian government in 1985. His administration transformed this institution, which was recognized by Brazil's 1988 Constitution: instead of merely prosecuting criminals, the Attorney General's Office is now in charge of defending the rights of society and democracy. Appointed to the Federal Supreme Court in 1989, he became its mainstay during the delicate process of implementing a new Constitution. As its Presiding Justice, his conduct steered changes in its profile, moving confidently into the role of an authentic Constitutional Court. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3UF9wKd>

THE MORE-THAN-PERFECT LAWYER

With this sentence, the lawyer and Arns Commission founder José Carlos Dias defined Mário de Passos Simas as a prominent defender of human rights and founder of the Justice and Peace Commission, who died on July 12. They worked together to protect Dominican friars. Dias wrote: "Among the cases in which he appeared, the defense of the Dominican friars was certainly the one that marked him the most, as they were persecuted by Brazil's civil-military dictatorship. We worked in partnership. It was the arrest and death of student Alexandre Vannuchi Leme by agents of repression that inspired us to fight, together with more and more people." Read more: <https://bit.ly/3VaQmxz>

UNDISPUTED DEFENDER OF DICTATORSHIP VICTIMS

The lawyer and playwright Idibal Pivetta, who died at the age of 92 on October 23, was honored by the Arns Commission in a public announcement. An undisputed defender of human rights, freedom and democracy in Brazil, this lawyer supported students, workers, teachers, and artists affected by Brazil's repressive civil-military dictatorship. Never turning away anyone in need of defense, he was arrested several times, once with ten other attorneys protesting against torture in a prison housing political prisoners. Under the pseudonym of César Vieira, he was the founder of the Grupo Teatro Popular União e Olho Vivo. This theater group toured the outskirts of São Paulo and other major cities in Brazil and elsewhere in the world, bringing plays to the people with entertaining tales of opposition to authoritarianism. In the struggle for Amnesty or in acts against Brazil's civil-military dictatorship, União e Olho Vivo has always been a leading player, chanting for freedom and democracy. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3WETLFO>



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ORGANIZATIONS SUBMIT REPORT TO UN ON TORTURE INVISIBILITY IN BRAZIL

Together with other civil society organizations, the Arns Commission presented a report to the United Nations Organization (UN) for a Brazilian State review by the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT). Conducted in Geneva on April 19 and 20, this review bridged a gap of almost two decades with no detailed examinations of the Brazilian State by a committee of experts in this field. This report offered an overview of many types of violations, listing the sectors most vulnerable to torture. The discussion agenda for the CAT experts and the State included issues such as a lack of functional independence for forensic medical institutes, arraignments, institutional racism in the widespread practice of torture, crises in the socio-educational system, very few convictions for crimes of torture, therapeutic communities, and the homeless population

Among other issues, this document showed that at least 44,200 complaints of torture and mistreatment at the time of detention were raised and reported in arraignments, between 2019 and July 2022. This is double the figures for the previous four years. According to a National Pastoral Commission study, prison torture reports rose 37% nationwide in 2022, with 369 cases reported in 2021 and 2022: 52.2% physical aggression; 18.38% verbal aggression; 1.73% discrimination for race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation; 36.32% degrading treatment. Nevertheless, torture still remains invisible in Brazil. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4afz6va>; <https://bit.ly/3ymbEPL>

REPORT ANALYZES THE UN'S UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

During the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle (2023-2027), this mechanism for assessing the situation of human rights in the 193 UN Member States was deployed within a context of widespread dismantling of Brazil's rights governance structure. The report prepared by the Bolsonaro Administration was presented between 7 and 18 November 2022. In early 2023, the Arns Commission international advisor, lawyer Paulo Lugon, analyzed the document and indicated alterations. The Lula Administration adopted it with the suggested modifications. Among other issues, Brazil's UPR provided insufficient and distorted data, with criticisms of the rule of law and freedom of expression, attacks on minorities, and dismantling of indigenous and environmental governance structures. Furthermore, there was no dialogue with civil society at the international level, as this is a common practice in democratic regimes: <https://bit.ly/3UZU8tb>

CIVIL SOCIETY PREPARES DOCUMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

In June, in partnership with the Casa Latino-Americana (CASLA), the Labor Relations and Inequalities Studies Center (CEERT), and the Coalition for Internet Rights, the Arns Commission prepared a report for the UN Human Rights Committee with a list of persistent violations in Brazil, indicating patchy implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This review is of paramount importance to Brazil, because international experts from the Human Rights Committee (which oversees compliance with this Pact), will analyze parts already implemented and areas still needing attention, such as the persistence of torture, systemic inequalities, violations of the right to privacy, and risks for defenders of human rights.: <https://bit.ly/4ajV3cv>

ARNS COMMISSION ENGAGED IN HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW BY THE UN COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (CESCR)

Together with partner organizations, the Arns Commission presented a report on major points of attention and challenges in Brazil to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). The Commission was represented by its international advisor, Paulo Lugon, at the session held in Geneva on September 28. The Brazilian State was asked about retirement disparity, informal work, and the Cut-Off Timeframe for indigenous land rights. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3KdmJFm>

ARNS COMMISSION AND ORGANIZATIONS SEND URGENT APPEAL TO THE UN ON DRAFT BILL Nº 2903

An Urgent Appeal was sent on 3 October to UN rapporteurs and experts by the Arns Commission and partner organizations. Its purpose was to issue a warning about the risk of severe violations of indigenous rights in Brazil, if Draft Bill (PL) Nº 2903 is approved by the Brazilian Senate. The document signatories requested the rapporteurs to urge the Brazilian State, particularly the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the Presidential Chief of Staff, to acknowledge constitutional and conventional flaws in this Bill that pave the way for social backsliding, asking them to declare a full veto of the proposal. These organizations also requested a joint press release underscoring the severity of the situation and expressing the opinion of the rapporteurs on the incompatibility between this legislation with international human rights standards. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3Kbhs1b>

ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL



FIVE YEARS OF HARD WORK IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

The Arns Commission received the Márcio Thomaz Bastos Highlight Award during the 20th Innovare Awards. Presented in Brasília on December 12, this award acknowledges the innovative efforts of this organization in its defense of democracy and human rights, it was set up in 2019. Established in 2004 by the Innovare Institute, this award honors and disseminates transformative practices developed in the Brazilian Justice system. President José Carlos Dias represented the Arns Commission at this event. "We believe that there are no human rights without democracy. Feeling that democracy in Brazil was at risk, – which was actually confirmed through severe national setbacks – we brought together a non-partisan group of 22 people, each with different characteristics but united by a common goal. And this is how the Commission began: defending human rights, reporting violations, and joining other entities linked to this cause," he said. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4awVvEn>

