

# BRAZIL HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

Commemorative Issue

# 5 YEARS



# Our Mission

The Brazil Human Rights Fund is a pioneering initiative to advance human rights in the country through the creation of sustainable funding mechanisms for the promotion and defense of civil, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights.

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Dom Pedro Casaldáliga  
Margarida Genevois  
Rose Marie Muraro

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*During these first five years, the following individuals also served on the Fund's Board of Trustees: Alberto Dines, Edson Cardoso, Fernando Scaff, Joênia B. Carvalho (Wapichana), Maria Betânia Ávila, MV Bill, Renato Roseno, Ricardo Young, Roberto Arriada Lorea e Vera Tavares. Mônica de Roure made up the Fund's Financial Committee from 2006 to 2009*

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*During the five years covered by this publication, Darci Frigo (Vice-President of Education) and Oscar Vilhena (Vice-President of Finance) made up the Fund's Board of Directors. Their terms ended in November of 2011.*

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São Paulo, December of 2011

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# Five years dedicated to human rights

To the reader,

It would be practically impossible to quantify everything that the Brazil Human Rights Fund has accomplished in the past five years, but we certainly couldn't allow such a significant date to pass unnoticed. So we've tried to bring together here some of the most important moments and achievements, in dedication to the people who contributed to making them possible.

The current publication is a commemorative edition tracing some of the Fund's history and successes. In the first part, we describe steps taken toward institutional consolidation. Next we highlight a few initiatives we've supported that have proven transformational in the face of complex and challenging realities.

A little more than five years ago the Brazil Human Rights Fund was just an idea, that of an innovative institution doing things differently to contribute to human rights in Brazil. The aim was to raise funds and channel them to small projects from organized civil society capable of reverting and remedying serious rights violations. Making this happen required great effort and the support, solidarity and openness of many organizations and individuals.

To fulfill its mission, the Fund first needed to solidify as an institution. In this sense, we incorporated accuracy and transparency as guiding values, while noting the need to be permanently intensifying our strategic actions in communications and fundraising. Clearly this is only possible through the joint efforts and labor of our founders, directors, Board of Trustees and Financial Committee, staff members and, especially, our partners and supporters. The result has been an increase in the number of grantees and, consequently, in our reach throughout the country.

For us it is beyond gratifying to have worked with organizations throughout Brazil's five regions on 141 different projects addressing a variety of human rights issues. On the other hand mere statistics cannot describe such a robust portfolio. We know our work is relevant because these initiatives are felt and validated by our true partners: vulnerable, discriminated social groups whose rights are systematically violated.

In each visit to an organization the Fund supports, we find the results of its actions surpass our expectations; we see peoples' lives impacted due to the mobilization and activism of Brazil's civil society, whose demands for the respect of human rights have grown increasingly vibrant.

The Brazil Human Rights Fund works to publicize critical rights violations and magnify the issue in the political agenda. We try to understand the conditions and needs of impoverished, socially invisible organizations. For us, transparency and commitment to developing the supported activities are what matter most, but we know that sensitivity to their particular context is also fundamental, as are recognizing and respecting differences and diversity.

In this sense, we know that funding alone often isn't enough for initiatives to succeed. So we have offered training and technical assistance to organizations on selected projects to assist them in their daily routines.

The following pages serve to illustrate in detail what I have merely touched upon here in this brief introduction.

Finally, beyond just thanking them, the Fund's team would like to dedicate this commemorative edition to all those who were part of this journey and who have collaborated with the cause that keeps us together: the struggle for a fairer world.

Congratulations to all!

**Ana Valéria Araújo**

*Executive Director  
of the Brazil Human Rights Fund*

Photographs: Brazil Human Rights Fund collection



# TIMELINE OF THE FUND

2003

A group of people come together to create a fund to mobilize and distribute resources to Brazilian human rights organizations for specific projects.

The Ford Foundation supports preparative studies about the organization's legal structure, forms of financing and target public, also providing the funds that enable the creation of the organization. Pro Bono Institute and NGO Educational Action help implement the first steps toward its establishment.

The idea solidifies and acquires the name Brazil Human Rights Fund.

2005

December  
Creation of the Foundation

2006

January to November  
Establishment and organization of activities.

December  
Public launch of the Fund and announcement of the first Call for Proposals for the selection of projects, held at the Olodum rehearsal space in the Pelourinho area, Salvador, Bahia. Guests: Paulo Vanucchi (Minister of the Brazilian Special Secretariat for Human Rights) + government authorities + representatives of the human rights movements in Brazil and abroad + supporters + people who shared the idea of a foundation.

Homepage:  
[www.fundodireitoshumanos.org.br](http://www.fundodireitoshumanos.org.br)



Brazil Human Rights Fund collection



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2007

March  
2007 Call for Proposals: 802 project proposals submitted.

April  
The Ford Foundation donates US\$ 3 million to establish the Brazil Human Rights Fund's endowment

June  
Project selection: 21 proposals are selected for funding. Granted funds: R\$ 549,100 (US\$ 296,811).

August  
Emergency support to the Justice for the Brasília Case project. Purpose: to aid investigation of the murder of union leader and rural worker Bartolomeu Moraes da Silva, nicknamed "Brasília," in 2002 (Altamira, Pará).

December  
Launch of the 2008 Call for Proposals.

2007 Grantees Meeting (São Paulo): technical and managerial capacity-building workshops for representatives of the organizations supported that year. Support from the Brazilian Presidency's Special Secretariat for Human Rights.

Organization of the debate "Private Investment in Human Rights" in São Paulo. Lecturers: Ricardo Young (Ethos Institute), Oded Grajew (Ethos Institute), Valdemar Oliveira "Maneto" (Avina Foundation), Fernando Rossetti (Gife), filmmaker Kiko Goifman.



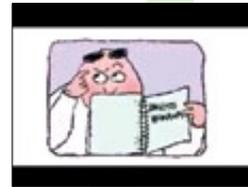
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2008

January  
Presentation of the Brazil Human Rights Fund and launch of the 2008 Call for Proposals at the Rio Grande do Sul Judges Association, in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, organized by judge Roberto Arriada Lorea, a Brazil Human Rights Fund trustee.

March  
Visit to the Women's Citizenship Group (Recife, Pernambuco), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund. Launch of the project's primer with the presence of trustee Maria Betânia Ávila.  
2008 Call for Proposals: 621 project proposals submitted.

April  
Emergency support to the Barro Indigeno Community on the Raposas Serra do Sol Indigenous Territory (Comunidade Barro, Roraima). Purpose: to take indigenous leaders to Brasília to denounce to federal authorities the conflicts between Indians and rice planters in the community's territory.

June  
Project selection: 26 proposals are selected for funding. Granted funds: R\$ 621,000 (US\$ 335,676).

August  
Visit to the Steve Biko Cultural Institute (Salvador), supported by Brazil Human Rights Fund.

December  
Launch of the 2009 Call for Proposals.  
Event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in São Paulo.  
• Human Rights are the Rights of All, exhibit at the Conjunto Nacional building.  
• Exhibition of the documentary Acts of Men, by Kiko Goifman, in Cine Bombril.  
• Launch of the vignette Human Rights are the Rights of All, by Kiko Goifman, with illustrations by cartoonist Laerte and soundtrack by Lívio Tragtemberg.  
• Debate "Challenges to Human Rights Today: Advances and Perspectives," in the Cultura Bookstore Theater. Participants: Maria Amélia Teles (São Paulo Women's Union); Fouad Hamdan (Arab Human Rights Fund); José Gregori (former Minister of Justice and President of São Paulo's Municipal Commission on Human Rights); Humberto Adami (Institute of Racial and Environmental Advocacy) and others.

2008 Grantees Meeting (São Paulo): technical and managerial capacity-building workshops for representatives of the organizations supported that year. Support from the Brazilian Presidency's Special Secretariat for Human Rights.

2009

March  
2009 Call for Proposals: 711 project proposals submitted.

June  
"Put yourself in her place. Human rights aren't only for you" is the theme of the Brazil Human Rights Fund's first campaign, aimed at raising consciousness about violence against women, particularly domestic violence. Published in Contigo magazine.

Visit to the Women Friends of Itinga Association (Lauro de Freitas, Bahia), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

June  
Project selection: 26 proposals selected for funding. Granted funds: R\$ 655,800 (US\$ 354,486).

October  
Support for the studies of a member of the Mariana Criola People's Legal Aid Center, supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund. Purpose: to enable participation in a course at the Inter-American Human Rights System (Washington, D.C.).

November  
Visit to the Association of Mothers and Friends of Children and Adolescents at Risk, Mariana Criola People's Legal Aid Center and Human Rights Defenders Institute (Rio de Janeiro), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

December  
Launch of the 2010 Call for Proposals. Musical Dialogues on Human Rights (1st edition): show by rapper MV Bill, trustee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund, Sesc Pinheiros, São Paulo.

2009 Grantees Meeting (São Paulo): debate on racial equity and technical and managerial capacity-building workshops for organizations supported during that year.

Launch of the virtual platform (Ning) for the exchange of information among grantees.  
Publication of the 2007-2008 Report.



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2010

January

Visit to the April 17 National Institute of Human Rights (Brasília), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

February

Emergency support to the Omi-Dúdù Nucleus. Purpose: to launch a fundraising campaign by the black movement for communications in favor of affirmative action, whose legality the Supreme Court is about to rule on.

Visits to the following grantees:

- Humanitas Institute (Altamira, Pará)
- Tembê de Santa Maria do Pará Indigenous People's Association and Northeast Pará State Women's Movement (Santa Maria do Pará)
- Association of Families and Friends of Prison Inmates in Bahia, Walking Metamorphosis Association of Users of Mental Health Services and their Families, Steve Biko Cultural Institute, Omi-Dúdù Nucleus and Pedra de Raio Institute (Salvador)
- Center for the Defense of Children's and Adolescents' Rights – Cedeca-Tocantins (Palmas, Tocantins)
- Association of Mulungu Family Farmers, Bamidelê – Organization of Black Women in Paraíba, Cunha Feminist Collective and Ilê Axé Omidewá (João Pessoa, Paraíba).

March

2010 Call for Proposals: 762 project proposals submitted.

Musical Dialogues on Human Rights (2nd edition): musical dinner for 80 people with guitar player and composer Emiliano Castro and singer Luciana Alves in the restaurant Rosmarino, in São Paulo.

Visit to Davida – Prostitution, Civil Rights, Health (Rio de Janeiro), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

April

Emergency support to the State of Pará's rural workers and the Pastoral Land Commission. Purpose: to enable oversight of the trial of one of the defendants in the murder of Dorothy Stang in 2005 (Belém, Pará).

June

Publication of the 2009 Report. Visit to the Mato Grosso do Sul Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals (Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

July

Project selection: 32 proposals are selected for funding. Granted funds: R\$ 759,500 (US\$ 410,540).

August

Launch of the English language version of the Fund's homepage, www.fundodireitoshumanos.org.br/en

September

Visit to the Linharinho Small Farmers' Development Association (Linhariño, Espírito Santo), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.



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October

Visit to the São Paulo Women's Union (São Paulo), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.



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December

Launch of the 2011 Call for Proposals. Debate "Memory and Truth – Reflections of the violation of these rights today," in the Educative Action auditorium, São Paulo. Guests: Paulo Vanucchi (Minister of the Brazilian Special Secretariat for Human Rights), Glenda Mezarobba (researcher at the Campinas State University, Unicamp), José Carlos Dias (former Justice Minister).

2010 Grantees, "The Right to Memory and Truth": building of a Brazilian human rights timeline. Support of the Presidency's Special Secretariat for Human Rights.

Musical Dialogues in Human Rights: Memory and Truth (3rd edition): concert in Sesc Pinheiros, in São Paulo, with musician Wandi Doratiotto, singer Jair Rodrigues and vocal quartet MPB-4; direction by Mário Manga.

The Rights of Women is the first theme of the Brazil Human Rights Fund campaign "Let's Shed More Light," conceived by Repense Comunicação.

The Brazil Human Rights Fund starts partnerships with São Paulo shops to place donation boxes for receipts eligible for tax rebates through the state of São Paulo's program Nota Fiscal Paulista.



2011

January

Visits to the following organizations supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund:

- Paraná Movement of Traditional Fishing Communities and Paraná Association of Rural Women Workers (São Mateus do Sul, Paraná).
- Interstate Cipozeiras Movement (Irati, Paraná).

