Activities Report

2015/2016
Institutional and Technical Info

Board of Directors
Elizabeth Leeds – Honorary President
Humberto de Azevedo Viana Filho – President
Renato Sérgio de Lima – Vice-President
Cássio Thyone Almeida de Rosa
Cristiane do Socorro Loureiro Lima
Haydée Glória Cruz Caruso
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Marcos Aurelio Veloso e Silva
Marlene Ines Spaniol
Rodrigo Ghiringhelli de Azevedo
Silvia Ramos de Souza

Fiscal Council
Edson M. L. S. Ramos
Sérgio Roberto de Abreu

Executive Staff

Vice-President/Institutional Relations
Renato Sérgio de Lima

Executive Director
Samira Bueno

Institutional Coordination
Patrícia Nogueira Pröglhof

Project Coordination
Olaya Hanashiro

Technical Staff
David Marques
Roberta Astolfi
Marina dos Santos (Intern)
Stefanie Prandi (Intern)

Management Team
Amanda Gouveia
Débora Lopes
Elaine Rosa
Karina Nascimento
Sueli Bueno

Collaborators
Cauê Martins
Cristina Neme

Press Office
Letra Certa Estratégia e Tática em Comunicação

Visual Production
Seepix
In March of 2016, the Brazilian Forum of Public Safety (BFPS) completed ten years of existence. In addition to marking such accomplishment, this activity report is also an accountability tool and a reflection on the achievements reached over the years. Above all, it points out challenges posed to an entity that has grown and consolidated itself while operating in a national scenario in which violence and crime are perversely present in several forms, with emphasis on those involving intentional lethal deaths that reach youths, blacks, women, and other segments of the population.

This scenario is influenced by and expresses the sensitive socio-political and economic moment Brazil is experiencing and touches at important democracy-related issues. It alerts us, for example, of the importance of having an independent press and an organized and active civil society for building and guaranteeing rights.

In the field of public security, several crises and fronts have been created in the last ten years – all of which lack a political and institutional project that can overcome the antagonisms and disputes that characterize this field in Brazil and in several other Latin American countries. As highlighted by several experts, a long cycle of unfinished public security reforms marks the region.

In Brazil, at a more general level, the issue of urban violence and the public responses it has generated have oscillated between views that defend open confrontation as a crime control strategy on the one hand, and on the other hand, the search for more effective solutions aligned with the democratic social order inaugurated by the 1988 Constitution. In this clash of narratives, discourses of "order maintenance", understood as a historical mark of the "right", have gained strength in recent months. This is expressed in demonstrations advocating for the restriction of rights and for "ending the chaos". We run the risk of going back at least 40 years in the country’s political debate and in finding solutions for the tragedy of endemic violence.

However, it is worth emphasizing that the dispute is not between right and left, especially given that the "left", seen as an alternative project of social conflict management, has not yet been able to offer original and feasible solutions to the problem of violence and public safety, even when faced with a plural and dynamic society that demands new standards of public performance. Many situations and initiatives developed by governments and political groups that assume themselves as leftist are also extremely punitive and, in practice, reproduce the same omissions and/or inefficient policies that characterize the action of the Brazilian State in the field.

Amid such turmoil, there has been little change in the political discourses, which hide behind the idea that the problem of crime and violence is not related to how we conceive and understand public safety and order. The problem is that while “right” and “left” struggle for “reason of State”, they forget that people are dying, seeing their rights undermined, and living in terror, which limits the area’s actions to focusing exclusively on the agenda of how to manage criminal legislation and police institutions.

And how can we contribute to change this reality? More than just a rhetorical question, this has been one of the inquiries that have permeated the
has been developed as a counterpoint to the idea of security as a monopoly of knowledge held exclusively by a few.

The BFPS, by means of great discursive coherence and a strong capacity for articulation and mobilization – especially around the various editions of the Brazilian Yearbook of Public Security and the Annual Meetings - has succeeded in re-establishing sensitive themes and in setting public debate parameters, in an inflection driven by the sense of urgency imposed by the data.

Such sense of urgency has acquired even more dramatic colors and undertones, given data improvement and the accumulation of knowledge generated over the last three decades, especially as a result of the approximation between the University and the police institutions. However, just as undeniable as the knowledge and empirical evidence growth over this period is the fact that such growth does not necessarily become input in terms of planning, formulating, and executing more effective and efficient policies.