Vladimir Herzog Legislative Medal – On December 5, the Diadema City Council, a municipality in the São Paulo Metropolitan Region, awarded the Vladimir Herzog Legislative Medal to ten renowned individuals and a civil society organization the Arns Commission and two of its founders, Paulo Vannuchi and Belisário dos Santos Jr. This medal honors people and institutions whose actions help defend and assure Brazilian democracy, while keeping alive the memory of Brazil's embattled return to democracy. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3yAtu1t>

DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

REPUDIATION OF ATTACKS ON THE DEMOCRATIC RULE OF LAW (NOTE #56)

In a public statement, the Arns Commission expressed its utter repudiation of acts of violence undermining the Democratic Rule of Law that took place on January 8 in Brasília. This Note reads: "The invasion and depredation of buildings housing the Powers of the Republic is unacceptable, constituting an attempt to abolish the democratic regime by violence, which is a crime defined in Article 359-L of the Criminal Law Code. It is impossible to accept efforts attempting to use force and chaos, in contempt of authorities and laws, to obstruct grassroots sovereignty expressed through democratic ballot-box outcomes in 2022. It is essential that security forces urgently restore law and order in the nation's capital. It is imperative that all the trespassers who vandalized the headquarters of the three Powers of the Republic, as well as those who funded and organized these and other acts of vandalism against Brazilian democracy, be held accountable for their actions. It is also essential to investigate the omissive conduct fostering this movement, aimed at destabilizing our Democratic Rule of Law. Law enforcement institutions may not tolerate people attacking our constitutional order." Read more: <https://bit.ly/3wPFWKe>



PHOTO: GABRIELA BILO / FOLHAPRESS

DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

CIVIL SOCIETY PROTESTS IN A PUBLIC ACT AGAINST JANUARY 8 ATTACKS

Reacting strongly to attacks on all three branches of government on January 8, several civil society organizations gathered hundreds of people together the following day (January 9) at a public act of protest at the University of São Paulo Law School. The Arns Commission was represented by one of its founders, Oscar Vilhena, and its president José Carlos Dias, who read out the official document released by these organizations.

Read here: <https://bit.ly/4dMviEN>

REPUDIATION OF ATTACKS AGAINST FEDERAL SUPREME COURT JUSTICES (NOTE #57)

On July 17, the Arns Commission issued a public statement expressing its firmest repudiation of recurrent aggressions and attempts at intimidation targeting Federal Supreme Court Justices and their families. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bt3zqV>

ARNS COMMISSION HONORS SENATOR ELIZIANE GAMA FOR HER WORK ON THE JANUARY 8 COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (NOTE #63)

In a public statement issued on October 23, the Arns Commission expressed its acknowledgment of the noteworthy efforts of Senator Eliziane Gama, as the rapporteur for the Joint Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (CPMI) addressing riotous protests on January 8. "For five months, she offered an outstanding example of dedication to the terms of her mandate, acting with intelligence and firmness in the search for the facts and their perpetrators. Her courage is inspiring, despite the threats that forced her to request security guards for her own safety," says this text. The Arns Commission will continue to follow the developments of the CPMI report in the Brazilian Courts. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4dRmaPc>

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN SÃO MIGUEL DO OESTE (SC) IS CALLED OUT BY THE ARNS COMMISSION AFTER POLITICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST COUNCILWOMAN

In February, the Arns Commission sent a letter to the Attorney General's Office in São Miguel do Oeste, Santa Catarina State, requesting an investigation into threats and political violence against town councilor Maria Tereza Zanella Capra, who represents the Workers Party (PT). This document explains: "Particularly noteworthy is not only the summary removal from office of this councilor, purportedly due to a lack of parliamentary decorum, but also the absence of any investigation of episodes reflecting a Nazi culture." The Commission also contacted the São Miguel do Oeste Town Council chair to "express concern" about the annulment of her term of office for an alleged breach of decorum, after she posted a video on her Instagram account of a demonstration attempting a coup in 2022, during which local residents made Nazi-style salutes. It also sent a letter of support to this councilwoman expressing its deep indignation about these facts. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3VqnP7j>



FOTO: ANDRÉ AMÉRICO

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS DISCUSS PUBLIC POLICIES FOR STREET POPULATIONS

In 2023, the Arns Commission stepped up its actions promoting dialogues with authorities, discussing public policies for the homeless in São Paulo. Consequently, lawyers Antônio Cláudio Mariz de Oliveira and Oscar Vilhena Vieira, both founding members of the Arns Commission, and its Executive Secretary André Alcântara, met with São Paulo Municipal Social Assistance and Development Secretary Carlos Bezerra Jr. on March 14, visiting the *Reencontro* outreach program at the Anhangabaú subway station exit. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bO89je>

THE ARNS COMMISSION JOINS ADPF Nº 976 AS AN *AMICUS CURIAE*

On May 19, the Arns Commission hosted a meeting with movements and institutions working with the implementation and defense of policies for the homeless population in São Paulo. Among the suggestions, it was decided that the Commission should join the Petition for Certiorari alleging Non-Compliance with a Fundamental Precept (ADPF) Nº 976 as *amicus curiae*. Being heard in the Federal Supreme Court, it addresses policies for homeless people that provide both prevention and care, helping them get off the streets. Literally a 'friend of the court', an *amicus curiae* is a legal figure presenting information and insights for the judgment of a specific topic. In July, its Reporting Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered a ban on forced removals of homeless people and their personal assets and belongings, due to failures by States, the Federal District and municipalities to take steps implementing Brazil's National Homelessness Policy, enacted through Federal Decree Nº 7,053/2009. This Federal Supreme Court Justice also set a deadline of 120 days for the Federal Government to prepare an action and oversight plan for the effective implementation of this Homelessness Policy. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3V4ZN0e>

TEARS OF THE EARTH EXHIBITION URGES REFLECTIONS ON RIGHTS

With support from the Arns Commission, the Tears of the Earth (Lágrimas da Terra) exhibition by artist Cyra Moreira was inaugurated at the Oswald de Andrade Cultural Workshop on August 5 in São Paulo. A chat circle opened the exhibition, featuring the artist herself, lawyer and FGV/SP Law School director Oscar Vilhena, who is also a founding member of the Arns Commission, and artist Cecília Tilkian. In 75 panels, the artist addressed human rights violations, environmental devastation and the refugee crisis. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3WUsyiw>



THE ARNS COMMISSION
VISITS FATHER JÚLIO
LANCELOTTI

REPUDIATION OF THE MURDER OF MOTHER BERNADETE (NOTE #60)

On August 18, the Arns Commission publicly expressed its strongest repudiation of the murder of Mother Bernadete, born Bernadette Pacifico. She was shot dead on August 17, in the terreiro faith-based complex she headed in the Simões Filho municipality, Salvador Metropolitan Region. A leading symbol of Brazil's quilombola struggles, Mother Bernadete was a tireless voice defending the rights, culture, and spirituality of Black people. A member of the National Coordination for the Articulation of Black Rural Quilombola Communities (CONAQ), she had also served as Secretary for the Promotion of Racial Equality in Simões Filho. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3WWdq4n>