February

2011 Call for Proposals: 976 project proposals submitted.

Visit to the Santarém Federation of Quilombola Organizations (Santarém, Pará), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

March

Partnership with the São Paulo restaurants Rosmarino and Café Florinda for fundraising among their patrons: an invitation to donate R\$ 2 (just over US\$ 1) to Brazil Human Rights Fund for work with gender issues.

Abril

Visit to the Terrazul Alternative Civil Society Association (Fortaleza, Ceará), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

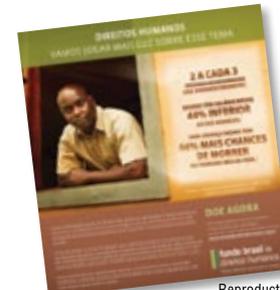
Race is the second topic of the Brazil Human Rights Fund's campaign "Let's Shed More Light". Advertising piece published on sites and in magazines throughout the country.



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Brazil Human Rights Fund collection FOQS (PA) /2011



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May

Abdias Nascimento, 97, founder of the Brazil Human Rights Fund, dies in Rio de Janeiro.

Visit to the Babaty Xavante de Iro'Órape Institute, on the São Marcos Indigenous Territory (Barra do Garças, Mato Grosso), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund

June

The Brazil Human Rights Fund presents its work in a stand at the São Paulo LGBT Pride Parade Association at the São Paulo Cultural Fair.

July

Project Selection: 33 proposals are selected for funding. Granted funds: R\$ 793,300 (US\$ 428,810).

Inauguration of the Brazil Human Rights Fund's new headquarters, at Rua Santa Isabel, 137, São Paulo.

August

Visit to the following organizations supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund:

- Acauã Quilombola Community Association, Youth Song, Leila Diniz Collective, and Curumim Gestation and Labor Group (Natal, Rio Grande do Norte)
- Conceição das Crioulas Quilombola Association (Salgueiro, Pernambuco) and the Pernambuco Association of Single Mothers (Recife, Pernambuco)
- Human Rights Defenders Institute and Davida – Prostitution, Civil Rights, Health (Rio de Janeiro).



Brazil Human Rights Fund collection



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Ernesto Rodrigues / Brazil Human Rights Fund collection

October

Emergency support for a member of social movements and organizations and defender of human rights in Rio de Janeiro under death threat. Purpose: to enable the continuity of her work.

Novembro

2011 Grantees Meeting (São Paulo), "Development and Human Rights": technical and managerial capacity-building workshops for the formation of organizations supported during the year.

Launch of the 2012 Call for Proposals.

Musical Dialogues in Human Rights (4th edition): concert at Sesc Pinheiros, São Paulo, with the Banda de Pifanos de Caruaru and its guest, singer Rita Ribeiro.

December

Cycle of debates "Development and Human Rights," promoted by the Brazil Human Rights Fund, the Cultura Bookshop and the Summus Publishing Group. Guests: Claudio Picazio, Eleonora Menicucci, Laerte, Leonardo Sakamoto, Cida Bento, Helio Santos, Celio Bermann, Rodrigo Faria, Juca Kfour, Roberto Nogueira, Paulo Vanucchi and Nilcéia Freire.

Emergency support to the Aty Guasu Guarani Kaiowá Commission. Purpose: to support the "Guarani March Against Genocide and for Peace" in Brasília against the genocide of the Guarani Kaiowá people of the state of Mato Grosso do Sul.



## An alternative model of support for human rights

The idea of the Brazil Human Rights Fund was born of the need to prioritize the promotion and defense of human rights by bringing the support of projects to the center of Brazilian civil society's agenda. The aim was to reach out especially to projects proposed by small grassroots organizations, whose interventions and work take place at the heart of vulnerable communities – the most frequent victims of rights violations in the country.

Brazil faces an immense duality, whose causes are structural. If, on the one hand, we have experienced an important process of democratization and economic development – which has even made the country a significant protagonist on the international scene – on the other, we live with serious rights violations and social injustice, which has persisted throughout our history and cannot be ignored.

Brazilian civil society shows a great capacity for organization and mobilization to defend specific interests and fight for rights: groups of women from poor communities on the city fringes, rural workers and small farmers, standing up against racism and sexism, or in favor of freedom of sexual orientation. They comprise a diverse yet complementary set of organizations striving to build a fairer, more democratic and more sustainable country. As participants, they act on the roots rather than just the symptoms of social violence, taking a proactive role in a process that transforms national realities, minimizing the permanent rights violations they are forced to confront daily.

Historically, strong financial stimulus for the growth and maintenance of civil society organizations has come from international cooperation agencies, who for many years channeled significant resources toward protecting human rights. But recently, with the increasing visibility of Brazil as an emergent country, these resources have become scarce, increasingly directed to other continents. And what does still come in is concentrated among entities with greater administrative capacity, due to increasing bureaucratic requirements.

This context presented the challenge of creating a mechanism, a structure capable of providing the financial support needed by human rights organizations, especially smaller ones at the bottom of society who, along with individuals, dedicate themselves to defending the rights of social sectors that are practically invisible. The objective was to stimulate the growth of a human rights community capable of acting at all levels of Brazilian society.

We thus opted for the legal structure of a foundation in order to manage and direct funds to this community and, ergo, the cause of human rights itself. Activities are presented transparently,

which ensures more social control and rigorous public scrutiny under the auspices of the Public Prosecutor's Office. It is our desire that the initiative be exemplary in terms of fundraising and accountability, and that its model generate precedents for similar initiatives in the country.

We benefitted then from the unparalleled support and energy of recognized personalities such as Abdias Nascimento, Margarida Genevois, Bishop Pedro Casaldáliga and Rose Marie Muraro, who became the founders of the Brazil Human Rights Fund. Their admirable history in defense of human rights provided more than just credibility to our foundation: they legitimized and won us backing among different sectors of the human rights movement in Brazil.

Once formed, the Brazil Human Rights Fund structured itself using a model that values the turnover, renewal and diversity of its trustees and directors, so as to allow individuals with different profiles and trajectories and deep knowledge of the area of human rights to contribute to its governance and enrich our experiences.

In these first five years we have learned many things. One of them was that we must give our work visibility if we are to raise funds domestically. At first this was more difficult because the organization was young and had supported few projects. With time we created a Communications area, and now we are capable of making our developments visible and expanding our reach and dialogue with the public. This publication is part of that effort. Through the impact of our actions, we believe that the Brazil Human Rights Fund will increasingly be seen by Brazil's citizens as an opportunity to exercise solidarity and support causes that can transform our society.

We started our work with the objective of supporting small projects focused on the struggle against institutional violence and discrimination, issues for which there was little or no funding available. We hope this funding model can branch out into new formats in the near future. In addition to keeping our current focus supporting small organizations, we expect the Brazil Human Rights Fund to support mid-sized and large projects as well, while also focusing on other issues, such as democracy, sustainability and development, topics dear to Brazilian civil society and crucial for the promotion of human rights. We have invested creativity and energy so that this happens soon, and, more than ever, we need the continued support of those who have trodden this path with us until now, to mass new efforts from here on.

**Sérgio Haddad**

*President of the Brazil Human Rights Fund*



*After all these years, the Ford Foundation continues to believe that it is important to support the Brazil Human Rights Fund. It is increasingly clear there is a need for a strong civil society to ensure human rights; and support for civil society has been shown to work better when done via an entity able to operate in support of smaller projects with small amounts of funds. The Ford Foundation believes that, through the Brazil Human Rights Fund, it widens its actions in the country.*

**Nilcéa Freire**

*Ford Foundation Representative in Brazil*



*One of the aspects that makes the Brazil Human Rights Fund relevant in the Brazilian setting is its mission to support work that promotes human rights, a field that has always received support from international cooperation agencies but still isn't a priority of Brazilian philanthropy. This is, undoubtedly, a constructive contribution to ensuring a solid democracy.*

**Neylar Lins**

*Brazilian Program Director of the Avina Foundation*



*The Brazil Human Rights Fund is an organization that is absolutely necessary to humanity; it is not just an onlooker. Besides, its values are extraordinary and its leaders are guided by an ethical posture and commitment to human rights in the country.*

**Ana Maria Wilhelm**

*Executive Director of the Akatu Institute and Consultant for the Brazil Human Rights Fund from 2007 to 2011*





# The importance of an autonomous fund for the human rights movement in Brazil

The role of civil society as a political actor is only fulfilled when it is able to vocalize its demands and denounce injustices autonomously and independently. And though it ought to be inherent in the processes of mobilization and collective action, it doesn't always happen, and one of the reasons is the scarcity of opportunities for economic and political survival.

Organizations, it must be said, depend on human and material resources to carry out their political aims. But access to these resources is not always easy. For example, when most of the support gives rise to counterparts or comes with limitations, as generally happens in partnerships with companies and government funds, that may put in jeopardy the original mission of a civil society organization.

The creation of an autonomous fund – as in the case of the Brazil Human Rights Fund – private, but directed exclusively to the public interest, presents an alternative, among few options, with the aim of ensuring some sustainability to the movement in defense of human rights.

Its objective is to connect two separate spheres. On one side, organizations that have difficulty accessing resources due to their still fragile institutional structures and the reticence of public opinion regarding human rights issues. On the other, the donors – inside the country and abroad – who have difficulty identifying and recognizing, or even reaching, actors in Brazilian civil society capable of turning financial resources into social change and enforcement of rights.

As part of its international initiative to strengthen philanthropy, the Ford Foundation made a grant for the establishment of the Brazil Human Rights Fund endowment: initial capital to be invested for some time so that its revenues can fund projects from civil society organizations. The resource should be preserved to ensure the Fund's sustainability, and thus that of grantees, avoiding the recent tide of great financial insecurity.

The initial amount of US\$ 3 million brought in by the Ford Foundation is indeed significant in absolute terms; however,

its annual revenues are small if we consider the demand of the organizations. Faced with the dilemma of investing the resources to ensure long-lasting stability or responding immediately to the countless urgent demands of human rights organizations, the Brazil Human Rights Fund chose a middle path: the funds were invested and the interests used to cover part of the expenses, but at the same time we are permanently searching for new sources in order to establish a consistent program of financial support.

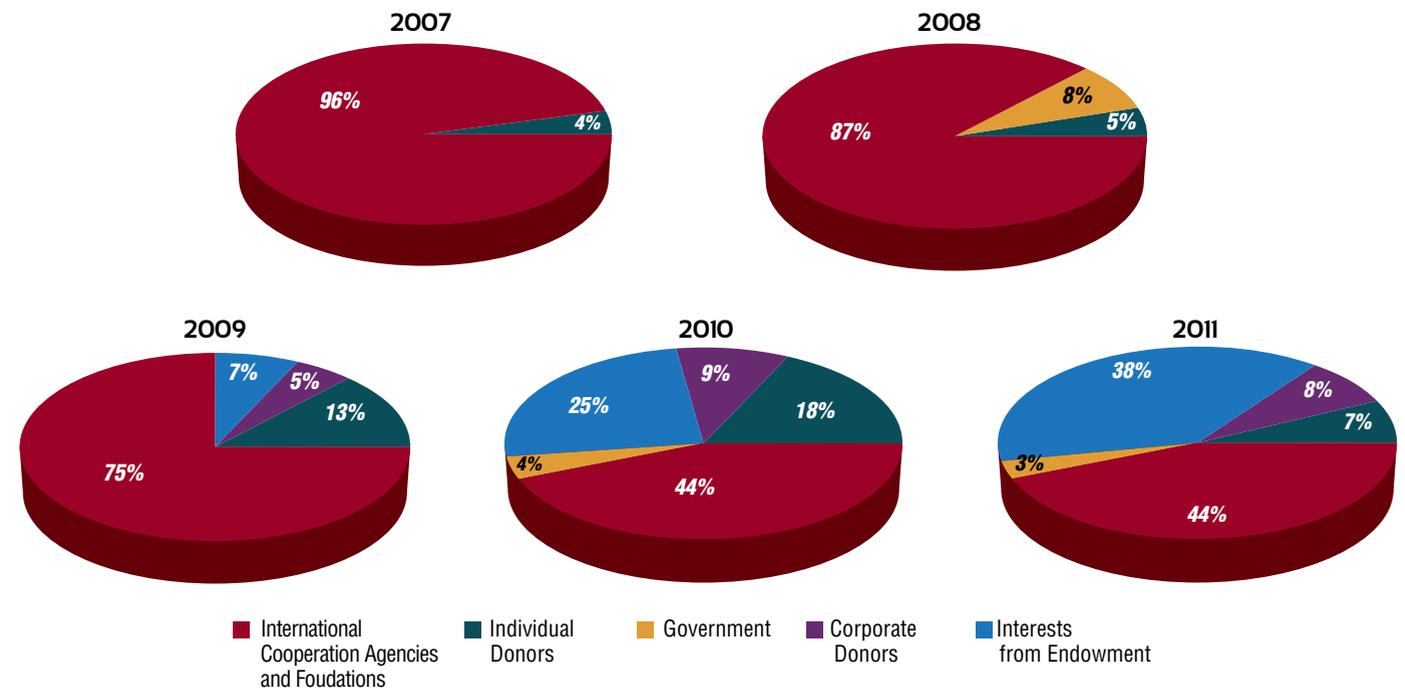
In these five years the Brazil Human Rights Fund has succeeded in meeting its goals on both fronts: financial support through grants and fundraising to expand its actions and reach in the country. Every year we successfully map out and support organizations with innovative projects capable of reverting systematic rights violations. With our success we have attracted new donors, to whom we have demonstrated our experience in the area of human rights and our capillarity via civil society organizations in a variety of sectors. Moreover, there has always been extreme care taken with regard to the transparency of our financial management and accountability.