It is here that we dare to say that the BFPS’s performance has allowed existing data to be converted into an input for political action. More than the information itself, we are aware that it is necessary to consolidate a narrative that is credible and capable of changing the daily life of the population; that can escape the perverse logic that feeds back fear and insecurity, which is not the mere reproduction of patterns and political cultures that accept violence as language. This is done through a technical and political alliance and with the understanding that more significant changes will only occur in the articulation of stakeholders and in the convergence of incremental and management measures aimed at modernizing the legislation.

Data are not neutral and reveal political-institutional options of those who produce them. To have an effective impact on public policies, the data need to be under public scrutiny, so as to enable the qualified debate and the search for solutions. The numbers strengthen the arguments for discussing
reforms in the field and in the police and their practices, but alone, even in formats permitted by modern technology tools, these numbers do not have the capacity to induce effective transformations.

For us, the data are not limited to technical agenda and are not just byproducts of the massive adoption of new technologies and systems. Not surprisingly, our work has opted for advocating transparency, control, and accountability as tools to explain problems, seek solutions, and modernize the area. The picture involves narratives in dispute and not only one greater or lesser validity of information.

In this process, information on public safety is currently one of the most emblematic fronts of the battle over the legitimacy of the institutional practices and organizational cultures in force. Thanks to the institutional action of the BFPS and its network of partners, much more is known today in comparison to ten years ago, in a process that deconstructs certainties and weakens secrecy and excessive institutional autonomy as forms of governance.

But the idea that drives us is that it is not enough to just produce more information – it’s imperative to broaden its reach, to communicate it in the most effective way, and to transform it into knowledge and energy for change. Especially because if spaces are created, they, therefore, provoke reactions and, at a moment of deep fracture in the Brazilian society, one must not imagine that such path is unidirectional and that the march towards the modernization of the field is inexorable and free of setbacks.

For this reason, and in the quest for institutional maturity, this report seeks to innovate by presenting not only activities but also an analysis developed by political scientist Fernando Abrucio, a renowned public policy and scenario analyst, on how people external to our field perceive our work and what our next frontiers would be. The proposal aimed at having an external analyst look at our numbers and our performance and think about how we can keep making a difference in the years to come.

Fernando Abrucio tells us that the BFPS’s strong exposure will not be of help if we are not able to convert it into real impacts on the way of thinking and doing public security in the country. He also recommends a broad work plan that, in our view, does not just end in the institutional action of our entity, but guides how we can strengthen the coalition between civil society and various organizations around the idea of sustaining life and guaranteeing rights.
Since its creation, the BFPS has grounded its actions on guidelines and values defined in its bylaws. Every two years, it develops its work plan at strategic planning meetings with the participation of the executive team, the Board of Directors, the Fiscal Council, and selected guests, all of whom help equalize expectations and challenges.

The current work plan recommends that the annual project cycle is built with a view to achieving the objectives outlined and to take advantage of opportunities for innovation and/or financial sustainability of the FBSP. This plan consists of five major axes, namely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEMES</th>
<th>STRATEGIC GOALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety Policy: Transparency, Accountability and Control</td>
<td>• Focus on the modernization of public security by compiling/disseminating public statistics, studies, and research; • Encourage public authorities to adopt active transparency and accountability for the population as a way of governing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting Life</td>
<td>• Focus on articulating and coordinating public policies for the reduction of homicides and violent deaths; • Mobilize society to reduce violent deaths as a priority challenge for the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation and Democratic Governance of Public Safety</td>
<td>• Support the elaboration of a proposal of federative agreement of public security; • Qualify the public debate on the restructuring of the attributions, capacities and competences related to police work; • Support the construction of a federative financing model and a public security revenue/expenditure classification system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Violence Against Women</td>
<td>• Induce public debate on sexual violence against women; • Support the public authorities with information to create public policies that prevent and repress sexual crimes against women; • Encourage the government to improve care for women victims of sexual violence by law enforcement institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reorganizing the Prison System</td>
<td>• Qualify public debate on prison management; • Diagnose and understand the current support system to former inmates and its results; • Strengthen discussions on prison alternatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BFPS facts and figures

