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Black women and men are 52% of the Brazilian population and only a little bit over 20% of parliamentarians elected to the Brazilian National Congress. This underrepresentation, besides highlighting the racist character of Brazilian society, it also has perverse consequences for the Brazilian black population. Aware of the genocidal politics expansion of the Brazilian State, organized civil society entities, representatives of the black population, opted in early 2019 to form a Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights.

The Coalition’s main goal is to focus on the Brazilian National Congress and international forums. We believe that our participation in institutional policy is essential to:

- To fight against racism and genocide of the black population in Brazil
- To defend the rights of black and outlying ghetto population
- To build bills and public policies that improve the lives of the country’s black population
Brazil on Fire and the Black Genocide

In recent years, social rights of the Brazilian population have been violently attacked, public investments in social policies have been frozen, and these decisions mainly affect the black population, which represents 70% of the poorest. A series of penal intensification policies and bills, including military interventions in some Brazilian capitals, such as Rio de Janeiro and Fortaleza, Ceará, have further increased the number of black people arrested and killed.

However, since the beginning of 2019, the Brazilian political situation has inspired even more concern for democracy advocates around the world. With the electoral victory of Jair Bolsonaro, the Brazil’s central power rested on a political group that is explicitly opposed to humans and, worse, that structures policies of penal intensification and encourages violence, such as police intervention, mass incarceration, celebration of torture and criminalization of social movements.

At the same time, this government is starting to cut social rights, affecting mainly the black community—which are overrepresented among the poor population—and, therefore, those most in need of public services.

It was in this context that President Bolsonaro signed, on January 15, the Decree 9685/2019, making it easier for Brazilian citizens to bear arms.

His second act, shortly after his government took office, was the presentation of the so-called “Anticrime Package”, by Minister Sergio Moro. It consisted of many proposals that go against studies and experiences that prove penal intensification, mass incarceration and increase of deaths promoted by state agents are not a solution to the violence and insecurity problem that damage many societies.

In addition, the “Anticrime Package” also proposes to create a compulsory genetic bank of prisoners, even if it does not contribute to investigations; that is, a DNA
bank of the Brazilian prison population and, consequently, of a significant portion of the population to whom they are related.

It is worth noting that, among the approximately 10,000 DNA samples that make up the country’s genetic bank today, only ten were used to support court settlements. Instead of improving the uses made of samples already collected or foreseen in the current legislation, Moro’s proposal is to indiscriminately expand the collection of samples, without scientific justification, and with very high social risks. There are still many eugenic practices in the country.

THE BLACK POPULATION IN THE STATE SIGHT

The Brazilian State has already acknowledged that it promotes a genocide of black youth, as stated in the Final Report of the Brazilian Federal Senate Inquiry Committee (Comissão Parlamentar de Inquérito - CPI) about Youth Murder, from 2016. It declared that the Brazilian police—the armed wing of the state—killed in five years more than the US police in 30 years of operation. On average, five people are killed by the Brazilian police daily.

The Atlas of Violence 2019, produced by Ipea and the Brazilian Public Security Forum (Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública – FBSP), presents disturbing information. The analysis of the 2017 deaths in Brazil showed that the homicide rate among young people from 15 to 29 years old is 69.9 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants; this number worsens when gender is considered: the rate for young men in Brazil is 130.4 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. In 2017, Brazil reached the historical mark of 65,602 homicides. This is equivalent to a rate of 31.6 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, which is 30 times the rate in Europe.

In the last ten years, 618,858 people have lost their lives due to intentional violence in Brazil. And the alarming data on the genocide of the Brazilian youth point to an even more serious situation, which has increased in the last year: homicides account for 59.1% of the cause of death among men between 15 and 19 years old.