Looking forward, we face a number of challenges on the horizon. One of them is institutional in nature. Today in Brazil there are tax breaks for donations in several areas, such as culture. In order to strengthen the human rights movement, there must be other funds like ours, intended specifically for this cause. And the state must implement policies and tax breaks so as to entice companies and individuals to contribute.

Thus we see the importance of expanding Brazilian society's understanding of human rights. In order for that to happen, it is necessary to broaden the dialogue with potential Brazilian donors who understand that respect for human rights is an unconditional premise for the consolidation of democracy and the effective development of a country.

**Oscar Vilhena**  
Vice-President of Finance  
of the Brazil Human Rights Fund (2005 to 2011)

## Funding Sources



*Tracking and analyzing the documentation and finances of the Brazil Human Rights Fund, we see the zeal and care with which they are managed. The endowment, donated by the Ford Foundation, was very well invested and preserved to last as long as possible, always in favor of the grantees. The Fund's experience is unmatched.*

**Marcos Fuchs**  
Director of the Pro Bono Institute and President of the Financial Committee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund

**Accountability and transparency to strengthen civil society**

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund's commitment to accountability, in the broadest meaning of the word, is materialized in different dimensions of its institutional operation, from communications – with systematic efforts to give its actions more visibility to the donors – to the cautious management of the endowment, striving to maximize support to small human rights projects without compromising the organization's sustainability. In my view the rapid and consistent institutional development, combined with its legal nature as a foundation – and, as such, subject to the control of the Public Prosecutor's Office – explain its credibility with a significant array of partners and donors, who have facilitated its policy of launching specific calls for proposals. The Brazil Human Rights Fund's credibility and good governance also lead it to be recognized as a legitimate partner of public and private institutions engaged in the process of establishing an autonomous fund directed toward strengthening the field of non-governmental organizations active in human rights and the struggle against inequalities.*

**Jorge Eduardo S. Durão**  
Vice-President of Education  
of the Brazil Human Rights Fund



## Supporting the protagonism of Brazil's civil society

**T** Brazil Human Rights Fund's mission is to strengthen the human rights movement in Brazil by encouraging the leadership of civil society organizations. It therefore directs its grants especially to organizations that have more difficulty accessing funds, due to their modest institutional structure and to the fact that the themes with which they work are not visible or recognized by the general public.

This bold proposal has turned out to be on the mark. Each year the number of projects submitted increases. In total, almost 4,000 projects were submitted during calls for proposals between 2007 and 2011. The growing demand for financial support confirms that grants such as these play a significant role in a landscape of scarce funding for such organizations.

And how has the Fund managed to support so many successful projects since then?

From the start we were aware of the importance of having a solid selection process coherent with our objective, because we knew that this is what would ensure the success of our mission. The process ought to be distinguished and at the same time transparent, with well-defined but somewhat flexible criteria, so as not to impede our adoption of audacious and/or pioneering proposals. Furthermore, the process had to take into account the complexity and diversity of the proponents and thus be sensitive to occasional shortcomings in organizations that, in spite of these, are willing to take up complex causes in more than adverse situations.

To that end we counted on the contribution of members of the selection committee, recognized defenders of human rights. Only such people, with much history in the area and the legitimacy to evaluate the proposals, could have the perspective, comprehension and knowledge we needed to direct funds to actions that would be successful.

And finally, there is a systematic effort on the part of

our team to cultivate very close ties with the organizations we support and the various networks of the human rights movement. One of the ways we do this is through visits to organizations wherever they carry out their activities. This first-hand evaluation allows us to establish a personal relationship with our partners. For them, the visits also translate into technical support, and for us, it is the ideal form of monitoring. The contact usually becomes perennial throughout the period in which the project is underway. Although the relationship is not necessarily face to face, the dialogue is maintained by phone, email and even letters! The interaction contributes to the progress of the supported project's activities.

Furthermore, permanent exchange and dialogue are essential for keeping up-to-date with our operational context and, most importantly, allowing us to be protagonists in this struggle in which we aim to take part.

The result of such efforts is that we can now present, confidently and proudly, this list of initiatives we have supported with surprising and truly transformational results. It is not always possible to measure these organizations' accomplishments through statistics, which often cannot express the importance of supporting such projects. It calls for a wider understanding and evaluation mechanisms capable of reading the local reality and the issue in question, as well as what has been achieved.

In spite of the insistence and persistence of those who react to violations and demand collective rights, a disturbing and embarrassing silence still makes it possible for injustice and violations to take place in the country. It is part of the Brazil Human Rights Fund's work to shed a light on initiatives that bring invisible problems to the surface and make them a part of the public debate.

**Sueli Carneiro**

*Vice-President of Project Management of the Brazil Human Rights Fund*

	Proposals	Grants
<b>2011</b>	976	33
<b>2010</b>	762	32
<b>2009</b>	711	27
<b>2008</b>	621	26
<b>2007</b>	802	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>3872</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Total amount granted via calls for projects:</b>		<b>R\$ 3.38 million</b> <small>(approximately US\$ 1.78 million in December of 2011)</small>

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund makes it possible for funds to reach small, grassroots entities, which carry out extremely important work but, at the same time, have more difficult access to resources.*

**Ana Puyalto / Luciano Wolff**  
*Brazil Team of the German Cooperation Agency EED*

### Supporting diversity

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund has a national reach, since it receives projects from the entire country. In addition to this geographical scope, we support a variety of human rights issues, from institutional violence to sexual and reproductive rights, issues of gender, race, ethnicity, land and territory, among others. In that sense, our organization reflects the complexity and contemporaneity of the field of human rights in Brazil. By its very nature and because its resources come from a variety of sources, and because it is not connected to any government organ or private company in particular, the Brazil Human Rights Fund exercises the independence and autonomy in decision-making essential for the allocation of resources, strengthening organized civil society and, especially, those organizations focused on the defense of human rights. It therefore plays a role that is still rare in Brazilian society.*

**Jacqueline Pitanguy**  
*President of the Board of Trustees of the Brazil Human Rights Fund and Executive Director of Cepia*

### Members of the Brazil Human Rights Fund's Selection Committee

**2011**  
Guacira Oliveira  
KK Verdade  
Lúcia Xavier  
Maria Emília Pacheco  
Renato Roseno  
Rosane Fernandes (Kaingang)  
Sandra Carvalho

**2010**  
Guacira Oliveira  
Jurema Werneck  
KK Verdade  
Maria Auxiliadora da Silva (Baré)  
Maria Emília Pacheco  
Renato Roseno  
Sandra Carvalho

**2009**  
Denise Carreira  
Guacira Oliveira  
Juarez Xavier  
KK Verdade  
Renato Roseno  
Sandra Carvalho  
Sergio Sauer  
Vilmar Guarany

**2008**  
Ana Maria Wilhelm  
Fernando Seffner  
Gersen Luciano (Baniwa)  
Juana Kweitel  
Luíza Bairros  
Sandra Carvalho  
Sergio Sauer

**2007**  
Edson Cardoso  
Fernando Scaff  
Gersem Luciano (Baniwa)  
Ignácio Cano  
Leila Linhares  
Luíza Bairros  
Maria Emília Pacheco





## Strengthening partner institutions through training and capacity-building

From its conception the Brazil Human Rights Fund has been clear that support for civil society organizations must serve to help them overcome their structural needs, since shortcomings related to human resources and technical training can become barriers to the development of their projects. Thus the Fund's role is to offer something more than just financial support, so that their actions are successful.

Aside from the complexity and magnitude of the causes they work with, organizations face difficulties such as, for example, lack of information and technical capability in the financial area. Consequently, the Fund's technical assistance service and capacity-building workshops address such structural demands and needs, mindful of the details and challenges of the local realities in which its partners operate.

When an organization is selected for financial support, we envision ways to monitor its activities, such as *in loco* visits where the project is carried out. By monitoring its partners the Fund is able to measure the challenges and accomplishments that are part of their daily life. It also advises partners on the elaboration of reports and accounting of the projects.

Furthermore, every year the Fund promotes a Meeting of Grantees. For three days training activities are offered in São Paulo with two main objectives: to provide technical tools and to promote dialogue among grantees from different parts of Brazil. At the meeting they have a chance to exchange information and experiences, stimulating the interaction with regional and national networks that fight for human rights.

In each edition of the meeting, the Fund proposes the discussion of a theme that intersects with issues common to all participating organizations, despite their different regions and thematic focus. The goal is to encourage the understanding that rights violations are not sporadic and isolated, and thus joint actions are a way to maximize the results of the organizations' efforts. In recent years we realized that this dynamic enabled participants to acquire a global perception of the definition of human rights and comprehend its concept of indivisibility: it becomes clear to them that rights are interrelated and that the absence of one ends up annulling the existence of the others.

In addition to the permanent debate on the struggle against institutional violence and discrimination, a number of specific themes have been debated since 2009. That year, we highlighted the issue of racism. The following year, the discussion was dedicated to the right to memory and truth. On that occasion the participants created a chronology of the struggle for human rights through the elaboration of a historical timeline and realized that, for instance, the struggle of the runaway slaves is related, in the past, to the anti-slavery movement, and that, today, it still takes place in the struggle against racism and the demand for the right to territory.

In 2011 human rights were placed in the context of the Brazilian government's development agenda. The construction of large projects undertaken by the government, such as the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Plant, has generated serious negative impacts on the environment and local communities. Along the same lines, plans for the construction of stadiums and local infrastructure in cities that will host the 2014 World Cup are expected to have substantial impacts, threatening the lives of individuals and entire communities. Against this backdrop of systematic violations, the Fund's objective was to dedicate the meeting to reflection and discussion of the current political moment and the strategic development of collective forms to resist and fight back.

The Brazil Human Rights Fund believes that the structural reinforcement of organizations results in the efficacy of their activities, which, initially, foment a new culture of respect and demand for human rights at the local level. But when those actions are added up and are combined with a series of powerful initiatives developed in other parts of the country, we have the chance to intervene in the national agenda and achieve structural changes on a much larger scale.

### Darci Frigo

Vice-President of Education and Training of the Brazil Human Rights Fund (2005 to 2011)

### A challenge for the future: a community in support of human rights

Looking toward the future, the Brazil Human Rights Fund's challenge is to raise societal awareness so that people are motivated and mobilized to donate. Whoever endorses the Fund will know that they are not just supporting the projects the Fund benefits, but are part of the larger community that defends human rights.

The Fund must become the space for those who want to participate in the struggle for human rights and want to do that through donations. But it also has to welcome those who want to participate, for instance, in actions on the internet or are looking for information about human rights.

Virtual space may be the entryway for the human rights community in Brazil. A less institutional, more communications-oriented design ought to enable those who are not part of the world of non-governmental organizations to get informed, thus feeding the culture of human rights in society. Social networks may be a path toward this more horizontal communication, which allows direct interaction between people and the foundation.

The Brazil Human Rights Fund shares with other social organizations the tremendous challenge of removing the inertia and conformity that exist in Brazilian society regarding human rights violations. The Fund must take part in the discourse to disrupt this conformity.

### Átila Roque

Executive Director of Amnesty International in Brazil and Trustee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund

Funding from the Brazil Human Rights Fund responds to an effective demand of society: there are individuals and small grassroots groups doing things to affirm human rights, and a small contribution can make a big difference. The Fund reaches even the most unassisted public.

### Vera Masagão

General Coordinator of the NGO Education Action and Executive Director of Abong (Brazilian Association of NGOs)

The Brazil Human Rights Fund's great distinction is its capillarity. It reaches the micro vein of Brazil's problems in places where most would never look. Furthermore, for me, the cause of human rights is moving because of its potential to transform. The awareness of rights changes people's lives. This action has a multiplying effect.