By gender, as of August 2016
- Women: 26%
- Men: 74%

By category
- Contributing Members: 57.5%
- Full Members: 42.5%

By segment
- Non-Public Security Professionals: 57.1%
- Public Security Professionals: 42.9%

Public Security Professionals, by home institution
- PM (Military Police): 60%
- PC (Judiciary Police): 19%
- PF (Federal Police): 9%
- GCM (Municipal Civil Guards): 7%
- PRF (Federal Road Police): 3%
- Forensic Expert: 2%
By target activity

- Projects: 34%
- Management: 27%
- Institutional: 13%
- Executive Board: 13%
- Internship: 13%

By gender

- Women: 80%
- Men: 20%

Management and Executive Staff
(15 people as of August/2016)
Evolution of revenue and expenditure profile

Percentage of Revenues, by source 2006-2015

Evolution of BFPS Revenues 2006-2015, in values adjusted by the December 2015 IPCA
### Sources of Revenues 2015

#### Details

- Projects with National and International Foundations (donations with charges) - 2%
- Annuities - 5%
- Other Resources - 13%
- Services (Public, private, and international partners) - 77%

### Income statements for the years ended

**On December 31, 2015, and 2014, in BRL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/15</th>
<th>12/31/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private projects</td>
<td>2,133,064</td>
<td>1,359,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice project</td>
<td>154,458</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,287,522</td>
<td>1,359,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>417,603</td>
<td>354,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity</td>
<td>88,029</td>
<td>44,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>313,055</td>
<td>169,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial revenue</td>
<td>75,408</td>
<td>35,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>894,095</td>
<td>603,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating revenues</strong></td>
<td>3,181,617</td>
<td>1,963,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses with personnel</td>
<td>(857,572)</td>
<td>(756,262)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative expenses</td>
<td>(2,500,751)</td>
<td>(1,321,602)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax expenses</td>
<td>(1,898)</td>
<td>(3,434)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for legal proceedings</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(199,994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial expenses</td>
<td>(30,286)</td>
<td>(12,812)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating expenses / revenues</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating expenses</strong></td>
<td>(3,390,507)</td>
<td>(2,288,842)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deficit for the year</strong></td>
<td>(208,891)</td>
<td>(325,715)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance Audited by Grant Thornton Brasil.
The strength of creating a new narrative about public security in Brazil

Throughout its ten years, the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety has established itself as a key source of references, news, and information concerning the violence and public security scenario in the country. The data we have compiled and/or produced reach multiple and different audiences, and is used in a varied range of projects and initiatives, whether academic, governmental, private, in law enforcement and/or by civil society entities or international organizations.

On average, the FBSP is cited 2.6 times daily in the media – if we consider all our divulgation between June 2015 and July 2016, we were quoted about five thousand times over twelve months in all types and sizes of Media in Brazil and on all continents of the planet. In 2015, we published ten opinion articles in major newspapers and, by April 2016, in six others. Comparatively, this value is 65% higher than the level of the twelve months prior to the period analyzed. We highlight the fact that this is the result of the dissemination of data on various topics (homicides, use of force, victimization, and opinion of police officers, sexual violence, prison system, and perceptions of the population, among others) generated not only from our regular disclosures but also from the spontaneous demand that comes to us.

However, far beyond the news, the BFPS has also been quoted in several spaces and its impact has not been restricted to information disclosure. We have been mentioned in national and international editorials, columns, books and technical works; we have contributed to the agendas and strategies of renowned entities of civil society, international organizations and companies or governments; we are serving as a “case” in academic disciplines, such as the one offered by HARVARD Kennedy School, which uses our articulation in a wide and plural network in its classes; and our data and highlights are incorporated into mass campaigns and public demonstrations.

For all these reasons, in 2015 the BFPS was ranked among the most influential entities in Central and South America by the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, and in 2014 it received the National Human Rights Award for its work in the field of public security. Over the past ten years, the BFPS has also won other awards such as the Transformadores Award by Trip Magazine, in 2011. Our plural and aggregating character, disseminating of a new alternative on public safety, has essentially become an asset that goes beyond institutional action and points us to the importance of the legacy that has been built.