FATHER JULIO LANCELOTTI WELCOMES THE VISIT OF THE ARNS COMMISSION

The Arns Commission visited Father Júlio Lancellotti, the São Paulo Street People Pastoral Coordinator. Held on September 1 in the São Miguel Arcanjo Parish, in eastern São Paulo, one of the main themes of this meeting was to propose steps banning architecture hostile to homeless people. These discouragements include sharp stones under marquees, and armrests on park benches that stop people lying down. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3VjvnBW>

THE COURT BANS ILLEGAL WEAPONS ADS BY TAURUS

In a majority opinion handed down at a session on September 5, the 27th Private Law Chamber at the São Paulo State Court of Appeals ordered Taurus to remove firearms advertisements from its website and Instagram profile, under penalty of a daily fine to be set by the Trial Court judge, as they are illegal. This decision was the outcome of an appeal filed by the Arns Commission, the Consumer Protection Institute (IDEC), Intervozes, and lawyers from the Rede Liberdade network. Gun advertising is allowed only in specialized publications, and may not be disseminated on the internet or through social networks. The judgment restricting these advertisements was signed in January 2024. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4avUOv6>

ARNS COMMISSION ATTENDS COLLOQUIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

A professor at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV) Law School and an Arns Commission founding member, the lawyer Oscar Vilhena Vieira participated in a panel session at the International Colloquium on Climate Justice and Democracy, organized on September 11 by the Federal Supreme Court. Hosted in its First Panel Sessions Room, this event discussed the links between Climate Justice and topics such as human rights, democracy, minorities and intergenerational responsibilities. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bL8GCU>

SEMINAR DISCUSSING HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT

On November 28, the Arns Commission participated in a seminar at the University of São Paulo Law School, which brought together representatives of Brazilian civil society coalitions and organizations to discuss humanitarian disarmament, as well as measures to prevent and halt the suffering of people in conflict areas. The Arns Commission was represented by its president, José Carlos Dias, and its executive director Laura Greenhalgh. Two international reports were presented, one on landmines (Landmine Monitor) and the other on cluster bombs (Cluster Bombs Report). The meeting drew attention to the position of Brazil which, although a signatory of the Mine Ban Treaty, has not yet signed the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (projectiles that open while airborne and drop bomb clusters over large tracts of land. When unexploded, many are buried in the ground and become landmines. Brazil manufactures, stores and exports this type of ammunition to several countries, with at least three local companies allocated funding through the Studies and Projects Financing Agency (FINEP) and the National Social and Economic Development Bank (BNDES). The seminar was organized by the University of São Paulo Law School, jointly with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize), the Cluster Munition Coalition and the Dhesarme humanitarian disarmament NGO. Other attendees included Human Rights Watch, Conectas Human Rights, and the Sou da Paz Institute. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4aA1Uiib>

ARNS COMMISSION DISCUSSES CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM CHALLENGES

At the invitation of the Arns Commission, representatives of organizations linked to the issue of incarceration in Brazil met on November 24 at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation Law School in São Paulo, to discuss prison system challenges. The Commission is striving to construct an action agenda for contributing to the battle for prisoner rights, recommending the National Justice Council (CNJ) as the most appropriate place for addressing this issue. The problems explored included hurdles hampering decarceration policies and processes, as well as serious daily issues in prisoner detention and guard facilities, with overcrowded cells, poor food and sanitation, lack of access to justice and faith-based support, as well as other issues. In December, the Arns Commission met with Associate Justice Luiz Geraldo Sant'Ana Lanfredi, of the CNJ, to discuss the possibility of a decarceration partnership with this Council. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3UVYErE>

ACT FOR PEACE CELEBRATES THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On December 10, the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 50th anniversary of the São Paulo Justice and Peace Commission, the 10th anniversary of the Campaign against the Criminalization of Social Movements, and the 6th anniversary of the Dom Paulo Inter-Religious Front for Justice and Peace were celebrated in the São Judas University chapel in São Paulo. São Paulo Street People Pastoral coordinator Father Júlio Lancellotti, and the Arns Commission Honorary President Margarida Genevois were honored. This act was organized by civil society organizations, such as the São Paulo Justice and Peace Commission, the Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns Inter-Religious Front, the Arns Commission, the São Paulo Chapter of the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB-São Paulo), the Jewish Human Rights Observatory in Brazil, the Cebrapaz peoples' sovereignty NGO, and many other human rights entities. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3Khz7Ej>



PHOTO JAYREMBERT

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AND TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS' RIGHTS

ARNS COMMISSION VISITS PARÁ STATE TO DEMAND ACTION AGAINST RURAL VIOLENCE

Between April 17 and 20, the Arns Commission visited Marabá, Eldorado do Carajás, Anapu, Altamira and Belém in Pará State. These municipalities are scarred by rural violence and State negligence. The delegation visited the Oziel Alves Youth Education Camp at Curva do S in Eldorado dos Carajás, organized by the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MTST). This camp honors the memory of 21 rural workers murdered by military police in 1996, demanding answers for the crime, which has still not been fully solved. Only two of several accused Military Police officers were convicted as the masterminds behind this massacre: Colonel Mário Pantoja and Major José Maria de Oliveira. (see <https://comissaoarns.org/en-us/blog/comissao-ans-participa-de-ato-em-eldorado-dos-carajas/>).

This camp also issues alerts about ongoing violence. In 2017, after reinstatement of possession on the Santa Lúcia Ranch (as a result of land grabbing), 25 rural worker families returned to settle in this area. According to witnesses, ten victims were murdered by Military Police. Sixteen people have been charged and are awaiting trial. Forty days later, Poor Peasants League coordinator Rosenildo Pereira was executed in Rio Maria. This crime does not even have an open investigation. In 2021, a key witness to this episode – Fernando dos Santos Araújo – was killed. The delegation also visited São Félix do Xingu, which has recorded more than sixty rural murders during the past forty years, according to data provided by the Pastoral Land Commission. In January 2022, environmentalist José Gomes, better known as Zé do Lago, was murdered, together with his wife and stepdaughter. The perpetrators have not been identified. The delegation also visited the Parakanã Indigenous Land in Novo Repartimento, and sent a letter to the president of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), reporting imminent threats of violence to this indigenous people and the employees of this indigenist agency, requesting urgent steps. A video about this mission is scheduled for release in 2024 by the Arns Commission. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4aDLLbB>; <https://bit.ly/3QZY0rU>

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AND TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS' RIGHTS