### Lucia Seabra

Film Producer and Trustee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund

## Accomplishments and perspectives

*In 2003 a few defenders of human rights started to think about the structure (of a fund) to be created. The prestige and maturity of this group was a determinant in later obtaining the donation of US\$ 3 million from the Ford Foundation to constitute an endowment.*

*In this first stage it was essential to form a cohesive board of trustees that came from the world of NGOs and understood its dynamics. A foundation was created that showed transparency and a wise use of resources, proving itself capable of organizing a serious selection process, and today it has an interesting portfolio of grants.*

*But the implementation of human rights in Brazil isn't just for the already-initiated. From now on the Brazil Human Rights Fund must maintain what it has accomplished and expand its alliances. We must show to Brazil's economic elites, intellectuals, artists and other opinion makers that the guarantee of those rights is essential to the development of the country.*

### Denise Dora

*Vice-President of Finance of the Brazil Human Rights Fund and Coordinator of the Human Rights Program in the Ford Foundation's Brazil Office at the time the Fund was created.*

*Since its inception, the Brazil Human Rights Fund's work to develop domestic human rights philanthropy to grow a strong human rights movement in Brazil has been impressive. The Fund's progress and the work of the organizations they support are inspiring. Oak Foundation's International Human Rights Programme has been proud to support this mission.*

### James Logan

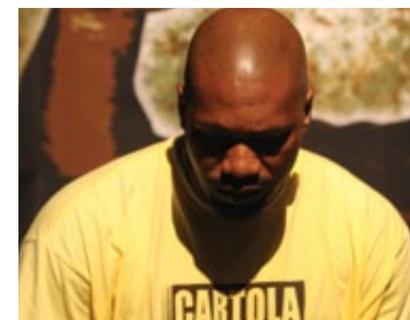
*Programme Officer of Oak Foundation's International Human Rights Programme*

*Once we got to know the Brazil Human Rights Fund, we decided to contribute and encourage its work. We opted to collaborate through the donation of hygiene products, which are part of our business. It's a way of helping directly to reduce an important expense in collective spaces.*

### Sheila Degello

*Executive Manager of RL Higiene*

Photos: Brazil Human Rights Fund collection



# To our dear Founders

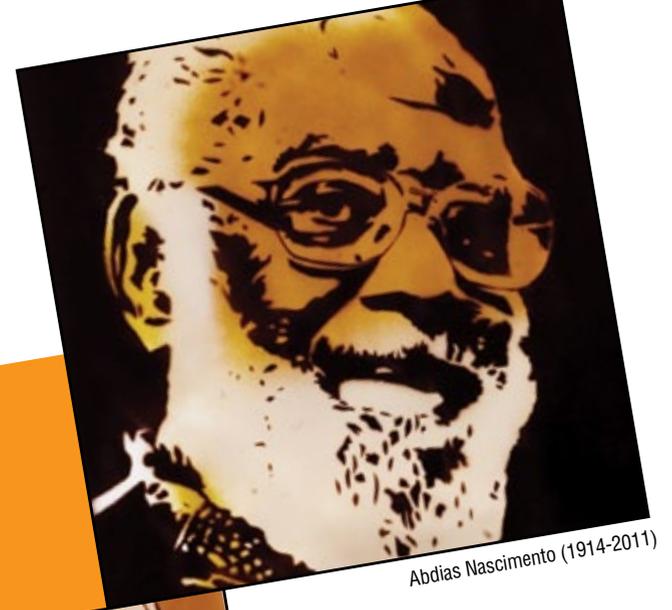
Rose Marie Muraro, Margarida Genevois, Bishop Pedro Casaldáliga and Abdias Nascimento (*in memoriam*) were pioneers in shedding light on themes related to human rights in Brazilian society.

Their liberating ideas broke paradigms and brought about a new perspective on social justice, which served as guidelines to many generations of human rights defenders.

Their actions have contributed to the mobilization of civil society in the country and had international resonance. Their acts of resistance and indignation against the violations they witnessed caused them to be questioned and often persecuted. But this did not prevent them from continuing with their constant and untiring work for the transformation of inequality and iniquity.

In this section the Brazil Human Rights Fund dedicates a few pages to the history and words of these courageous individuals, who gave their lives to an arduous struggle and who continue to inspire, every day, the work of this institution and that of many other activists devoted to the cause of human rights.

Photos: Brazil Human Rights Fund collection  
Reproduction/Art Rodrigo Medeiros



Abdias Nascimento (1914-2011)



Margarida Genevois



Rose Marie Muraro



Dom Pedro Casaldáliga

ROSE MARIE MURARO

# Transgressive feminism



The violence of a sexist world is not just physical, but also takes more subtle forms, rooted in the simplest habits, the most common statements and the most mainstream ideas. Rose Marie Muraro, 81, knew that this violence could not be defeated by force. But ideas, and the chance to express and disseminate them, were a way through which women could disrupt discriminatory logic and domination, both cruelly considered natural.

As a writer and a publisher, she gave voice to her audacious positions and progressive ideas on gender-related themes. Her literary production was dedicated to women's rights: "I worked with the 'woman' because I thought it was through her that things would get better. Human rights fundamentally have to do with her condition. If you change her condition you change that of her children and, therefore, the chain of generations," she says.

In the 1960s, as editorial director of the *Vozes* publishing house, she contributed to the mobilization of two important social movements in Brazil: feminist emancipation and liberation theology, with Leonardo Boff.

Over the last forty years she has written more than thirty books, many of them controversial, such as *The Sexuality of the Brazilian Woman – Body and Social Class in Brazil* (1983), *Automation and the Future of Mankind* (1966) and *The Woman's Sexual Liberation* (1975) were considered pornographic by the military government and censored.

Because of her intellectual contribution and her militancy, Rose Marie is an icon of the feminist movement in Brazil. She was especially active in the 1970s; her revolutionary, liberatory rhetoric was one form of resistance to the military regime. In 1986, after the publication of *The Christian Eroticism*, she had to leave the publishing house due to reprisal from the Catholic Church's conservative sectors. She recently received the Brazilian senate's Teotônio Vilela Award in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the 1979 political amnesty in Brazil.

The common misconception that women are the fragile sex quickly disappears when you meet this courageous, unconstrained woman. "When I started to work, in the 1970s, I was alone, just

letting the military slap me in the face. I was crazy, I feared nothing," she says of those violent, repressive times. Rose Marie recalls that meetings were banished in the country, but that did not prevent mobilization and the creation of the first feminist organizations.

In 1975, with women from the Communist Party of São Paulo, she founded the Center for the Development of the *Paulista* Woman, dedicated to organizing and mobilizing middle class women and young liberal professionals to disseminate feminist ideas among the lower classes. "We carried out a struggle with political projects, went to the slums, but nothing was funded. We did interviews, recognized the needs of the women, worked for the decriminalization of abortion, marched," she recounts.

Her involvement with human rights was a part of practically her entire life. Her first activity was with Bishop Helder Câmara, when she was fifteen. At the time she had joined one of the groups of Student Catholic Action, through which she got intensely involved with social movements.

Another surprising aspect of her story is that she was born practically blind and recovered her sight only at the age of 66. When she saw herself in the mirror for the first time she said: "Today I know that I am a very pretty woman."

Today Rose Marie reckons the feminist movement is big all over the world, including in Brazil, and has a record of important accomplishments, such as the decriminalization of abortion in a number of countries. However, she affirms there's still much to be done to counteract gender asymmetry. For her, one of the ways to ensure women's access to their rights is through their empowerment, to be achieved through their economic autonomy.

Her contribution to the realization of human rights has been recognized in many times. She has been elected nine times "Woman of the Year." In 1990 and 1999 she was appointed by *Desfile* magazine "Woman of the Century." In 2003 she became a member of the National Council for Women's Rights and in 2006 was named Patron of Brazilian Feminism.

ABDIAS NASCIMENTO

# Human rights: an eternal apprenticeship



“I didn’t learn human rights from books or when I was studying. I learned them when I was seven or eight years old, from someone who couldn’t read or write, never went to school and made sweets to support her seven children: my mother. She taught me the struggle for human rights not by talking about them, but by doing it and showing me. She confronted violence, injustice and the white people who beat blacks up.”

Abdias Nascimento was young at a very difficult time for Brazil’s black population. Born in 1914 in the city of Franca, São Paulo, he lived in an era when the scars left by slavery were still recent.

He dedicated most of his years to the struggle against racial discrimination. “Throughout my life, for almost one century, that was it: practicing it [the struggle for human rights]. I’m not a writer or a theorist of human rights. I don’t know how to elaborate theories; I know how to do,” he said, at the celebration of his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

His fight for racial equity began early, in 1930, when he joined the Brazilian Black Front, considered the first civil rights movement in Brazil.

His militancy was also practiced through art. Abdias contributed significantly to the development of Afro culture and to the formation of Afro-descendant artists. Himself an artist, a poet and a writer, he created the Black Experimental Theater (TEN) in 1944. The idea came to him after watching a play with a white actor in blackface. The TEN was responsible for Brazil’s first generation of black actors, in addition to contributing to the creation of Afro-Brazilian dramatic literature.

In 1950, at the head of the TEN, Abdias organized the first Brazilian Black Congress and published the newspaper *Quilombo*. “*Quilombo’s* fight is not specifically against those who deny our rights, but especially to remind or make blacks themselves aware of their rights to life and culture,” he wrote in the publication’s first editorial.

Abdias was aware that in Brazil the fight against racism extended to the mobilization of civil society and the political sphere. He promoted countless actions in both fronts, such as the organization of the National Black Convention (1945-46), which proposed to the Constituent Assembly a constitutional provision defining racial discrimination as treason. He articulated the fight for racial equality in Brazil with liberation movements in Africa and with the civil and human rights movements in the United States.

Like other human rights militants, one of his foes was the authoritarian government. Twice he was sentenced to prison: in 1937, in Rio de Janeiro, by the National Security Court, after protesting against Getúlio Vargas’s dictatorship (1937-1945); and in 1941, in São Paulo, he was sentenced *in absentia* for having reacted to racist aggressions in incidents that took place in 1936.

In prison he created the Theater of the Sentenced, comprised of a group of inmates who wrote, directed and interpreted plays.

The military dictatorship (1964-1985) in turn led to his exile. The Institutional Act 5 [*Translator’s Note: of December 13, 1968, establishing a de facto dictatorship in Brazil*] was enacted while Abdias was visiting the United States. Abdias then stayed in the U.S. and in Nigeria for the next thirteen years, because he would be arrested for outstanding warrants if he returned to Brazil. During those years he produced artistic works whose themes were black culture and the resistance to slavery and racism.

Abdias returned in 1978 and took part in public acts and meetings which led to the foundation of the Unified Black Movement against Racism and Racial Discrimination. Three years later he founded Ipeafro (Institute of Afro-Brazilian Research and Studies).

With Brazil’s re-democratization he dedicated himself to a career in politics. He was the first federal representative (from Rio de Janeiro state) dedicated to the defense of the rights of the Afro-descendant population. During his term (1983-86), he proposed Brazil’s first affirmative action bill. Also his was a bill classifying racism as a crime. Between 1991 and 1992 and from 1997 to 1999 he replaced the anthropologist Darcy Ribeiro in the Senate. He was also Rio de Janeiro’s Secretary for the Defense and Promotion of the Afro-Brazilian Populations (1991-94).

“I built my life in eternal apprenticeship, eternal struggle. First, for the rights of Afro-descendants, then for the Brazilian people as a whole, and, finally, for all human beings. Everybody deserves to have their rights respected,” he said.

In 2006 he received from president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva the medal of the Rio Branco Order, the Brazilian government’s highest honor. In 2010 he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Abdias believed that the fight against racism and the inclusion of Afro-descendants in Brazilian society were essential for the realization of human rights. That is why his work left an invaluable legacy for the black movement and the struggle for human rights in Brazil. “Promoting human rights in Brazil means to give priority to the effective social inclusion of Afro-descendants, because the Brazilian system of racial discrimination, more efficient than South Africa’s apartheid, has built a racism that powerful sectors insist on denying and ignoring, thus preventing the quest for effective solutions.”