When the racial issue is considered, the structural racism in the country is set wide open. Data show that between 2016 and 2017, the homicide rate of non-black individuals decreased by 0.8%, while the victimization rate of the black population increased by 9.1% over the same period. Thus, in 2017, while a homicide rate of 43.1 was observed for the black population, the same indicator for the rest of the population was 16, showing that 75.5% of people murdered each year in Brazil are black or brown. The Youth Violence Vulnerability Index (Índice de Vulnerabilidade Juvenil à Violência) of 2015, showed that the risk of a young black man being a homicide victim in Brazil is 2.7 times higher than a young white man.

Being a victim of willful murder, therefore, does not happen randomly or indiscriminately. The main targets profile is explicit: young (59.1%), 5 black (75.5%), 6 and men [R3T1] (91.8%). In 2016, the Brazilian Federal Senate acknowledged that “every 23 minutes one young black man dies in Brazil” and that “this genocide process is fully marked by institutional racism”. Thus, after a great and exhausting work, the Senate CPI concluded that “the Brazilian State, directly or indirectly, causes the genocide of the young and black population.”

Between 2009 and 2016, 21,910 people died in Brazil as a result of police interventions. According to a sample survey released by the Brazilian Public Security Yearbook
(Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública), not considering deaths where race/color information was not available, 76.2% of police intervention’s victims were black.

These numbers have intensified. In São Paulo, Brazil’s most populous and richest state, 252 people were killed by police intervention in the first four months of 2019, an increase of 17% compared with the same period in 2018. In Rio de Janeiro, 881 people were killed by police interventions in the first half of 2019, an increase of 14% over 2018.

In this context, the announcement of a budget cut on the Brazilian demographic census of 2020 is concerning. Black movement organizations, in line with international organizations recommendations, have a history of claims for collecting information on color and race of the population to develop public policies aimed at the black population. The existence of racially-based indicators is important for understanding the parameters of inequality and injustice and for structuring effective policies.
The so-called “Anticrime Package” (Bill No. 882 of 2019 in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, and Bill No. 1,864 of 2019 in the Brazilian Senate) was written by the Minister of Justice and Public Security Sêrgio Moro and is currently pending in both legislative houses.

The proposal represents a direct threat to the black population, mainly because it widens the defense of lawfulness and the self-defense for police officers: investigations into murders and executions by police agents may not be necessary if the “excesses resulted from fear, surprise or violent emotion.” Police lethality in Brazil, which is already one of the highest in the world, may exponentially increase.

In a recent interview, President Jair Bolsonaro commented on the package, emphasizing the following points: “We have to give legal support to people who compose the security: civilian, military, federal, road police officers. In operation, those officers must use that machine around their waist, go home and the next day be decorated, not prosecuted (...). These guys are going to die on the street just like cockroaches. It has to be like that.”

This is a perspective shared with governors who have already adopted public policies with high lethality potential to black and ghetto populations. The Governor of Rio de Janeiro, Wilson Witzel, was recently criminally charged at the OAS by the Rio de Janeiro Legislative Assembly’s Human Rights Commission. At the time, police fired bursts of machine guns at a prayer tent located on a hill in the city of Angra dos Reis. The governor of Rio de Janeiro himself was in the helicopter and said such a security policy would be “based on intelligence, investigation and preparation of the Civil and Military Police.” Murder rates of residents of outlying ghetto areas have risen sharply in Brazil and more specifically in Rio de Janeiro—in the first quarter of 2019, there were 434 deaths in the state resulting from security officer interventions (on average, four deaths a day).
BRIEF HISTORY

Since its first actions earlier this year, the Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights has made efforts to mobilize civil society, congresspersons and international human rights organizations. In February, a complaint was filed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – IACHR, part of the Organization of American States – OAS, that the so-called “Anticrime Package”, designed by Sergio Moro, represents a high risk to the black and outlying ghetto population of Brazil.