REPORT RECOMMENDS PUBLIC SECURITY OPERATION IN SOUTH/SOUTHEAST PARÁ STATE

On June 1, the Arns Commission forwarded a report to Justice and Public Security Minister Flávio Dino, entitled Pará: No Peace without Justice, with Recommendations for Government Actions Addressing the Situation of Violence and Impunity in South/Southeast Pará State (Pará: sem justiça não há paz, com recomendações de ações governamentais para enfrentar o quadro de violência e impunidade no sul e sudeste do Pará). The outcome of a five-day expedition by the Arns Commission in April through crime-ridden areas in this State, the report compiles accounts from victims, witnesses, and local authorities in an effort to sound a warning about the severity of the situation in this region, which is among the most violent in Brazil. One of the suggested recommendations is to run massive local disarmament and inspection operations in the visited regions, organized by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, jointly with the Pará State Government, with intensive support from the Federal Police, and coordinated with the local Military Police. This report also recommends concentrated efforts by the State Public Prosecutor's Office and the Public Security Bureau, focused on solving the murder of environmentalist José Gomes (better known as Zé do Lago) and his family in São Félix do Xingu, in addition to serving open arrest warrants. This report was also addressed to Ministers Sílvio de Almeida (Human Rights) and Paulo Teixeira (Agrarian Development); Federal Attorney General Jorge Messias, and Presiding Justice Rosa Weber at the Federal Supreme Court. Read more: <https://comissaoarns.org/en-us/blog/comissao-ans-recomenda-operacao-integrada-de-seguranca-publica-no-sul-e-sudeste-do-estado/>.

In September, the Commission visited Belém, the Pará State capital, to present this report to local authorities and representatives of civil society. The intention was also to discuss the actions taken and strategies for ensuring compliance with the suggested recommendations. The Lawyer Belisário dos Santos Jr. (a founding member of the Arns Commission) and the psychologist Leana Naiman (associate) visited the State Public Prosecutor's Office and met with the Pará State Racial Equality and Human Rights Bureau Secretary Jarbas Vasconcelos do Carmo. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3VdF5wk>

SQUATTER PRESSURES ON APYTEREWA INDIGENOUS LAND REQUIRE ACTION (NOTE #63)

With much concern, the Arns Commission has been monitoring efforts lobbying for the suspension of squatter removals from the Apyterewa indigenous land in Pará State. Traditionally home to the newly contacted Parakanã indigenous people, they are extremely vulnerable and government measures are required. In a public Note on October 24, the Arns Commission underscored the urgency of completing the squatter removal process, together with the legalization of this indigenous land. The Apyterewa demarcation process began in 1987 and ended in 2008, being duly ratified, registered, and acknowledged by the Brazilian Courts. However, it has since come under pressure from trespassers. Resorting to the *fait accompli* ploy, these trespassers try to trample the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples to their traditional lands, demarcated and legalized in compliance with Article 231, § 1 of the Brazilian Constitution. Since 2019, deforestation of the Apyterewa lands has expanded by some 22,000 hectares, ranking it among Brazil's most endangered, invaded, and deforested indigenous lands. The Arns Commission will monitor steps taken against people striving to prevent squatter removals. Read more: <https://bit.ly/44UKb3L>

SOLIDARITY WITH THE GUARANI, KAIOWÁ, AND TURIWARA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On March 8, the Arns Commission joined dozens of civil society organizations and signed a letter of solidarity supporting the Guarani and Kaiowá indigenous peoples. Systematic attacks in recent decades grew worse in 2022, with the Guapo'y Massacre and situations of rising violence and threats to the physical integrity of these peoples. This situation was repeated yet again in March 2023, through truculent treatment by the Mato Grosso do Sul State Military Police. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bDolEr>

On November 10, an attack on Turiwara indigenous people, on the border between the Acará and Tailândia municipalities in Pará State, resulted in a death and three other casualties. The Arns Commission sent a letter to Justice Minister Flavio Dino, requesting a rigorous investigation of this episode and feedback on the resulting steps taken. The Arns Commission also stated that it will oversee investigations of these crimes. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3ywLTw5>

ARNS COMMISSION AND PARTNERS DISCUSS ANCESTRAL LAND TITLE VALIDATION TIMEFRAME (MARCO TEMPORAL)

On April 14, the Arns Commission, the FGV/SP Law School, and the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) engaged in a discussion cycle exploring the Validation Timeframe for ownership of indigenous lands, at an event examining the Law and Threats to Indigenous Peoples in the Early XXI Century. In this initiative, the Arns Commission was headed by anthropologist Professor Manuela Carneiro da Cunha, its report writer on indigenous issues. The Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe is a legal concept designed to limit the rights of Brazil's indigenous peoples.

It states that official recognition may be granted only for lands where tribes were actually living on October 5, 1988 (promulgation of the Brazilian Constitution). Absent this occupancy and its effects, it would be necessary to prove the existence of land disputes under way on this date. Interpretations of this concept legitimize land-grabbing and violence against these peoples over time. It ignores the fact that they were protected by the Brazilian State before the 1988 Constitution, lacking autonomy to appeal to the courts. The Land Title Validation Timeframe/ Marco Temporal is a major threat to indigenous rights, biodiversity, and climate balance. In 2021, the Federal Supreme Court took on the task of controlling the constitutionality of this Validation Timeframe for indigenous land rights by agreeing to hear Extraordinary Appeal N° 1,017,365, better known as the Xokleng Case. In this lawsuit, Santa Catarina State uses the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe to limit the territorial rights of the Xokleng indigenous people. As this Court acknowledged the widespread repercussion of this judgment, its outcome will affect hundreds of pending lawsuits that also address this issue. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3x1L1Pw>

PUBLIC ACT PROTESTS AGAINST MARCO TEMPORAL CONCEPT

On the first day of the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe trial in Brazil's Federal Supreme Court on June 7, the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), the Arns Commission, the Vladimir Herzog Institute, the Justice and Peace Commission, and the São Paulo Chapter of the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB-SP) joined performers like The Arns Commission member Daniela Mercury and Zélia Duncan, to protest on the steps of the Municipal Theater in the Praça Ramos de Azevedo square, downtown São Paulo. Leaders of the Guarani people and the president of the São Paulo Municipal Indigenous Peoples Council, Avani Fulni-ô also attended this event, which featured traditional chants, ceremonies, and presentations. Its purpose was to mobilize society and the authorities against Federal Supreme Court approval of the Validation Timeframe for indigenous land rights. These organizations stressed that this concept is unconstitutional and has no basis in international treaties. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4dU5GWy>

ARNS COMMISSION AND ITS PARTNERS DISCUSS THE ANCESTRAL LAND TITLE VALIDATION TIMEFRAME

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AND TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS' RIGHTS