Abdias died in 2010 at the age of 97. “He was the great leader of our fight and, in honor of his memory, we will keep on fighting,” says Sueli Carneiro, Vice-President of Project Management of the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

BISHOP PEDRO CASALDÁLIGA

# The right to land: a right for life



In the 1970s Brazil's agricultural and cattle-raising frontiers expanded to the Center-West and Northern regions of the country, areas that until then were preserved and only lightly inhabited by local populations. Pedro Casaldáliga, 83, has witnessed this. Since that time he has lived in São Félix do Araguaia, in the Amazonian portion of the state of Mato Grosso, and has observed with sadness the devastation caused by the economic model imposed on the Amazon region. Born in Barcelona, Spain, he moved to Brazil in 1968, and in 1971 became a Catholic Church bishop.

Here he was one of the icons of Liberation Theology. His motto, "Owe nothing, carry nothing, ask nothing, suppress nothing and, above all, kill nothing," inspired and guided his work as a religious leader and a defender of the local communities' right to land.

For more than four decades he has confronted large and powerful landowners, companies that exploited the region and local politicians in his struggle against slave labor, degradation of the environment and land conflicts.

"After 500 years we continue to be a plantation. We continue to be exclusion and violence in rural areas, land accumulation. We continue to be agribusiness, plantations in disguise. We continue to be toxic, depredation," he attests.

As one of the main activists for agrarian reform, he participated actively in the foundation of the Indigenist Missionary Council (1972) and the Pastoral Land Commission (1975), created to address the issues of agrarian reform and the rights of Brazil's indigenous peoples.

"Governments owe a debt to agrarian reform and agricultural reform as well. Not settling this means pushing millions of families to the city, where they'll find unemployment and violence, which are fatal, particularly to the young. There must be a chance to live off the land with dignity, to end slave labor, underemployment and cheap labor in rural areas," he believes.

The bishop's intense literary activity was one of the tools of his militancy, through which he expressed his indignation with the socio-economic system prevalent in rural Brazil. In the same year he was named bishop of São Félix do Araguaia, he wrote the pastoral, "An Amazonian Church in conflict with latifundia and social marginalization." In the text he denounced the losses and damages caused by the large landowners and huge development projects that the military dictatorship had launched in the South-Southeast axis of the Amazon Region. "The fact that I had been appointed bishop enabled me to speak up. I intended to scream [against] the *casa grande e senzala* [Translator's Note: landowner's house and slave quarters; original title of Gilberto Freyre's classic *The Masters and the Slaves, about the formation of Brazilian Society*] system... A few with everything and many living as slaves. The letter was adopted by many forces on the left and in the more engaged Church. We presented data, names, lawsuits. It wasn't just a theoretical pastoral with religious, political or economic considerations; it had minute details of the injustices in the region."

Because of his resistance to human rights violations, Bishop Pedro's life was threatened many times. During the military regime there were five legal proceedings to have him expelled from the country. He was fortunate that the archbishop of São Paulo, Paulo Evaristo Arns, intervened on his behalf. "Repression itself stimulated our responsibility in that landscape. We couldn't avoid speaking of land, reproaching the government, criticizing the police. What was evident to our conscience could become a cry for others striving for liberation," he recalls.

Today he thinks Brazil's development model is still wrong: "By definition all big projects are anti-people and anti-economic. They are designed for the accelerated accumulation of capital and investment. The local people will miss the normal pace of life and white elephants will be all over, such as with the transposition of the São Francisco River and the Belo Monte hydroelectric plant. It's the obsession with the big and the immediate," he reflects.

Bishop Pedro believes that today there is a new awareness regarding human rights: "We speak of rights naturally, but decades ago that was a strange word, used by a few fanatics. Today we realize that it is a radically vital, essential issue. I feel that, to a certain extent, human rights are still a luxury and privilege of the few, who see themselves as more human than other humans. And, on the other hand, when the conditions of human life are too precarious, human dignity itself is prohibited. There are many people alive just thinking of survival."

Even after resigning from the prelate in 2003 – his successor is Bishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner – Bishop Pedro still fights. A writer and poet, he continues his untiring militancy against injustice in rural Brazil.

MARGARIDA GENEVOIS

# Justice and education: paths toward human rights



Certainly one of the most critical periods for human rights in Brazil was the military dictatorship, which began with the 1964 coup and lasted more than two decades. Citizens had their rights – especially political rights – restricted; many went underground because of their activities and positions against the government, and the opposition was brutally repressed.

This period was also marked by increasing social inequality. Part of the population could not demand its rights and seemed condemned to social and economic destitution because of the repression and because it was unaware of its rights.

For Margarida Genevois, 88, people must have a clear notion of dignity in order to understand their rights and duties in society. It was during the authoritarian regime that her activism in favor of human rights grew intense. The more the government hardened and submitted those who opposed it to violations, fear and vulnerability, the more she engaged in the defense of citizens' rights, such as those of the politically persecuted.

Her activity really began once she moved to São Paulo in 1967 and became a member of the São Paulo Diocese's Justice and Peace Commission, which she was part of for 25 years. Together with Archbishop Paulo Evaristo Arns, she fought in favor of political prisoners, against arbitrary arrests and for the return of the rule of law to Brazil. She also sheltered political refugees, in particular those who had escaped the dictatorships in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay; to them she provided legal protection whenever possible.

Margarida also participated in the search for the regime's disappeared and reported cases of disappearances and torture to international organizations. She played an important role in the process that culminated in the amnesty of political opponents and the return of exiles. Along the way she took a position against the National Security Law and the death penalty. After Brazil's re-democratization, she continued to protest against injustice, in favor of the unemployed and the landless and against torture and maltreatment of teenagers detained in the institutions of the socio-educational system.

Before the military dictatorship Margarida had already confronted social injustice. Born into one of Rio de Janeiro's

richest families, she saw the harsh reality of rural families when she moved to Campinas, in the state of São Paulo, after getting married.

There she realized that charity alone would not be enough to change a structural problem. She began her work on the São Francisco Farm, which belonged to Rhodia, the company where her husband was employed.

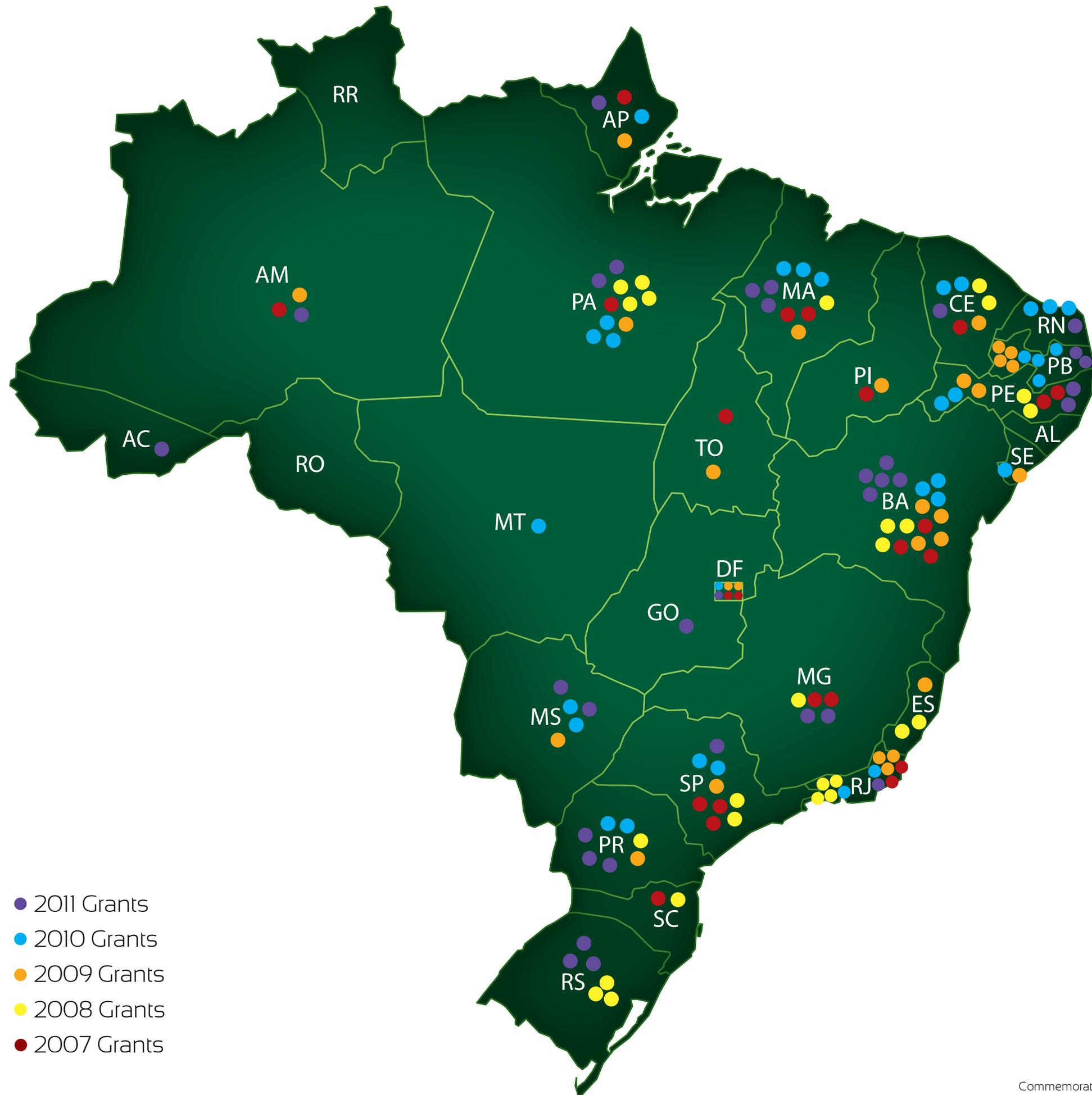
Margarida was moved by local workers' poverty and lack of resources. On the farm, where 2,500 people lived, she carried out programs for malnourished children and instructed women on maternal care. With women from the region she was able to create nurseries, a childcare center and a mothers club. She also published the *Jornal Feminino*, directed at women of the community. The result was a drop in Campinas' infant mortality rate. "If in a society people don't understand they have rights, things can't move forward. It's the struggle for rights that powers the social struggle," she says.

Since that time Margarida has been actively engaged in the defense of human rights, especially those of the most vulnerable groups. "All my life I've worked with human rights. The struggle for human rights is a passion. It's like a microbe that, once it gets you, has no vaccine, no treatment. You're motivated and in love with it for the rest of your life."

Currently Margarida is coordinator of the Brazilian Network for Human Rights Education. "After many kinds of work I came to the conclusion that the most useful thing I could do is human rights education," she says. She clarifies that the education in which she believes is not restricted to formal education, but refers in particular to the transmission of values. "Those who think, for example, that human rights are something for criminals are misinformed. And misinformed people don't know how to look around," she argues.

For her solidarity is important in the demand for rights: "If you have rights, so do others. Because they're just like you, with the same dignity; no one is superior. That's why you have to fight for your rights, and also those of others. Rights are interconnected," she says.