CHRISTOPHER STONE, IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE BRAZILIAN JOURNAL ON PUBLIC SAFETY (VOL. 10, ISSUE 2)
The BFPS in National Media and Public Debate
Estudo mostra insatisfação de policiais

Números em relação à satisfação com a carreira.

As mulheres nas instituições policiais têm receio alto ou muito alto por vários motivos:

- Temor alto ou muito alto de ser morto... (%)
- São antigas, e a média de idade é de 53,1%.
- São casadas, e a média de idade é de 75,6%.
- São mães, e a média de idade é de 61,8%.
- São homossexuais, e a média de idade é de 33,6%.
- São de orientação sexual ou gênero diversa, e a média de idade é de 19,4%.

Além da dor, o impacto na economia

Entre os homens apenas 4,4% estão casados, e a média de idade é de 57,6%.

Polícia de Trânsito

Polícia Federal

Polícia Civil

Corpo de Bombeiros

Policia Rodoviária Federal

Tipo de distúrbio psicológico no Brasil.

4. PERCEPÇÃO DE RISCO

Temor alto ou muito alto de ser morto... (%)

Ao longo da carreira como PM, já passaram por dificuldade de prática de ato ilícito.

Entre PMs, já sofreram acusação injusta de manifestar discordância em relação à opinião de colega próximo vítima de violência ou ameaça pelo fato de serem homossexuais ou bissexuais.

Polícia Federal

Polícia Científica/

Polícia Militar

Polícia Científica/Perícia

Indígena

Branco (a)

Masculino

Feminino

Nota:

As mulheres nas instituições policiais são homossexuais ou bissexuais 3,1% dos respondentes afirmam ser homossexuais ou bissexuais.

Dias de descanso para os homens são mais frequentes em relação aos dias de descanso das mulheres.

Entre os homens, afirmam sempre fazer tarefas não remunerada ocasionalmente ou sempre.

Entre as mulheres, nunca exercem outra atividade remunerada.

Polícia de Trânsito

Polícia Federal

Polícia Científica/

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Polícia de Trânsito

Polícia Federal

Polícia Científica/

Polícia Militar

Polícia Científica/Perícia

Indígena

Branco (a)

Masculino

Feminino
The BFPS contributes to communicate causes and disseminate practices
The BFPS in International Media
Projects and Activities

In addition to the Brazilian Yearbook of Public Safety and the Annual Meetings, we maintain an average of 20 projects/activities per year. As part of the strategy of strengthening our institutional communication, these are described in our Monthly Bulletins, which are sent to a list with about 9,000 addresses of qualified actors in the field.

Survey results indicate and point to insecurity among Brazilian police officers. The survey “Victimization and risk perception among public security system professionals” issued to Brazilian officers and highlights, among other worrying numbers, that 45.7% of the interviewed have already been victimized against for being public security system professionals. The results, presented at the 5th Meeting, also pointed out the great impact caused by insecurity on the daily routine of police officers.

São Paulo Public Security Policy: 30 years of learning

A large audience attended the launch of the book Policia e Democracia: 30 anos de estranhezas e esperanças (“Police and Democracy: 30 Years of Strangeness and Hopes”), with statements and interviews with police officers responsible for implementing public security policies during the country’s re-democratization period. The book aims to bring segments closer and undo the strangeness that still persist regarding this subject in our country. Several members took part in the accomplishment of the interviews and the writing of the chapters.
Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública

SEMINAR MOBILIZES THE JUSTICE SYSTEM PERSONNEL AROUND THE AGENDA OF A DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC SAFETY

The publication of the “Violence Atlas” showed that there is available space to keep the agenda of the democratization of public safety alive.

And if there was any fear that the interest on the subject could be restricted to the press, the success of the event “Dialogues with Public Attorneys Office: Democratic Police and Right to Safety” proved this hypothesis wrong.

The seminar, held on 14th and 15th of March, in São Paulo, SP was a joint initiative of the FBSP and the Federal Public Ministry of São Paulo, the São Paulo State Public Ministry’s Office of the Secretary of State of São Paulo, São de Paúlo Municipal, and the Center for the Study of Violence (NEVI/UFSP).

In addition, the seminar had 19 hours of work. It was attended by personnel of both Public and State Public Attorneys Office (FAP), São Paulo Public Defender’s Office (FSDP), journalists, professors, municipal guards (SGM) and other public safety professionals.