SUMMARY OF LEGAL ARGUMENTS IN ANCESTRAL LAND TITLE VALIDATION TIMEFRAME JUDGMENT

On September 21, the Federal Supreme Court handed down its decision on Extraordinary Appeal N° 1,017,365. By a majority of 9 to 2, it rejected the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe concept, as incompatible with the constitutional guarantee of land rights for Brazil's indigenous peoples. In this context, and bearing in mind the discussions that have engaged society and these Justices, civil society organizations – the Arns Commission; Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB); Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI); Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC), and the Brazilian Anthropology Association (ABA) – expressed their concern for three aspects under examination in these legal concepts

1

Compensation for the value of the untouched land is discussed, for private parties receiving land titles from the government in good faith for areas constituting indigenous lands, but not encompassed by the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe or persistent dispossession, meaning that if an indigenous people did not occupy land because they were forced away by conflictive possession on the promulgation date of Brazil's 1988 Constitution, they are considered victims of disseisin or adverse possession, whereby such areas will be considered as indigenous lands for the purposes of Article 231. In this case, it is essential that any compensation is completely disassociated from demarcation procedures, not paid prior to demarcation and not being a condition for full enjoyment of territorial rights by the indigenous peoples in question

2

It is necessary to rule out the possibility of swapping indigenous lands for other areas, which is a hypothesis not addressed by Brazil's 1988 Constitution. Indigenous lands are absolutely non-fungible.

3

Legal concepts should not address the controversial and complex issue of mining in indigenous territories. This matter has never been discussed in the context of Extraordinary Appeal N° 1,017,365, and it is not appropriate to introduce it into this case with no opportunity for indigenous peoples and society to express their views on the matter, under the threat of severe affront to the due process of law. Mining on indigenous lands seriously endangers the rights of these peoples, while also threatening environmental protection. In a public note, the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil expressed its opposition.

The entities remain confident that, when addressing the issues raised by Extraordinary Appeal N° 1,017,365, with widespread repercussion (which should govern such matters in the future), Brazil's Federal Supreme Court will remain steadfast in its greater role as guardian of the Constitution and protector of the fundamental rights of minorities, such as the indigenous peoples of Brazil. Read more:

<https://bit.ly/3WXuk2r>

SAYING NO TO DRAFT BILL Nº 2903 (NOTE #62)

On October 20, the Arns Commission issued a public Note expressing its concern about Congressional approval of Draft Bill Nº 2903/2023, as the worst setback to the indigenous rights since Brazil returned to democracy. The reasons include:

It allows the Brazilian Government to reclaim indigenous reserves for other purposes, due to "alterations in the cultural traits of the indigenous community or other factors caused by the passage of time". Indigenous reserves are areas that have already been definitively legalized and incorporated into the nation's heritage. It even awards compensation to encroaching squatters with no rights whatsoever in these areas.

It authorizes forced contact with indigenous peoples living in isolation, thus removing their fundamental right to self-determination.

The Commission also expressed its repudiation of the institutional crisis, exacerbated by the Legislative Branch when the Federal Supreme Court exercised one of its noblest attributions: protecting minority rights. It is worth recalling that unconstitutional aspects of Draft Bill Nº 2903 were acknowledged by the Federal Supreme Court in its judgment of Extraordinary Appeal Nº 1,017,365, on September 27, 2023. At that time, it rejected (by a 9 x 2 majority) the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe concept, finding it incompatible with constitutional guarantees of indigenous land rights in Brazil. Read more:

<https://bit.ly/3UZPDxT>

COMMON INTERESTS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

In late 2023, the Arns Commission entered into talks with Fern, a Brussels-based NGO striving for social and environmental justice in the European Union. Represented by Laura Greenhalgh and Manuela Carneiro da Cunha, the Commission listed issues of common interest under the new EU environmental legislation, such as the defending the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities, including old runaway slave (quilombo) settlements, riverside dwellers, and extractivist groups



PHOTO: LUCAS HALLEL

POLICE VIOLENCE, TORTURE, AND ABUSE OF AUTHORITY

OPERATION SHIELD IN GUARUJÁ (NOTE #58)

On July 31, the Arns Commission issued a public Note expressing its deep concern about Operation Shield (Operação Escudo), conducted in July after the death of a Military Police officer in the town of Guarujá, São Paulo State. The death of this officer may not be tolerated, requiring rigorous action by the authorities, but within the strict limits of the rule of law. The high death rate among ‘suspects’ during this operation, with allegations of torturing community members (including adolescents) and threats of retaliation against the civilian population, all require immediate investigation, not only by police authorities, but also the Public Prosecutor's Office, monitoring extensively by civil society and federal human rights oversight agencies. Such weak control of police activities will merely strengthen organized crime, jeopardizing the integrity of the population. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bVnHCa>

DEMOCRACY CANNOT COEXIST WITH MASSACRES (NOTE #59)

In a public Note issued on August 17, the Arns Commission sought forceful responses from the Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo State authorities, as well as Federal Government departments in Brasília, to recent episodes that resulted in many dozens deaths in these three States. There is an unbreakable bond between democracy and respect for human rights. No democracy is worthy of the name when violations of these rights become systematic, lacking effective State responses. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3wRrDyo>

POLICE VIOLENCE, TORTURE, AND ABUSE OF AUTHORITY

ARNS COMMISSION SENDS LETTER TO SP GOVERNOR ON POLICE OMBUDSMAN THREATS

The Arns Commission sent a letter to the São Paulo State Governor, requesting an upgrade in the personal security of State Police Ombudsman Claudio Aparecido da Silva. He reportedly received death threats from a retired prison officer in a message group, for his reaction to police violence in Guarujá. These threats have already been placed on record in a police report and are thus already known to the Civil Police. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3UVAfZt>

ARNS COMMISSION MEETS WITH BAIXADA SANTISTA PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

On September 22, as part of Operation Shield, run by the São Paulo State police in Guarujá in July, a group of the Arns Commission representatives visited the Baixada Santista region for talks with the Public Prosecutor's Office. Their intention was to engage in intermediation with State authorities, in order to prevent deaths. With input from the Mothers of May (Mães de Maio), a collective of mothers of police violence victims, this group also met with the families of these victims. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4aAKbXO>

WARNING ABOUT RISKS OF DISMANTLING BODYCAM USE POLICY BY SÃO PAULO POLICE

Several organizations, including the Arns Commission, released a note on October 26 about the dismantling of the Sharp Eye (Olho Vivo) program that equips police officers in São Paulo State with portable cameras, for limiting the use of lethal force. Despite studies indicating an overall drop of 62.7% in police lethality between 2019 and 2022, particularly in units already issued with bodycams, the new São Paulo State Administration has been cutting back on their use. It is worth recalling that these cameras also offer physical and legal protection for police officers, according to a study conducted by the Sou da Paz Institute on the implementation of this program. However, the success of the São Paulo public security policy for controlling the use of lethal force, which served as an example for several States, has been undermined by this State's Administration, lowering bodycam priority, ignoring scientific evidence, and hinting at a public security policy horizon grounded on police violence. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4aH1ial>