# Projects supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund





# Projects supported via calls for proposals, 2007 to 2011

## 2007

**Amapá Black Women’s Institute – Imena (Amapá)**

Open your eyes! You are the subject of rights

**Association of Mothers and Friends of Children and Adolescents at Risk – Amar (São Paulo)**

Empowerment of mothers in combating violence at Casa Foundation (formerly Febem)

**Backlands Community Association – Acoterra (Bahia)**

Regularization and sustainability of collective pasture areas

**Brazilian Indigenous Institute for Intellectual Property – Inbrapi (Federal District)**

Eg to Jykrén Project – Thinking for us

**Casa Palmares (Minas Gerais)**

A Future Beyond Bars: with respect and social inclusion

**Christians’ Action to Abolish Torture – Acat (São Paulo)**

Support for torture victims and their families

**Collective of Rural Women Workers in the State of Maranhão (Maranhão)**

Rural workers learning about and pursuing their rights

**Council of Indigenous Teachers of the Amazon – Copiam (Amazonas)**

Discovering, rescuing and defending our roots and our rights

**Glória de Ivone Center for the Defense of Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights – Cedeca (Tocantins)**

Irema Project – Identity and ethnic recognition in the Altamira micro-region

**Human Images / Public Interest (Federal District)**

The storyline’s footprints, facts and images

**Humanitas Institute (Pará)**

Irema Project – Identity and ethnic recognition in the Altamira micro-region

**Institute for Racial and Environmental Advocacy – Iara (Rio de Janeiro)**

Ensuring human rights to Brazil’s Afro-descendant population

**Living Work Institute (Maranhão)**

Take-root Project: regional integration against slave labor

**Maria da Graça Brás Center for Human Rights (Santa Catarina)**

Legal and psychological assistance to the Joinville Prison Council and the Human Rights Center

**Matizes (Nuances) Group (Piauí)**

Human rights in the spotlight

**Network of Communities and Movements against Violence (Rio de Janeiro)**

Dulcinérea Project [Translator’s Note: the name refers to the mother of a young man killed by the Rio de Janeiro police in 2004, in an operation that came to be known as “The Caju Massacre”]

**Nzinga – Black Women’s Collective, Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais)**

Human rights and health: a black women’s perspective

**Omi-Dúdú - Nucleus for Reclaiming and Preserving African Brazilian Culture (Bahia)**

Quilombo X – Cultural community action

**Pastoral Land Commission – CPT (Ceará)**

Preventive actions against over-exploitation of labor and rural worker trafficking

**Pernambuco Association of Single Mothers – Apemas (Pernambuco)**

He is my father. Paternity: recognize this right

**Steve Biko Cultural Institute (Bahia)**

Black Youth Mobilizing for Anti-Racism and Human Rights in Bahia

**Team for Networking and Consultancy to Black Communities in the Ribeira Valley (São Paulo)**

Continuity of the work of organizing and advising the Ribeira Valley’s quilombola community

**Women’s Citizenship Group (Pernambuco)**

Blowing the Whistle – Women confronting violence

## 2008

**Antigone Institute (Santa Catarina)**

Development of technology to ensure rights and repair damage in the health care area

**Association of Mothers and Friends of Children and Adolescents at Risk – Amar (São Paulo)**

Empowerment of mothers in combating violence at Casa Foundation (formerly Febem)

**Black Observatory (Pernambuco)**

The racial dimension in psychology – Awareness training for psychology professionals on black people and their particularities

**Black Youth Forum State of Espírito Santo – Fejunes (Espírito Santo)**

State-wide campaign against the extermination of black youth

**Brazilian Association for Social Welfare, Social Inclusion, Culture, and Environment – Estimate (Rio de Janeiro)**

Cinematic Re-Vision

**Ceará Human Rights Forum (Ceará)**

Where are human rights? – Violence and human rights in the rhetoric and approaches of police programs in the state of Ceará

**Center for the Defense of Refugees’ Human Rights – Cedhur (Minas Gerais)**

Refugees and citizenship

**Human Rights League (Rio Grande do Sul)**

Traveling project for human rights defenders’ training in the state of Rio Grande do Sul

**Humanitas Institute (Pará)**

Irema Project – Identity and ethnic recognition in the Altamira micro-region – Phase 2

**Institute for Human Rights Advocates – DDH (Rio de Janeiro)**

Citizenship in the outskirts: the state’s civil responsibility vis-à-vis police violence in slum communities

**Interdisciplinary Cooperative for Training and Consultancy – Lilac House (Ceará)**

A new world is possible: women for the end of sexist violence

**Linharesinho Small Farmers’ Pro-Development Association (Espírito Santo)**

Agribusiness, discrimination and violation of quilombola rights in the state of Espírito Santo

**Living Work Institute (Maranhão)**

Take-root project – consolidation of the social network to combat slave labor in the state of Maranhão – Phase 2

**Maria Mulher – Black Women’s Organization (Rio Grande do Sul)**

The 4th Statute of Children and Adolescents in the combat of race, ethnicity and gender discrimination

**Mariana Criola Center for Grassroots Legal Aid (Rio de Janeiro)**

Access to justice: a path for combating institutional violence against informal workers

**Network of Communities and Movements Against Violence (Rio de Janeiro)**

State Campaign against the Extermination of Black Youths

**Pastoral Land Commission – CPT/Xinguara (Pará)**

Land is Life Project

**Pombos Women’s Center (Pernambuco)**

Empowered women’s network fighting for human rights Pernambuco’s Zona da Mata

**Preservar Institute (Rio Grande do Sul)**

Defense of peasant victims of legal persecution in the state of Rio Grande do Sul

**Puxirão Networking of the Faxinal Peoples – Boa Ventura de São Roque (Paraná)**

Faxinalense peoples: from social invisibility to collective existence

**São Paulo Women’s Union (São Paulo)**

Bolivian immigrant women in downtown São Paulo and life and work conditions, with focus on gender violence

**Society for the Defense of Sexual Rights in the Amazon – Sodreitos (Pará)**

Amanajara – Guidance to family members of women who disappear abroad and training for police officers to investigate these cases

**Steve Biko Cultural Institute (Bahia)**

Black Youths mobilizing for anti-racism and human rights in Bahia

**Tembé de Santa Maria do Pará Indigenous People’s Association – Aitesampa (Pará)**

Project for instruction in self-demarcation of the Jeju and Areal Indigenous Territory of the Tembê people of Santa Maria do Pará

**Walking Metamorphosis Association of Users of Mental Health Services and their Families**

– **Amea (Bahia)**

Citizen’s Madness: rights assertion and social inclusion

**Women Friends of Itinga Association – Ammiga (Bahia)**

Training and articulating to the women from Lauro de Freitas about the fight for public resource

## 2009

**April 17 National Human Rights Institute (Federal District)**

Legal advice to rural workers in agrarian reform areas of the Federal District and its surroundings

**Association for Environmental Protection – Apema (Federal District)**

Hydroelectric plants are a violation of human rights: 25 years of the Tucuruí Hydroelectric Plant

**Association of Families and Friends of Prison Inmates in Bahia – Astap (Bahia)**

Quilombo X – Progression of prison regime and parole for Lemos de Brito Penitentiary’s inmates

**Association of Mothers and Friends of Children and Adolescents at Risk – Amar (Rio de Janeiro )**

Family empowerment and fulfillment of socio-educative measures’ new directions

**Association of Mulungú Family Farmers (Paraíba)**

Dignity for the family farmers of Leo-Lândia agro-village – Mulungu

**Bamidelê – Organization of Black Women (Paraíba)**

Strengthening the anti-racist fight in the state of Paraíba

**Black Youth Forum State of Espírito Santo – Fejunes (Espírito Santo)**

State-wide campaign against the extermination of black youth

**Braços Institute – Defense of Rights and Social Control (Sergipe)**

Adding up data, pulsating lives

**Center for People’s Rights in the Carajás Region (Maranhão)**

Art and environment: a strategy for the empowerment of rural youth in the Maranhão cerrado

**Center for Studies and Reclaiming Gypsy Culture – Cerci (São Paulo)**

Gypsy woman: between the dream and the reality

**Cunhã Feminist Collective (Paraíba)**

For the end of the criminalization of women and for the legalization of abortion: building the National Front in the state of Paraíba

**Davida – Prostitution, Civil Rights, Health (Rio de Janeiro)**

Out of the darkness: unveiling human rights violations in female prostitution

**Glória de Ivone Center for the Defense of the Rights of Children and Adolescents – Cedeca (Tocantins)**

State Observatory of Violence against Children and Adolescents: a combined set of actions

**Ilê Axé Omidewá (Paraíba)**

Human rights and citizenship for Afro-religious communities

**Interstate Cipozeiras Movement – MIC (Paraná)**

Cipozeiras: charting of social conflicts and human rights violations

**Institute of Black Women – Imena (Amapá)**

Respecting rights – Recognizing duties

**Lions of the North Gay Movement (Pernambuco)**

Prison units without homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia

**Manaus Women’s Permanent Forum – FMM (Amazonas)**

Manaós Connection: articulation of the network to confront sexual exploitation and trafficking of girls, teenagers and women

**Maria Gorete Pereira Gonzaga – individual project (Piauí)**

The same color as Brazil – Debate with the black youth on Web Radio

**Mariana Criola Center for Grassroots Legal Aid (Rio de Janeiro)**

Access to justice: a path for combating institutional violence against informal workers

**Mato Grosso do Sul Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals – ATMS (Mato Grosso do Sul)**

Identify yourself: political organization and formation of the LGTBTT movement in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul

**Northeast Pará State Women’s Movement – MMNEPA (Pará)**

Breaking barriers of silence of violence against women and crying out for rights in northeastern Pará state

**Omi-Dúdú – Nucleus for Reclaiming and Preserving African Brazilian Culture (Bahia)**

Political Communications and Communications Policies – Course for 40 social leaders of the Bahian Black Movement

**Pedra de Raio Institute – Citizens’ Justice (Bahia)**

Mediation of racial conflicts

**Quixeramobim Institute for Historical, Cultural and Natural Heritage – Iphanaq (Ceará)**

Living Factory – Workers’ culture and social experience

**Regional Association of the Family Farming School in the Sertão (Backlands) – Arefase (Bahia)**

Human rights reference center of the Monte Santo region’s family farmers

**Women’s Citizenship Group (Pernambuco)**

Support network – Women listen to women

## 2010

**Açailândia Center for the Defense of Life and Human Rights (Maranhão)**

Legal support for workers freed from slave labor in the state of Maranhão in 2008 and 2009 to pursue their rights

**Acauã Quilombola Community Association – AMQA (Rio Grande do Norte)**

An old-fashioned cunhã: reconquering quilombola territory

**Association of Mothers and Friends of Children and Adolescents at Risk – Amar (Pernambuco)**

Empowerment of mothers and friends of children and adolescents at risk

**Association of Rural Women Workers from Lago do Junco and Lago dos Rodrigues – AMTR (Maranhão)**

Women of Fiber: breaking shells and reinventing life through the struggle for gender, race and ethnic equality

**Association of Survivors of the Quilombo Communities on Marambaia Island – Arqimar (Rio de Janeiro)**

Quilombola recognition as a path toward access to rights and racial democratization

**Babaty Xavante de Iro’Ôrape Institute – Iboxi (Mato Grosso)**

The Xavante people: identity and resistance to confront situations of risk

**Bamidelê: Paraíba Black Women’s Organization (Paraíba)**

Affirmative action in public institutions of higher education – Defending racial quotas in the state of Paraíba

**Brasília Feminist Lesbian Association – Venus’ Boot (Federal District)**

Maria da Penha Law for all women – Lesbians in action for citizenship, empowerment and human rights

**Campina Grande Domestic Workers’ Association (Paraíba)**

Household workers fight for their rights, equality and recognition

**Cananéia Network Association (São Paulo)**

A bill for the recognition of territory and defense of the rights of Cananéia’s traditional peoples and communities – A popular initiative

**Conceição das Crioulas Quilombola Association (Pernambuco)**

Combat of environmental racism and realization of the right to quilombola territory

**Cunhã Feminist Collective (Paraíba)**

Abortion and institutional violence – Expanding strategies to end the criminalization of women in the state of Paraíba

**Davida – Prostitution, Civil Rights and Health (Rio de Janeiro)**

Kiss in the Street: expanding communication between prostitutes and the rest of society

**Dignitatis: Popular Technical Consultancy (Paraíba)**

In memory of Manoel de Matos: the struggle for human rights and the protection of their defenders

**Father Marcos Passerini Center for the Defense of Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights (Maranhão)**

Child Observatory – A perspective on educational policy directed at adolescents

**Group in Defense of Sexual Affective Diversity – Divas (Ceará)**

Lesbians as political and collective subjects: no to institutional lesbophobia/homophobia

**Leila Diniz Collective: Citizens’ Advocacy and Feminist Studies (Rio Grande do Norte)**

When poor black women “catch” AIDS! Revealing prejudices and discrimination to overcome inequalities.

Promoting the rights of women who live with HIV/AIDS

**Marçal de Souza Tupã Center for the Defense of Citizenship and Human Rights – I (Mato Grosso do Sul)**

State-wide campaign against violence against children and adolescents in deprivation of liberty

**Marta Meire da Silva Pinho Santos – Ginga Community Women’s Movement (Bahia)**

Untying knots

**Mato Grosso do Sul Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals – ATMS (Mato Grosso do Sul)**

Identify yourself: political organization and formation of the LGTBTT movement in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul – Phase 2

**Northeast Pará Women’s Movement – MMNEPA (Pará)**

Breaking barriers of silence of violence against women and crying out for rights in northeastern Pará

**Omolâyé Society for Ethnic, Political, Social and Cultural Studies (Sergipe)**

Idará: building citizenship with Afro-religious communities

**Paraná Movement of Traditional Fishing Communities – Mopear (Paraná)**

Fisherman’s net(work) of rights

**Paraná Association of Rural Women Workers (Paraná)**

Giving visibility to violence, breaking the silence, with the perspective of constructing new gender and class relations

**Redes – Network for Social Development (Bahia)**

Approved School – Together for the right to a healthy learning environment

**Santana Association of Gays, Lesbians and Transgenders – AGLTS (Amapá)**

Santana without homophobia

**Santarém Federation of Quilombola Organizations - FOQS (Pará)**

Land of the Black Project – Capacity-building in territorial rights and empowerment of Santarém’s quilombola communities

**Song of Youth (Rio Grande do Norte)**

Race and youth in the Northeast: Dialogue about new perceptions

**Terrazul Alternative Civil Association (Ceará)**

Education of agents for socio-environmental citizenship

**The Mothers of May (São Paulo)**

The Mothers of May of Brazilian democracy – 5 years of the May, 2006 crimes: truth and justice, yesterday and today!