In May of this year, a group of 14 representatives of black movement’s entities part of the Coalition attended the 173rd IACHR session in Kingston, Jamaica. It was the first time in almost two decades that an official group made up exclusively of Brazilian black entities was present at an international event aiming to make a collective complaint. At the Brazilian National Congress, one of the group’s first actions was to seek out black congresswomen and men with the proposal to support the articulation of a black anti-racist instance. Since then, meetings have been held with the President of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Rodrigo Maia, Senate President Davi Alcolumbre and several congresspersons. Faced with a bill to abolish racial quotas for federal universities, the Coalition organized the black congresswomen and men and got a first victory: the commitment of the Chamber of Deputies’ president that no bill for this purpose would pass in that House while he was president. “This debate has already been done thoroughly at this House and the race quota policy is extremely successful, there is no reason to back down,” said Rodrigo Maia publicly.

Along with the working group in the Chamber of Deputies designated to analyze the so-called “Anticrime Package”, the Coalition participated in eight of the ten public hearings for technical discussion of the package, which allowed us to contribute, from a black perspective, to the discussions, directly influencing the final report of the working group and the public debate on the package.

In addition to bilateral meetings with congresspersons about the abusive points of the proposal, we have participated in the public debate by publishing articles in many media outlets and in our own networks.

Coalition members attended the Public Hearing “Mulheres Negras: estratégias pelo bem viver para eliminação do racismo e da violência,” convened by Federal Deputies Úbere Carolina (Muitas/PSOL-MG) and Taliria Petrone (PSOL-RJ), marking the International Afro-Latin American and Afro-Caribbean Women’s Day, celebrated on July 25. Participated in the public hearing as Coalition: Uneafro, MNU, Marcha das Mulheres Negras de São Paulo and CONAQ. In addition to action in parliamentary offices and plenary sessions, our action on the streets has also contributed to broadening the public’s knowledge about the insanities proposed. Mentioning one example, we exposed feminicide aspects of the Package during the “Black Women July,” which celebrates Latin American and Caribbean women. In the traditional July 25 black women’s march, we had banners and public speeches in many activities in capitals throughout the country. Not by chance, feminicide was one of the aspects that the Chamber of Deputies’ working group proposes to overturn.

We were in the Federal Senate meeting with the House president and several senators the day the Senate Constitution and Justice Committee voted to overthrow the presidential decree to arm the population. On that occasion, Senate President David Alcolumbre pledged not to rush the vote on the Package and to ensure black people participation in the debates.
that took place in the Senate as well. This commitment that was fulfilled in the following months.

In August, the Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights filed a hearing request for the 174th regular session of the IACHR, scheduled to take place in Ecuador during November 2019.

Also in November, we will hold an international seminar of the Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights. The meeting aims to bring together leaders of the Brazilian black movement organizations that have promoted joint actions for a moment of reflection, debate, construction of a possible unified agenda and action strategies for the following period. A group of leaders from the US Black Lives Matter movement and its session in South Africa will also attend the event.

ALCANTARA BASE | QUILOMBOLAS*

The Brazilian government signed an agreement with the US government on Technology Safeguards Associated with US Participation in launches from the Alcantara Spaceport, in Washington, March 2019.

This agreement was sent to members of the National Congress by the Brazilian government in May, for approval. For the agreement to be effective, it would be necessary to expand the current area of the Alcantara Launch Center from 8,000 to 20,000 hectares. The expansion would result in the displacement of approximately 2,000 quilombola people—black women and men living in traditional communities. None of these members of the 219 quilombola communities—living in the Alcântara territory for more than 200 years—or their representative entities were consulted about the agreement, which directly affects the life of these communities. Signing it without consulting quilombola communities directly violates the right to prior, free and informed
consultation, ensured by the International Labor Organization (ILO), Convention 169 (C169), ratified by the Brazilian State on July 22, 2002, and incorporated into the legal system by Decree No. 5,051, of April 9, 2004.

The Brazilian government states that “the entire region adjacent to the Alcântara Launch Center will benefit from the immediate increase in social and economic development reflected in the creation of jobs, new businesses and the expansion of entrepreneurship and local-based businesses, such as restaurants, hotels, gas stations, barber shops.” There is not even a study presented or prepared, by independent experts or by the government, that shows how many and which jobs will be created, how many new businesses will be created, who will fund restaurants and hotels or what basic health, education, sanitation and transportation services will benefit the quilombola communities, which are the real owners of this territory.