POLICE VIOLENCE, TORTURE, AND ABUSE OF AUTHORITY



SOLIDARITY WITH PROTESTERS ARRESTED AT THE SÃO PAULO STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION (NOTE #66)

In a public statement released on December 8, the Arns Commission expressed solidarity with protesters assaulted and detained by São Paulo State Military Police officers on December 6, 2023, during a plenary session of the São Paulo State Legislative Assembly (ALESP) discussing the privatization of the São Paulo State Basic Sanitation Company (SABESP). Subsequently charged with resisting arrest and bodily harm, they were held in custody by the São Paulo Courts. This episode highlights weaknesses in Military Police interventions in demonstrations, leading to the arrest of Hendryll Luiz Rodrigues de Brito Silva and Lucas Borges Carvente. The Arns Commission felt that their arrest and subsequent detention were disproportionate. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4bznWTI>

RACISM

ARNS COMMISSION CALLS FOR STEPS AGAINST RACISM FOR BAHIA COUPLE

On May 10, the Arns Commission sent two letters to the Bahia State authorities, requesting action in response to the aggression by private security guards against a black couple at the Big Bom Preço supermarket, which is part of the Carrefour Group. The Arns Commission asked for an inquiry into the facts, with information about what steps were taken subsequently. Read more: <https://bit.ly/4dSvhiz>



PHOTO: LUIZ BALTAZAR

RIGHT TO MEMORY, TRUTH AND JUSTICE

AMNESTY COMMISSION IS REBUILT

In January, the Arns Commission celebrated the restoration of Brazil's Amnesty Commission by Human Rights and Citizenship Minister Silvio Almeida, under the Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Administration. This Commission was effectively shackled during the Bolsonaro years, its seats filled by military personnel and others opposed to initiatives compensating civil-military detention victims. Restructuring this Commission included appointing qualified members with recognized track records of defending human rights.

DOI-CODI MEMORIAL WANTS TO PRESERVE MEMORY AND TRUTH

Since 2021, a Public Civil Action filed by the São Paulo State Public Prosecutor's Office has been under examination by the Courts, seeking to set up a memorial at the Information Operations Unit Center for Domestic Defense Operations (DOI-Codi). This was a hotbed of torture and murder under Brazil's civil-military dictatorship (1964-1985) in São Paulo. A working group was set up with several organizations defending human rights, including the Arns Commission, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB), as well as universities and other institutions, in order to transform the old DOI-Codi building into a memorial for the preservation of memory and truth. Located on Rua da Tutoia street in southern São Paulo, it once housed the Operação Bandeirante (OBAN) operation, better known as Torture HQ during the dictatorship years. Today, a police station faces the street, with the empty DOI-Codi buildings behind it. Headed up by the São Paulo Federal University (UNIFESP), work has begun on an archaeological research project on these premises, overseen by the Arns Commission. During talks with the Human Rights and Citizenship Minister Silvio Almeida, the group aired a possibility of the Federal Government taking over these buildings.

PUBLIC ACT RECALLS TORTURE AND MURDER OF ALEXANDRE VANNUCHI LEME

The Arns Commission, the Vladimir Herzog Institute, and the Núcleo Memória center paid tribute to the memory of Alexandre Vannuchi Leme, murdered in 1973 at the age of 22 in the DOI-Codi underground chambers by torturer Colonel Brilhante Ustra. Held in March at the Law School students' room in the Largo de São Francisco square, this public act gathered together militants who fought Brazil's civil-military dictatorship, intellectuals, activists and young university students. A geology student at the University of São Paulo, Alexandre was arrested and tortured to death. When returned to his cell after a beating session, he shouted some of his last words to his fellow detainees along the corridors: "I said only my name." Read more: <https://bit.ly/3wMVZIN>

PURSUING HISTORICAL TRANSPARENCY AND RECONCILIATION

In May 2023, at the initiative of the Washington Brazil Office (WBO), a group of Brazilian civil society organizations, including the Arns Commission, launched a campaign for the declassification of documents stored in the USA and related to Brazil's civil-military dictatorship (1964-1984), stressing the need for transparency and historical reconciliation. This initiative included sending a letter to US President Joe Biden, as well as organizing meetings in the United States Congress urging the declassification of these sensitive documents. Recent discussions with Brazilian Government representatives sought active support in this quest for declassification. The Washington Brazil Office (WBO) is an independent organization set up in 2022 to promote advocacy, with information and cooperation activities focused on protecting human rights, fostering sustainable economic development, and defending democracy and the rule of law, with the public and US authorities. The Arns Commission representative at the Washington Brazil Office is Professor Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida

ARNS COMMISSION SEEKS ANNULMENT OF TRIBUTES TO ERASMO DIAS

In June, the Arns Commission sent a letter to São Paulo State Governor Tarcísio de Freitas, seeking annulment of the law naming a section of the Manílio Gobbi Highway (SP-284) after Colonel Erasmo Dias, running between Paraguaçu Paulista and Assis. An excerpt from this letter reads: "Adept at the use of truculent violence against the civilian population, students and militants protesting the military coup, Erasmo Dias, who died in 2010, had a murky track record in his positions of command, where he engaged in actions of repression, torture and death during the leaden years of military oppression." It continues: "As the São Paulo State Security Secretary in 1977, he oversaw a brutal raid on the Pontifical Catholic University in São Paulo (PUC-SP), where military police officers attacked and injured dozens of students, in addition to ripping up books in the university library". <https://bit.ly/4aAm37U>

RAID ON PUC-SP RECALLED 46 YEARS LATER

The brutal police raid on the Pontifical Catholic University in São Paulo on September 22, 1977 was recalled on September 25 during an informal ceremony in the Tucarena Theater at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP). Students, performers, academics, jurists, journalists, and activists gathered together in memory of an episode that ranks among the most violent moments in the history of Brazil's civil-military dictatorship, commanded by former São Paulo State Security Secretary Colonel Erasmo Dias. The organization of a traditional act of resistance recalling the PUC raid was supported by the Arns Commission and other organizations. The University Dean at the time was the late Nadir Kfourí, who stood up to the police. She was honored by a plaque giving her name to a segment of Rua Monte Alegre street where the university is located, which was presented to her nephew, the journalist Juca Kfourí. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3yLm9fm>