FBSP holds workshops and public hearings in Teresina

In partnership with the Teresina Town Hall for the development of a local diagnosis on violence, the FBSP held a participatory diagnoses in May. The purpose was to discuss about violence and public safety in the municipality, with the participation of the people of Teresina. Under the moderation of the consultant Fábio Gálvez, four workshops were held in the region of Lagoa da Rote and were attended by young people, women, entrepreneurs and local leaders. In addition to the workshops, four public hearings were held in the municipality, distributed in the North, South, East and West regions. The contributions collected in these activities will compose the final report of the project, to be delivered at the end of June.

The role of the municipality and the financing of public security are themes of the new FBSP projects

Fortaleza, Recife and Belo Horizonte

At the end of December 2015, the FBSP signed a partnership with the Ministry to produce diagnoses of violence and prepare the increase of public security scores in the municipalities of Fortaleza, Recife and Belo Horizonte. This project will dialogue with the various initiatives that have been conducted for the design of the National Plan for the Reduction of Violence.

Diagnosis in Teresina

The FBSP was also selected by the research team to produce a diagnosis on violence in the state of Ceará.
The focus on reducing lethal violence has been a strategic priority of the BFPS for many years, but the National Pact for Homicide Reduction has been established, with the support of the Open Society Foundations, as a special and structuring project of the BFPS’s institutional action in 2015 and 2016. A result of the dialog that begun in December 2014 between the Federal Government and a team of experts who study crime, violence and public security in the country, the Pact originates from the idea of contributing together with the government to design a work plan around the tragedy that takes away about 60,000 lives every year and that, paradoxically, does not have the political and institutional centrality that it should deserve.

Through the project, it was the responsibility of the BFPS to generate mobilization and document practices that could be adopted and/or replicated by the different Federative Units and by different Power and Government instances, starting with a research commissioned to the Datafolha Institute, which in July 2015 indicated an almost 100% adhesion of the resident population in municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants to the idea of a pact on that subject. In general lines, the National Pact for Public Security aims to:

- Understand and treat violence as a multifaceted phenomenon, demanding, therefore, the construction of articulated and intersectoral initiatives (police, justice, education, health, etc.);
- Focus on intentional violent killings (voluntary manslaughter, deaths resulting from police intervention, killings of police officers, robberies and injuries resulting in death) and not only on legally defined and intentional homicides, ensuring that the issue of lethal violence is addressed in all its complexity;
- Promote doctrines based on problem solving and integration of efforts and actions of the different organizations that make up the country’s criminal justice and public safety system.
- Institute and consolidate processes of evaluation, accountability, and control in the scope of the Pact initiatives, with strong engagement and mobilization of society, especially the protagonists of the subject and the security institutions;
- Prioritize secondary and tertiary prevention actions, addressing vulnerable groups and circuits where violence is already present, and can be mitigated/eliminated, especially young
people and black aged between 12 and 24, which are the group that concentrates the largest number and the highest rates of violent deaths in Brazil;

- Establish mechanisms for dialogue between the community and the police, in order to bring languages closer together, reduce spaces of confrontation and build spheres to negotiate procedures;

- Create/strengthen permanent qualification programs within the Executive, so that curricular frameworks and education plans aimed at reducing violence can be debated and offered to the professionals involved with the subject.

Thus, the project aims to convey a strong message of prioritization of life. For this purpose, the BFPS maintained teams acting in line with the Ministry of Justice until June 2016. Now, with the change in the command of the federal government, the entity has been active in maintaining the agenda on public debate, maintaining the bridge of dialogue had until then built and sensitizing different actors and segments to the urgency of articulated actions. The Pact translates the entity’s effort to propose a new and more efficient narrative on how to face the dilemmas and indices of violence that we have in Brazil today.
### Annual Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>States Represented</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Supporters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belo Horizonte (BH)</td>
<td>Ouro Minas Palace Hotel</td>
<td>April 25 to 27, 2007</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitória (ES)</td>
<td>Centro de Convenções de Vitória</td>
<td>April 1 to 3, 2009</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taguatinga - DF</td>
<td>Universidade Católica de Brasília (UCB)</td>
<td>May 13 to 15, 2011</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recife (PE)</td>
<td>Mar Hotel Recife</td>
<td>March 26 to 27, 2008</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>São Paulo (SP)</td>
<td>Expo Center Norte</td>
<td>March 15 to 17, 2010</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Violência contra a Mulher, Acesso à Justiça e o Papel das Instituições Policiais
21 a 23 de setembro de 2016 - Brasília (DF)