The rights of quilombola communities do not only refer to financial compensation for those who were forcibly displaced to agrovilas 30 years ago, as the government understands. The rights of these communities are present and current, extending to all quilombola territory of Alcântara, already identified and demarcated by the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (Instituto Nacional de Colonização e Reforma Agrária – INCRA), as well as to its natural resources and its access to the sea. The demarcation of the quilombola territory is, in turn, imprescriptible, unenforceable and inalienable. The Federal Constitution recognizes quilombola communities as intangible cultural heritage of Brazilian society (Art. 216, §5°) and ensures the issuance of definitive property titles of their lands by the State (Art. 68 ADCT).

Even the non-displaced population will have limited free and permanent access to the coastal areas of Alcântara, given the proposal to create corridors in the launching areas. Restricting the access to essential natural resources such as the sea, drinking water springs, fruit trees, babassu and coconut forests, among others, will affect the connection and economic flows between communities and the disappearance of boundaries that identify the current specific territories, historically constituted by the quilombolas. The intensity of this negative impact on quilombola communities, however, has never been the subject of technical study by the Brazilian government, which also violates C169. And most seriously, an unprecedented food insecurity situation will settle in Alcântara.

In addition, surrendering the Alcântara Base hurts national sovereignty and puts us under serious threat to national security, as we know that the US wants to make military use of Alcântara for its geopolitical interests. With the new agreement, Brazil may be target of international military conflicts.

entities

The entities that promote joint actions as Brazilian black coalition for rights are the following:

- AFROUNEB - Núcleo Interdisciplinar de Estudos Africanos e Afro-Brasileiros da Universidade do Estado da Bahia
- Afirmação Rede de Cursinhos Populares
- AGANJU – Afro Gabinete de Articulação Institucional e Jurídica
- Agentes de Pastoral Negros do Brasil - APNs
- Aliança Hip Hop Taqueril - BH
- Alma Preta
- AMI - Associação dos Moradores de Itapuã
- AMNBD - Articulação de Organizações de Mulheres Negras do Brasil
- AMPARAR – Associação de Amigos e Familiares de Presos - SP
- Articulação Nacional de Pescadoras
- Articulação Nacional de Psicólogos(os) Negras(os) e Pesquisadores - ANPSPNEP
- Aparelhaz Luzia
- Assessoria Popular Maria Felipa – BH
- Associação Cultural Bloco Carnavalesco Ilê Aiyê
- Bando de Teatro Olodum
- Bloco Afro Olodum
- Bloco Afro Ilê Oba De Min
- Casa do Hip Hop do Taqueril – BH
- Casa do Meio do Mundo – SP
- CEDECA Mônica Paião Trevisan - SP
- Ceer - Centro de Estudos das Relações de Trabalho e Desigualdades
- Centro de Direitos Humanos de Sapopemba - SP
- CEN - Coletivo de Entidades Negras
- Cendepa - PA - Gênero, Raça e Etnia Para Jornalistas
- Centro de Estudo e Defesa do Negro do Pará - CEDENPA
- Círculo Palmarino
- Coletivo Faremos Palmares de Novo
- Coletivo Força Ativa – SP
- Coletivo Luíza Bairros - UFBA Coletivo Negro Vozes da UFABC - SP
- Coletivo de Juventude Negra Cara Preta
- Coletivo Negro Aframack
- Coletivo Sapato Preto Lésbicas Amazonidas
- Comunidade Cultural Quilombaque
- Comunidade de Samba Maria Cursi
- Comunidade de Samba Pagode na Disciplina Jardim Miriam
- Conaq - Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas
- Conselho Pastoral de Pescadoras e Pescadores
- Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais
- Cooperifa
- Conen - Coordenação Nacional de Entidades Negras
- Criola
- Cursinho Popular Carolina de Jesus
- Desenrola e Não me Enrola
- Educafro - Educação e Cidadania de Afrodescendentes
- Evangélicos Pelo Estado de Direito
- Festival da Mulher Afro-Latina-Americana e Caribenha – Latinidades
- Fopir - Fórum Permanente pela Igualdade Racial
- Fórum Grita Baixada
- Frente de Mulheres Negras do DF e Entorno
- Frente Favela Brasil
- Frente Nacional de Mulheres do Funk
- Frente Nacional Makota Valdina
- Gajop - Gabinete Assessoria Jurídica Organizações Populares
- Geledê - Instituto da Mulher Negra
- Grupo de Amigos e Familiares de Pessoas em Privação de Liberdade
- Grupo Kilombagem
- IDEAS - Assessoria Popular
- Ilê Òmolú Oxum
- INNPD - Iniciativa Negra por Uma Nova Política Sobre Drogas
- IMUNE - Instituto de Mulheres Negras de Mato Grosso
- Instituto Negra do Ceará - Inegra
- Instituto AMMA Psique e Negritude
- Instituto Cultural Steve Biko
- Instituto Maricelle Franco
- Irohín - Comunicação e Memória Afro-brasileira
- Mães da Bahia
- Mahin Organização de Mulheres Negras
- Mandata Quilombo da Deputada Estadual Erica Malunquinho
- Maré - Núcleo de Estudos em Cultura Jurídica e Atlântico Negro
- Marcha das Mulheres Negras de São Paulo
- Metropolitana/MG
- Movimento das Favelas - RJ
- Movimento dos Atingidos pela Base Especial de Alcântara
- Movimento de Mães do Socioeducativo do Ceará
- Movimento IFBA Negro
- Movimento Independente MÃES DE MAIO
- Movimento Nacional de Pescadoras e Pescadores
- MNV - Movimento Negro Unificado
- Negraria - Coletivo de Artistas Negros de Belo Horizonte e Região
- Nova Frente Negra Brasileira
- Núcleo de Consciência Negra na USP
- Ókán Dimó - Coletivo de Matriz Africana
- ONDJANDO - Núcleo de Estudos Afro-Brasileiros
- PDDR - Programa Direito e Relações Raciais - Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Federal da Bahia
- Pretas em Movimento - BH
- Protagonismo Negro da UFS
- MPVNC - Movimento Prê-Vestibular para Negros e Carentes
- Rede Fulanias NAB
- Rede de HistoriadorXs NegrXs
- Rede de Mulheres Negras de Minas Gerais - MG
- Rede de Mulheres Negras de Pernambuco
- Rede de Proteção e Resistência Contra Genocídio - SP
- Rede Nacional da Promoção e Controle da Saúde de Lésbicas, Bissexuais e Transexuais Negras - REDE SAPPATÁ
- Rede Urbana de Ações Socioculturais- RIAS - DF
- Renafro - Rede Nacional de Religiões Afro-brasileiras e Saúde
- Teatro Negro e Atitude - BH
- Ubuntu Cursinhos - SP
- UNEAfro Brasil
- Unego - União de Negros pela Igualdade
- Universidade do Estado da Bahia Voz da Baixada
The Coalition Logo

The symbol on the Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights logo is an Adinkra, a name given to a set of ideographic symbols of the Akan peoples, a West African language group. The ideograms are based on figures of animals, plants, heavenly bodies, the human body, human-made objects or abstract forms. The Adinkra symbols incorporate, preserve and convey aspects of the history, philosophy, values and sociocultural norms of the Akan peoples, and are being adopted as part of their mission to recover and value those traditions that make up the ancient African legacy. The symbol chosen by the Alliance is the Nkonsonkonson (or the bond or chain), which means union, human relations.

Subtitles

• Cover, Páginas 03 and 04: Entities of the Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights in the Brazilian National Congress

• Pages 02 and 06: Members of the Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights entities during hearing with congressman Paulo Paim

• Page 07: Brazilian Black Coalition for Rights delegation at IACHR meeting, in Jamaica

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