WOMEN

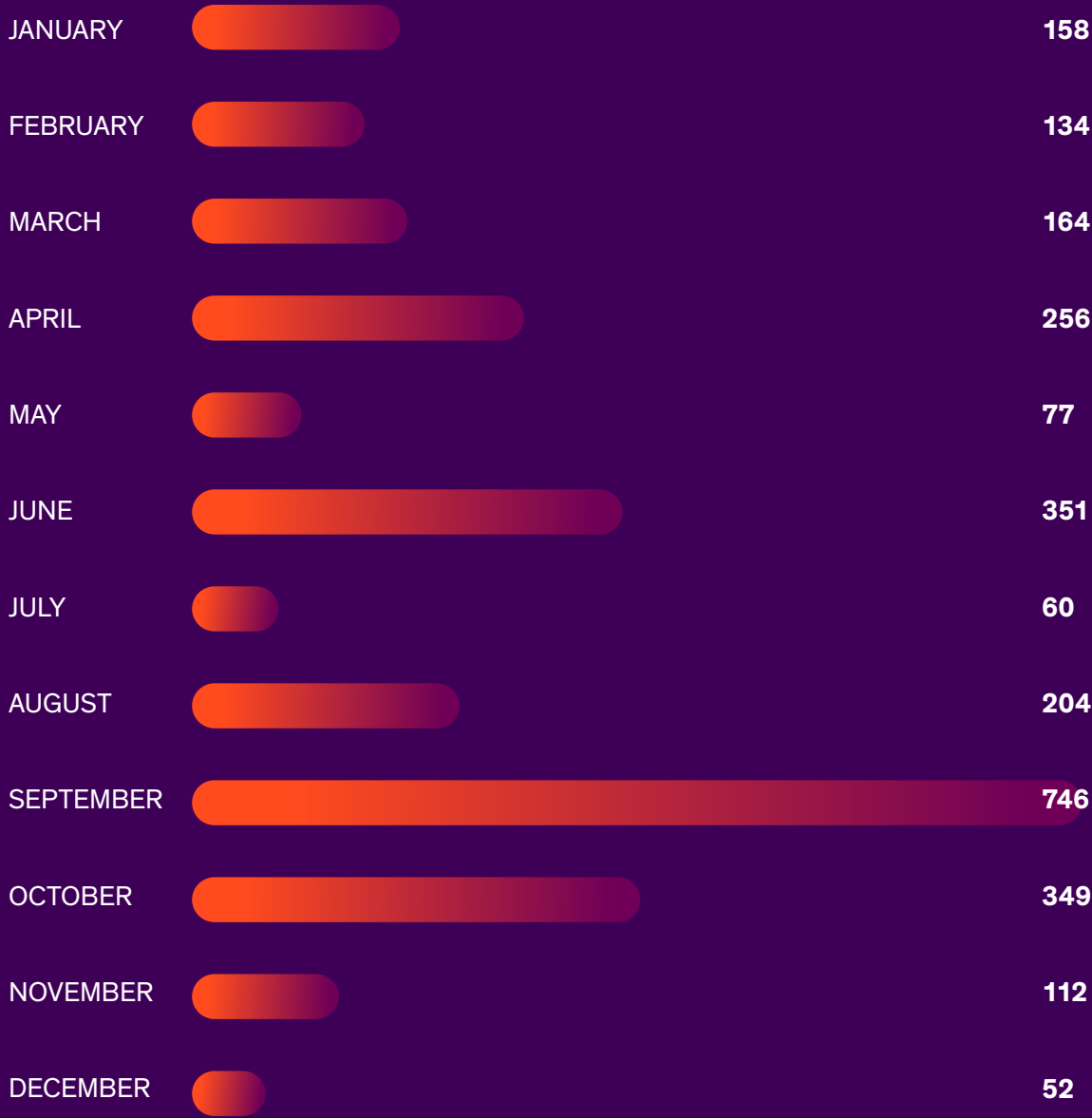
PURSUING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE UPPER COURTS

On September 26, the National Justice Council (CNJ) issued a historic decision approving the introduction of a gender alternation policy for filling vacant positions in the Upper Courts, amending Resolution N° 255/2018. Discussions urging gender equality began on September 19 with oral pleadings presented by several lawyers, including The Arns Commission founder Oscar Vilhena, appearing in this lawsuit as an *amicus curiae*. He argued that “discrimination may result from apparently neutral conduct that actually burdens a vulnerable group in a special way.”

ARNS COMMISSION IN THE MEDIA

The Arns Commission was mentioned 2,643 times in the press between January and December 2023. This coverage peaked in September (746 mentions), due mainly to the death of its founder, lawyer José Gregori (292 mentions). The next peak occurred in October, with 349 mentions. Among them, 291 mentioned the joint note against dismantling the Military Police bodycam policy. Attention was also drawn to the Commission's position on the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe; the act recalling the PUC-SP raid 46 years ago; and the Court victory over the Taurus gun factory. The results for April and June were also impressive at 331 and 256 mentions respectively. In April, the highlight was the visit of the Arns Commission to Pará State. In June, the report resulting from this expedition was released. There was also the act protesting the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe on the Municipal Theater steps, and the request for annulment of tributes honoring Colonel Erasmo Dias.

2023 MONTH X MONTH



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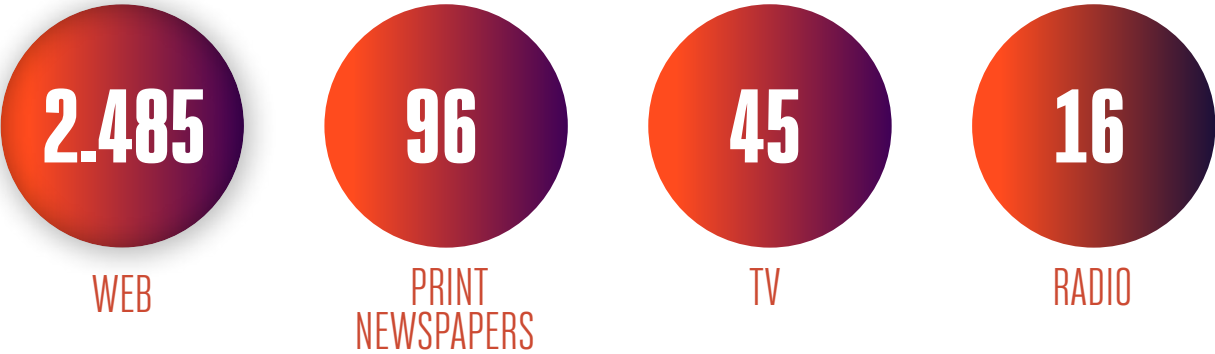
PRINT, RADIO, TV, AND ONLINE MEDIA

The most numerically significant coverage was on the Internet, with **2,485 mentions** on well-respected websites, such as UOL and G1, as well as regional, progressive, and specialized portals.

Under Print Newspapers, there were **96 publications** in all four nationwide dailies (*Folha*, *Estado*, *O Globo* and *Valor Econômico*) and regional newspapers such as *O Liberal* (Pará State), *Diário do Amapá* (Amapá State), and *O Sul* (Rio Grande do Sul State). Moreover, *Veja São Paulo* magazine also quoted the Arns Commission in a note.