Universidade de Brasília (UnB)
Campus Universitário Darcy Ribeiro - Prédio da Finatec

Cuiabá (MT)
Universidade Federal do Mato Grosso (UFMT)
July 17 to 19, 2013
800 participants
33 activities performed
21 supporters

Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)
July 28 to 31, 2015
731 participants
16 states represented
48 activities performed
60 supporters

São Paulo (SP)
Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)
July 28 to 31, 2014
540 participants
13 activities performed
31 supporters

Porto Alegre (RS)
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)
July 16 to 18, 2012
1100 participants
25 states represented
35 activities performed
50 supporters

Brasília (DF)
Finatec (UnB)
September 21 to 23, 2016
600 participants
48 activities performed
61 supporters

Estimated Numbers.
## Cycle of Projects 2015-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle 2015/2016</th>
<th>Financer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of Violence in Brazil</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond informing: persuading.</td>
<td>Ford Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and preparation of studies concerning the “Pacto por um Ceará Pacífico” Project</td>
<td>Ceará State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The construction of a new democratic narrative for public security and the 2016 municipal agenda</td>
<td>Arapyuá Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financing of the Brazilian Public Safety: learning from the cases of the city of São Paulo and the state of Ceará</td>
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The Fight for a Qualified Debate: A Key Aspect to Improve Public Safety in Brazil

Fernando Luiz Abrucio

Public Safety is a central theme for understanding contemporary Brazil. First, because it has a hard and direct impact on the lives of people and communities in an unequal and rather violent society – 59,000 intentional deaths annually. It is difficult to find someone who does not have a personal account or remembers a crime story that has marked their life, directly or indirectly. In other words, the fear of insecurity has been present in all our lives. However, its relevance has not immediately produced consensus and clarity on the measures that should be taken. The information on the subject was precarious until ten years ago, and various controversies, while moving on passionately, were based more on assumptions (if not stereotypes) than on evidence.

The creation of the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety (BFPS) in 2006 was an important step in changing this reality. An important team of researchers had already been developing relevant works since the 1980s, when Brazil resumed democracy and it became necessary to know how to combat violence – without considering it simply an epiphenomenon derived from the social question. Studies have grown substantially over the last thirty years and important institutions have been created to deal with the subject, such as the Center for the Study of Violence (NEV). However, data and information on violence and crime have been very poorly structured by governments in general. The lack of information has made it difficult to improve the quality of the debate and, above all, to demand more from governments.

In fact, with the advent of the transition towards democracy, the field of Public Security was less articulated politically in terms of evidence-based coalitions and proposals, if compared to other fields such as Health and even Education, as we could see from the Constituent Assembly, generating a much less advanced constitutional model. The efforts of several researchers over the past decades have sophisticated the debate and various public policy measures have been discussed by the media and during the election campaigns. Nevertheless, fragmentation and dispersion were then greater than the capacity for agglutination, especially in pressuring the Public Power.

The Brazilian Forum on Public Safety was created to fulfill these two roles: to guarantee the quality of information and data on the subject and to bring together proposals to reform and improve public policies. One can say it has performed these tasks well, significantly improving the public knowledge on the subject and the available government data, in addition to bringing Public Safety to the forefront of the social agenda. The recent decision of the...
To influence politicians and public authorities more strongly, it is necessary to put the issue of security at the top of the electoral agenda for the legislative and the executive at all three levels of government. The way to give relevance to this theme, however, must evade the easy answers, and anchor itself in solid and grounded arguments advocated with patience and humility for dialogue. The Brazilian Forum on Public Safety can act more effectively in this line of action, starting with the municipal elections to be held in October. In addition, it must act on the electoral level showing the intersectoral nature of the Public Safety issue, gathering allies from other policy fields for this discussion.