**Walking Metamorphosis Association of Users of Mental Health Services and their Families**

– **Amea (Bahia)**

Citizenship and madness circulating rights: against prejudice and for social inclusion

**Women of the Amazon Rainforest Association of Southeast Pará– Ammasp (Pará)**

Project Liberty – Education and capacity-building for peasant women

## 2011

**Amulet Carnival Cultural Charitable Association (Bahia)**

Voice and turn: black attitude in human rights

**Articulation of the Indigenous Peoples of the South – Arpin Sul (Paraná)**

Delivering legal knowledge for the realization of the ethnic and collective rights of indigenous peoples

**Association of Babassu Coconut Breaker Women from the Municipality of São Luís Gonzaga – AMTQC (Maranhão)**

Quilombola and extractivist women: strengthening the fight against ethnic and racial discrimination and rights

violations, and for the recognition of identity

**Association of Gays, Lesbians and Transgenders of Santana – AGLTS (Amapá)**

Santana without homophobia – Phase 2

**Association of Indigenous Communities of the Middle Rio Negro – ACIMRN (Amazonas)**

# Projects:



Pictures: Brazil Human Rights Fund collection



Ibaxi (MT) /2011

## Ideas and initiatives for human rights in Brazil

The existence of an organization such as the Brazil Human Rights Fund would not be justified if it weren't for the projects it supports. Throughout these five years, it has promoted potentially transformational activities in environs of rights violations and discrimination.

Every year the Fund's Call for Proposals is opened to initiatives from all over Brazil. We believe that those projects, which generate local and national efforts in defense of rights, can have a positive impact on the lives of traditionally vulnerable groups.

Grantmaking so far can be grouped into four large thematic areas: gender, race, land and citizenship. They all have as their main objective the battle against discrimination and institutional violence. The following pages give us the opportunity to present a few examples of the projects we support.

Proposals go through a screening process involving our staff and directors and then are submitted to the independent and discerning Selection Committee. Its members have no institutional links with the Fund; all are activists or experts with vast experience in the field of human rights and thus are familiar with regional peculiarities and the complexity of the problems that affect a large portion of the Brazilian population.

The proposals selected by this committee are then presented to the Board of Trustees, who makes the final decision. Over these five years, this institutional workflow, enriched by the specialized perspective of the independent committees, has been fundamental in keeping the Fund sound and faithful to its charter.

Although we are conscious of the harsh reality we strive to impact and, thus, of the Fund's relevance to Brazilian society, it never ceases to amaze us that every year we receive more proposals. In 2011 there were 976 applicants. This shows that we are on the right track!

In a world that seems impossible to change, there are always those who are able to think of opportunities and creative solutions to turn things around. It is these innovative ideas that the Fund seeks to promote.

The Brazil Human Rights Fund has been planting seeds throughout Brazil. And we have already begun to cultivate more than just ideas and aspirations.

Maíra Junqueira  
Project Coordinator

# GENDER

The right to be a woman

Almost three decades have passed since Brazil ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) in 1984 and signed into law its Constitution in 1988. Both documents commit the Brazilian state to promoting and ensuring gender equality and eliminating all kinds of discrimination against women.

Since then Brazilian women have made significant gains regarding their fundamental rights. A series of advances has been gradually incorporated in several aspects of their lives through mechanisms and public policies aimed at reducing gender inequality. Social movements – in particular the feminist movement –, government organs and society as a whole have all played an important role in this process.

Many women, however, are still discriminated against and suffer the violation of their rights in both urban centers and rural areas. They are victims of violence, of disparities in the labor market and of public power's neglect of women's health issues. Lack of information intensifies this state of

social underdevelopment and worsens discrimination against women, since they aren't aware of their rights or don't know how to access them.

The absence of women themselves in the protest and struggle for equality reinforces their marginalization and vulnerability vis-à-vis society and the family environment, because it excludes them from political participation and decision-making.

One of the most critical results of this scenario is Brazil's alarming rates of domestic and sexual violence against women, which often end in murder.

Thus work aimed at increasing the awareness and sensitivity of public opinion, along with policies directed specifically at women, are still necessary.

*The realization of the projects contributed to strengthen our organization in combating violence against women, stimulating society's involvement and giving visibility to the institutional violence women are subjected to.*  
**Linalva Cunha Cardoso Silva**  
 Member of AMTQC / Assema

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund grants contributed significantly to strengthen the feminist struggle, especially in terms of women's reproductive rights and autonomy.*  
**Maria Lucia Lopes de Oliveira**  
 Member of the Cunhã Feminist Collective

*The support of our projects made it easier to carry out our actions because we were able to establish targets.*  
**Diocina Lopes**  
 Member of AMTR

## Economics

In 2010 women headed 22 million Brazilian families. Between 2001 and 2009 the percentage of such families grew from 27% to 35%. Leadership positions held by women are also gradually increasing. In South America three countries – Argentina, Brazil and Chile – have had woman presidents in the past ten years.

Data on female participation in the labor market and education level show signs for optimism. In both cases levels have increased, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). For 2007, figures showed that more than half (57%) of Brazilians with more than 12 years of education were female.

Meanwhile, the fact that female workers are more educated than their male counterparts has not kept them from earning less. In the São Paulo metropolitan area for instance, their remuneration is 27.7% lower than that of males (IBGE 2010).

In addition to having lower salaries, women are the majority in the informal sector, especially the young and the elderly. Almost 70% of the women between 16 and 24 years old and 82% of those over 60 have informal occupations. The situation is worse in the Northeast, where 90.5% of young women are irregular. In the Southeast the proportion is 57%.

The disadvantage can also be broken down by ethnicity and race. Unstable labor conditions affect non-white females more (60% among mixed-race women and 54% among blacks, according to the IBGE reports); among white women, 44% are informal.

These figures show that in Brazil there are very particular socio-economic realities, which affect women in different ways. Age, ethnicity and geographical situation seem to be the elements that most determine their condition in the labor market. Furthermore, there are areas public policies don't reach, which leaves women even more unprotected.

The Association of Rural Women Workers from Lago do Junco and Lago dos Rodrigues (AMTR), located in Lago dos Rodrigues (Maranhão), deals precisely with this kind of particularity. The NGO was created by coconut shell breakers who today are dedicated to subsistence and the rights of fellow women in eleven communities of the mid-Mearim River micro-region.

The area experienced intense land conflicts in the 1990s, which resulted in a devastating landscape of extreme poverty, rural exodus, food insecurity and low levels of education. In this context, coconut shell breakers aren't just victims of marginalization by the economic system, but are also discriminated against due to their ethnicity and excluded from educational resources and political participation.

So the organization's project Women of Fiber, supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund in 2010, is not restricted to the economic aspect alone. It aims to expand access to other rights, such as that of production, political participation and access to knowledge. Through the project the AMTR equips female leaders to act in community organizations as agents for rural development with a focus on gender, race and ethnicity.

2010	2001 to 2009	2007
<b>22 million</b> Brazilian families were headed by women	<b>27% &gt; 35%</b> families headed by women	<b>57%</b> of Brazilians with more than 12 years of school are female

2010 IBGE	Female public	
<b>27,7%</b> less than men's is the remuneration of women, in the São Paulo metropolitan area	Informal occupation: AMONG 16 TO 24 YEAR-OLDS <b>70%</b>	OVER 60 YEARS OLD <b>82%</b>
	Youth with informal occupation by region: NORTHEAST <b>90,5%</b>	SOUTHEAST <b>57%</b>

Reproduction AMTR (MA) / 2010



Reproduction Cunhã (PB) / 2010



## Health and information

Aside from the economic issue, Brazilian women's health indicators are worrisome with regard to abortion and maternal mortality rates. These two items are interconnected. A University of Brasília/Anis Research Institute survey (2010) showed that, in absolute numbers, more than 5.3 million Brazilian women have had an abortion. Of those, 55% had related health complications.

In Brazil abortion is only legal in two cases: when the mother's life is at risk or if the pregnancy resulted from rape. In all other cases the woman may be sentenced to up to three years in prison. The restrictive legislation, however, does not prevent women from having abortions. Most resort to underground clinics and dangerous procedures, which put their lives at risk. This procedure, when undertaken in unsafe conditions, is the fourth highest cause of maternal death in the country as a whole, and the first in areas with poor socio-economic conditions and precarious access to health care.

According to the *Report on the Reality of Unsafe Abortion in Paraíba*, in 2008 more than 8,000 abortions were induced in the cities of João Pessoa and Campina Grande alone. The survey points out that public health services for women having abortions are characterized by dehumanization. Long waits, lack of information, rudeness, precarious infrastructure and prejudice on the part of health professionals are some of the violations these women are subjected to, besides the deficiency in post-abortion reproductive planning and counseling.

The NGO Cunha in Paraíba addresses this sad, tragic reality of the female universe. Two of its projects have been supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund: the first in 2009 and the other in 2010. Both sought to strengthen the movement to end abortion criminalization through political and technical training of leaders and the creation of a national network dedicated to that cause.

Besides being a public health issue, decriminalization of abortion is crucial to having the sexual and reproductive rights of women respected.

Another organization the Fund supports that works with the gender issue through information and visibility of the problem is Davida – Prostitution, Civil Rights, Health, from Rio de Janeiro. Its members are comprised of sex professionals, who are often victims of marginalization.

The stigmatization and prejudice against these women result from two views that society generally has regarding prostitutes: either they are seen as promiscuous villains,

destroyers of the family, or as victims of the socio-economic system and the breakdown of the family. The two images guide how society deals with them. Often times they are marginalized, persecuted, and even punished. Other times they are the object of paternalistic attitudes and public policies.

In Brazil and in other Latin American countries, sex professionals began to organize in the 1980s with the rise of the HIV/Aids epidemic, when they were considered a "risk group." NGOs and associations started to work with prostitutes in prevention and capacity-building programs. Through association, these women began to gain access to services and rights until then inaccessible.

Today prostitutes are organized in associations at the local, state and national levels, and their demands transcend health care and encompass working conditions and protection against aggression and discrimination. The Ministry of Labor and Employment has included prostitution in the Brazilian Classification of Occupations. The inclusion is for administrative purposes and does not involve work relations; it is used to identify occupations in the labor market for classification in administrative and residential records. Still, it represents an advance for sex professionals, who fight for professional regulation, to be accomplished through legislation.

It is in this setting that Davida works with several aspects of sex professionals' lives. It creates opportunities to strengthen prostitutes' citizenship through the organization of the category, the defense and promotion of rights, mobilization and social control. "Out of the darkness: unveiling human rights violations in female prostitution," from 2009, was the first of its projects that the Brazil Human Rights Fund supported. The aim was to get to know the reality of sex professionals through a qualitative study that charted cases of violations of prostitutes' human rights in the cities of Salvador (Bahia), Corumbá (Mato Grosso), Manaus (Amazonas) and Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul).

Davida's second project, "Kiss in the Street: expanding the contact between prostitutes and the rest of society" (2010), focused on communication among sex professionals through the publication and distribution of the tabloid *Beijo da Rua* (Kiss in the Street) ([www.beijodarua.com.br](http://www.beijodarua.com.br)), which dealt with topics related to human rights, health, legislation, culture, public policies and more. The newspaper is aimed at expanding contact among prostitutes' associations in eighteen states and with the rest of society

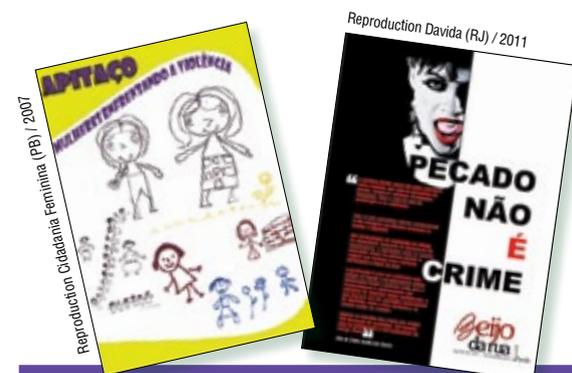
## Domestic violence

Unfortunately it is impossible to address the issue of gender in Brazil without mentioning domestic violence. According to a survey by the Perseu Abramo Foundation (2010), one woman is beaten every 24 seconds in the country. Four out of every ten Brazilian women have been victims of domestic violence, according to the *Brazilian Women's Yearbook 2011*. Of the cases that have been denounced, 80% of the aggressions were committed by the partner (husband or boyfriend). Pernambuco is the state with the largest number of crimes against women. In 2009, 298 women in Pernambuco were murdered by their partners. Last year the state held the first position in the ranking of female homicides, with 49 victims in just the first trimester. Until October of 2011, 796 women had been treated in the state's hospitals, victims of physical or psycho-moral violence and/or sexual abuse.