On TV, there were **45 items**, with heavy coverage on *TVT* (*TV dos Trabalhadores*) and reports on *TV Globo*, *GloboNews*, *TV Cultura*, and other stations.

There were **16 mentions** on the radio, mainly on the *Cultura*, *BandNews*, *CBN* and *Nacional de Brasília* stations.



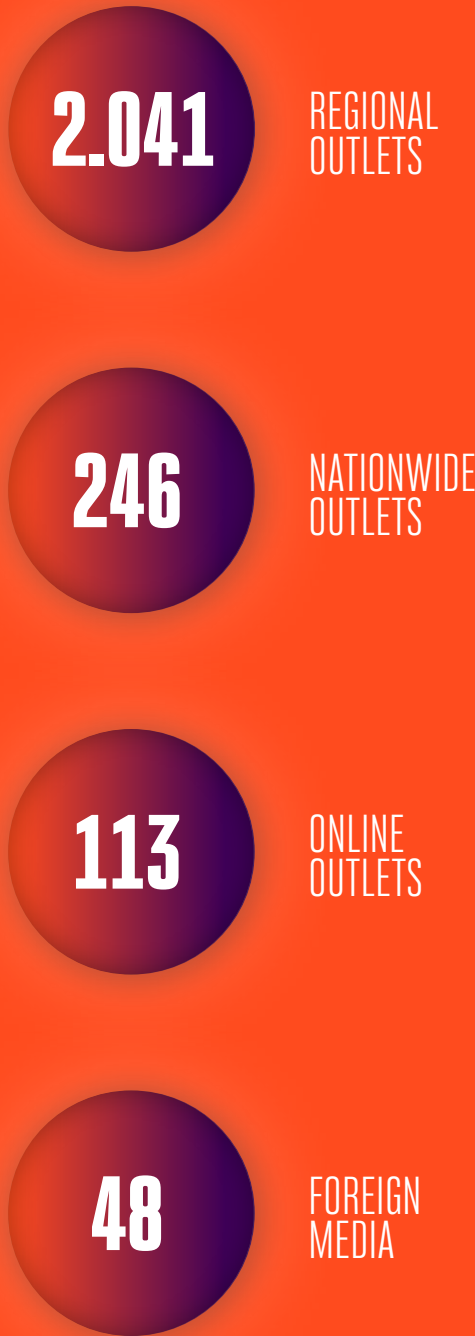
SCOPE BY PUBLICATION TYPE

The largest number of articles (2,041) mentioning the Arns Commission were featured in **regional publications** due mainly to the large number of local newspapers throughout Brazil, replicating articles sent out by news agencies, such as *Agência Brasil*.

Nationwide newspapers (like the *Folha de São Paulo*, *O Globo*, *Estado de São Paulo*, and *Valor Econômico*, portals such as *UOL* and *G1*, radio and TV stations (*Globo News*, *TVT*, *Globo*, *TV Cultura*, *CBN*, and *Band News* among others) ranked second with 246 publications.

Specialized online vehicles, such as *Conjur*, *JOTA*, *Money Times* and *Nexo* added 113 publications.

Foreign media totaled 48 mentions, particularly *The Guardian*, *Deutsche Welle* and *TeleSur*, featuring topics such as violence in Guarujá, land title time-frame, and the gun ads ban on the Taurus website and social networks. The progressive media also covered almost all the major Arns Commission actions on *Rede TVT* (*TVT*, *Rádio Brasil Atual* and *Rede Brasil Atual*) throughout the year.



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SIX ACTIONS WITH
THE STRONGEST
REPERCUSSIONS

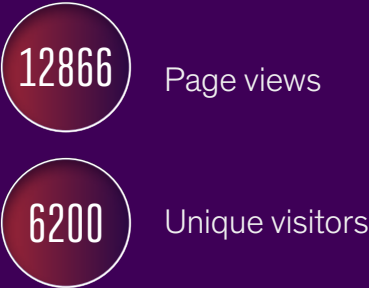
Indigenous Land Title Cut-Off Time-Frame	310	mentions
Death of José Gregori	292	mentions
SP Police bodycams	291	mentions
Pará Expedition	224	mentions
Operation Shield & massacre in Guarujá	172	mentions
Taurus Lawsuit	164	mentions

Folha S.Paulo	85	publications
O Globo	16	publications
O Estado de S. Paulo	14	publications
Valor Econômico	8	publications
UOL	23	publications
G1	21	publications
Globo	3	mentions
Globo News	1	mentions

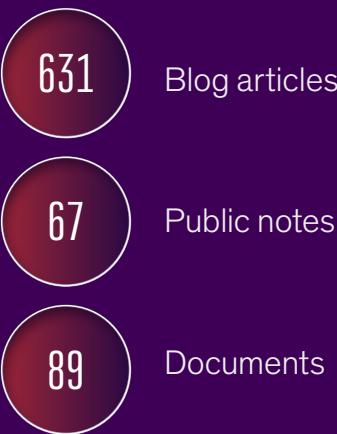
PUBLICATIONS AND
MENTIONS IN NATIONWIDE
BRAZILIAN MEDIA

DIGITAL MEDIA

WEBSITE



PUBLICATIONS



MOST VIEWED

1	Arns Commission	3896
2	Blog	620
3	Tears of the Earth Exhibition	456
4	Annulment of tribute to Erasmo Dias	482
5	Documents	425
6	Commission Recommendation after the Pará State visit for an integrated public security operation in its South and Southeast areas	361
7	The unforgettable human rights consolidation legacy of José Gregori	323
8	Note #58 Operation Shield in Guarujá	260

SOCIAL NETWORKS

Organic followers on social media rose by 12% compared to 2022. Instagram and X grew 12% while Facebook remained at the same level.

Although **X** has grown, it is worth noting that in 2023 traffic on this social network fell by 19% in the world's main countries. In Brazil, new accounts fell from 37% to 29%, compared to 2022.

On **Instagram**, the highlight is the increase in opinion-forming followers: journalists, organizations and influencers.



X



INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK

POSTS WITH MORE THAN 10K VIEWS ON X

1º	Visit to Father Júlio Lancellotti	77K
2º	Death of José Gregori	22K
3º	Daniela Mercury joins the Arns Commission	15K
4º	Cut-Off Time-Frame Video	12K
5º	Murder of Mother Bernadete	11K
6º	Protest against tribute to Erasmo Dias	9K
7º	Brazil Torture review at the UN	12K
8º	Unhoused Video	11K

Alongside countless civil society organizations, the Arns Commission took part in five Tweet campaigns addressing the Federal Supreme Court decision on the Ancestral Land Title Validation Timeframe

ON X, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 113 POSTS AND 11,300 VIEWS

113

posts

11300

vizualizações

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