Changing the politicians’ outlook and behavior naturally involves better communicating with the society and its various groups about the problems and solutions for Public Safety. The audiences most affected by the problems of violence need to be persuaded and mobilized more intensely. The success of the BFPS is to win the hearts and minds of young people (the present and the future of this debate), blacks and women, especially (but not only) from the country’s suburbs. Reaching traditional media can help in this process, but it is clearly insufficient. Social networks should be used more emphatically, along with a language that turns what is arid into something relatable. I give as an example a program that I took part in 2002, to convince Philips employees about the need to combat corruption. We organized football matches between the officials in which the referee, who was an actor, deliberately cheated for one of the teams. After a while, this created confusion and at that point I intervened to demonstrate how corrupt behavior can take place in any activity, and how harmful it is to life in society. Moving to the field of politics was an easier leap because the interlocutors had been reached in something that is closer to their daily life – soccer.

Using cultural forms of expression more extensively would be an essential way for the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety to reach the public most affected by the problem of violence. These groups must be talked to directly, not just through various media outlets,
with talks in public schools, debates at soirees in the cities suburbs, meetings with women and black collectives, talks held at samba and pagode jam sessions, and with the opening of institutional channels with amateur soccer teams or organized fan bases. By losing the prejudice that still exists in much of progressive thinking, it is necessary to establish a longer and deeper relationship with the most diverse religions, in order to discuss what to do to avoid the death of many of their followers.

The BFPS reports, always carried out with great care, sometimes give an impression of excessive impersonality. To win over those who suffer most from violence in Brazil, high-quality statistics and accurate analysis are not enough. It is essential to present the life stories of real, flesh-and-blood people, in order to understand how the errors of public policies can produce harmful effects on the everyday lives of individuals. Before one thinks that this could generate sensationalism, it is worth emphasizing that it is possible to construct a parsimonious vision of the social problems while showing their most human face.

The knowledge produced by the research and the information obtained from the important battle for government transparency must become accessible instruments to those who need them most in their language and form of expression. Without going out to the streets, closer to where violence is more present, the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety will have difficulties in avoiding the spread of the “only good criminal is a dead criminal” discourse.

The success of the BFPS in the coming years of the 21st century will be tied to the ability to increase the use of technology as a tool to reach the most diverse audiences in an era in which communication is much faster but also much more fleeting. Social networks are important in this strategy, but building their own tools (preferably with the support of partners) to disseminate information and ideas about Public Safety is an essential element to increase the scope of their proposals.

Perhaps the most difficult challenge is to do so much at a moment when the ethics of the debate is going through a crisis in the world, with impressive strength in the Brazilian context, as the majority of society wants to find its reference group with similar thinking and safely harbor there. With this configuration, the discussions become a futile exercise of deafness and blindness, of firmly holding all positions in a game marked by rigid dichotomies. The BFPS will have to win over people and social groups to listen and pay attention to their data and analysis. Improvements in forms of communication are essential in this debate as well as the credibility of work, especially if it can achieve results in governments that accept to try new ways for providing this public policy. However, the path will probably be incremental, as it usually is in every government sector. Therefore, to continuously increase the number of specialists and actors interested in Public Safety and to articulate them is something that must be in the DNA of the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety from its very start.
A final point should be stressed as a permanent challenge to the BFPS: it must regularly assess its actions and apply the lessons learned to improve its institutional practices. After all, the organizations that have had long life and success are those that never fail to question their choices, with errors and correctness.

**Note from the BFPS**

When commissioning a text to be written by an independent analyst, we were aware that several matters sensitive to our entity could arise, even those questioning our positioning and our strategic lines of action. But we also knew that an entity that has accomplished a ten-year trajectory milestone needs to be permanently open to change and/or to innovate if it wishes to keep its leading role and continue to make a difference in public debate and activism. Fernando Abrucio’s observations demonstrate that, even if it conquered significant space in the area, the BFPS cannot be satisfied, for there are several fronts deserving our attention in the short, medium, and long terms. We have gotten here, this far, and we cannot stop now.

However, in interacting with the author’s analysis, the challenges posed need to be the subject of a broad reflection on performance profiles and priorities, for according to the way we have acted so far, we imagine that several of the articulated fronts depend on collective efforts, not just on the institutional action of a single organization.

In other words, to change the Brazilian public safety, we need to strengthen a broad coalition of forces. And we cannot wait for an ideal moment; we must go on believing in a better version of Brazil, with more life and more rights for all, whether we are police officers or members of any other population segment.
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