The feminist NGO Women's Citizenship Group combats this by providing training and organizing women to confront this type of violence in poor, violent neighborhoods in Recife. It stimulates

discussion and the ethnic, social and political consciousness of women. In 2007 one of its projects, Blowing the Whistle, was supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund. Simple but creative, the campaign had a positive impact on occurrences of domestic violence. Whenever a woman is beaten, other women from the community blow whistles in front of wherever the crime took place, as a way to denounce and embarrass the aggressor.

In 2009 the organization again received the Fund's support, this time for a campaign of awareness for society and public organs about the application of the so-called Maria da Penha Law. [Translator's Note: the name refers to Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes, whose husband tried to murder her twice – first with a firearm and then by drowning – and left her paraplegic. It took 19 years for the man to stand trial; he spent only two years in prison.] Under a tent set up in front of Recife's Women's Special Police Office, around 150 women received guidance from the NGO about the law.



The Brazil Human Rights Fund strengthens women's organizations at the local level, that is, there's a direct impact on community life, on the life of the social groups they are connected to.

**Maria Betânia Ávila**  
Coordinator of Institutional Relations of the SOS Corpo and Trustee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund from 2005 to 2010

The support of the Brazil Human Rights Fund is kind of a 'certification' that says that we are on the right path and that the institution will come along with us for part of the way.

**Jurema Werneck**  
Coordinator of Criola, member of the Selection Committee of the 2010 Call for Proposals and Trustee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund

# RACE

## The excluded majority

More than half of the Brazilian population (51%) considers itself black, according to the IBGE (2010). In spite of that, Afro-descendants are discriminated against and have some of their rights restricted. The Brazil Human Rights Fund is aware of that reality and thus supports projects that address racism in a variety of aspects throughout every region of the country.

Racial discrimination can be seen not only in personal relations, but also in the services and rights that black Brazilians should have access to. Inequalities in the labor market and the education system vis-à-vis whites are also confirmed by statistics.

In education racial disparities are present at all levels, but they are most accentuated in higher education, despite the presence of Afro-descendants having increased in the last ten years. According to the *Annual Report on Racial Inequalities in Brazil (2009-2010)*, organized by the economist Marcelo Paixão of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, in 1998 only 4% of blacks went to the university; among whites, the proportion was 16.8%. Ten years later the percentage had increased to 16.4% among blacks, but the gap was still large because the proportion of whites had increased to 35.8%.

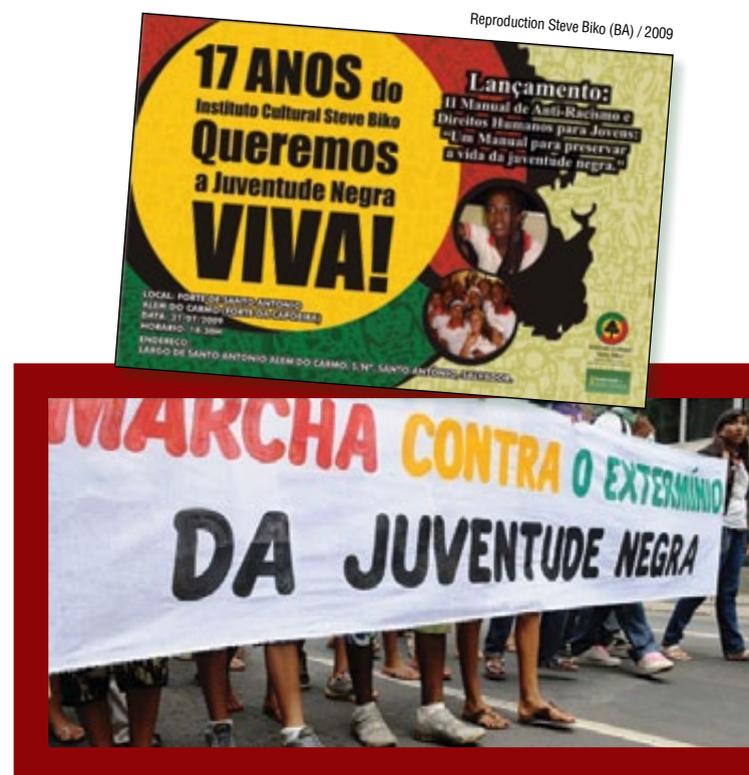
One example is what happens in Paraíba. Blacks account for 58% of the state's population (IBGE 2010), but that majority is not represented in the universities: less than one quarter of the students at the Paraíba Federal University (UFPB) are Afro-descendant and, of these, less than 10% come from public schools. Despite the imbalance, until last year there were no affirmative action policies, such as racial quotas, to aid that population's access to higher education.

Supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund, the Bamidelê Organization of Black Women in Paraíba developed a project in 2010 whose main focus was strategic advocacy of racial quotas in the state's public universities. The goal was to influence the discussion of that policy and expand public debate on the theme. To do so the NGO promoted activities based on education and information, such as seminars, round tables and public acts.

Thirty percent of admissions in 2012 have been reserved for students who have studied in public institutions throughout middle school and for at least three years of elementary school. The quotas' primary criteria is of a social nature, but they also encompass an ethnic-racial aspect, which ensures the inclusion of both black and indigenous populations.

Bamidelê believes that strengthening the black movement and other movements in the state is essential to increasing society's engagement with the cause. Thus its project Strengthening the Anti-Racist Fight in Paraíba, developed in 2009 and also supported by the Fund, promoted the awareness of leaders of the feminist movement and other agents from civil society with the aim of building alliances to promote racial equality and ensure the respect for human rights as a whole. Themes such as ethnic-racial identity, history and culture of the black population, public policies and basic rights such as education and health care were debated in workshops.

Other projects the Fund supports are aimed at reducing racial inequality through action directed at Afro-descendant youth



Reproduction Fejunes (ES) / 2009

## Youth

Brazil is one of the world's most violent countries, occupying sixth place on the Map of Violence 2011 with an average of 53 violent deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. Most victims are male, young (15 to 24 years old) and black, from poor communities and without previous criminal records. The survey shows that of each three youths murdered, two are black. Between 2002 and 2008, the number of white victims dropped by 22%, while that of blacks increased by 20%. In 2002 homicides of blacks exceeded by 45% those of whites. Six years later this proportion had increased to 111%. In Bahia, murders of blacks exceed by 439.8% those of whites.

These figures reveal a component of prejudice regarding victims of violence, often times on the part of police forces. Experts say that the stereotype created to identify criminals, or simply "suspects," is unfortunately associated with blacks, characterized as dangerous, and with where they live. The effects of racial discrimination are felt most harshly by young men, making them more vulnerable to this type of human rights violation.

An example is what happens in Vitória (Espírito Santo). The city has the third most homicides of young people between 15 and 24 of any state capital; among the victims, the majority are Afro-descendants from poor communities. Added to this is the overt presence of death squads, made up of police members and public agents. Thus it is impossible to ignore that racism and violence have become institutionalized and that one of the main violators is the government itself.

In this context, the Brazil Human Rights Fund supports organizations whose concern is mobilizing Afro-descendant youth, such as the Espírito Santo Forum of Black Youths (Fejunes) and the Steve Biko Cultural Institute. Both concentrate their activities on combating violence and racial discrimination through articulation with communities and the formulation of public policies.

Giving visibility to projects that combat racial prejudice places value on people that are often excluded.

**MV Bill**  
Rapper and Trustee of the  
Brazil Human Rights Fund (2005 to 2010)

Fejunes' State-wide Campaign against the Extermination of Black Youth was aimed at organizing and mobilizing Espírito Santo's black youth to take part in the formulation of public policies as a reaction to the extermination of their social group. The initiative received the Fund's support in 2008 and 2009. Workshops and seminars were part of the Forum's program, which also promoted demonstrations and public acts aimed at expanding dialogue with society and public authorities.

In Bahia the Steve Biko Cultural Institute's main objective is to promote the social ascension of the black population through education and revival of ancestral values. Its Black Youths Mobilizing for Anti-Racism and Human Rights in Bahia project, supported by the Fund in 2007, worked with young Afro-descendants in communities of the state capital, Salvador. The activities involved mobilization and training directed at that group; the aim was to expand their influence on the state's public policies. The project was also dedicated to the creation of the Black Youth Observatory, dedicated to combating racism and promoting human rights.

In 2008 it again gained the Fund's support to continue the process begun the previous year. This time young, low-income blacks were encouraged to mobilize around issues related to institutional violence and discrimination through intervention in four spheres: black communities, the Legislative and the Executive branches of power, the Inter-American Human Rights System and human rights organizations. The goal was to increase the visibility of the problem and thus influence the agenda of a number of high-profile members of society on those issues.

The support that the Brazil Human Rights Fund gives to projects directed at the diffusion of religious freedom tends to stimulate democratic coexistence among people who think differently.

**Roberto Lorea**  
Judge and Trustee of the  
Brazil Human Rights Fund (2008 to 2011)

## Ethnic identity and visibility

Aside from black youth, there are other groups of Afro-descendants exposed to even more discrimination and violations. The members of quilombola [Translator's Note: descendants of runaway slaves] communities are examples of individuals cruelly affected by such disparities.

In the state of Amapá, where 73% of the population consider themselves black, there are 72 such communities (IBGE 2010), of which many face conflicts over land. Although traditionally occupied for centuries, often these properties end up in the hands of agribusinesses.

The Amapá Black Women's Institute (Imena) is one of the organizations supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund that addresses this reality. Its 2007 project highlighted the importance for the black population to demand its rights. To do that, it promoted the training of community leaders capable of intervening politically in the defense of their territorial rights and organized

awareness-promoting activities like seminars and publications for the local population.

In spite of the strong presence of African heritage in the state, the Afro-descendant population is very lacking in terms of rights. The precariousness in which many quilombolas live illustrates the situation well. The seventeen communities Imena surveyed lacked basic sanitation, health care and education as well as social, environmental and economic programs and projects. In 2009 the project that the Fund supported was aimed at attracting the attention of public opinion to the condition of the quilombola, who, despite comprising a significant portion of the state's population, are still unknown to a large portion of the local society. In order to achieve that Imena carried out a campaign that included short videos and a documentary about institutional violence and racism. The purpose was to make the public reflect on common attitudes and behaviors that contribute to discrimination and prejudice.

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund was right to adopt a perspective on human rights that singles out the confrontation of racism and sexism.*

**Luiza Bairos**

Minister of the Brazilian Secretariat for Racial Equality Promotion Policies and member of the Selection Committee of the 2007 and 2008 Calls for Proposals

*Projects with an element of whistleblowing, such as ours, are not looked upon favorably by other possible donors, but with the Brazil Human Rights Fund it was different. If we hadn't had this grant in the beginning of our journey, it would have certainly been more difficult to get to where we are.*

**Luiz Inácio Silva da Rocha**  
Coordinator of the Fejunes

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund has been enabling a number of organizations to promote change in their realities, which often times are neglected by the state.*

**Nádia Cardoso**  
Coordinator of anti-racism and human rights projects of the Steve Biko Cultural Institute  
**Lucas Cidreira**  
Member of the Steve Biko Cultural Institute

CENSO 2010 Amapá

**73%**  
Population considered black

**72**  
quilombo-descended communities remaining

## Religion and culture

Religions of African origin are historically those that suffer the most from prejudice and discrimination in Brazil. According to the 2000 Census, almost 130,000 Brazilians follow those creeds, especially Candomblé and Umbanda. However, intolerant, discriminatory attitudes, such as invasion of terreiros [places of worship], disrespect for the spirituality of the cults and the imposition of the view that the religion of others is false, are still frequent. In some places the practice of these religions still requires a police permit.

To transform this scenario the Brazil Human Rights Fund has been supporting organizations that address the issue of racism from a cultural and religious perspective. An example is the Omolâyé Society for Ethnic, Political, Social and Cultural Studies, from the state of Sergipe, which strives to preserve the identity of black communities through the knowledge and practice of religions of African origin. It also provides advice and carries out

educational actions and policies in favor of human rights, such as fighting against racism and religious intolerance.

The Omolâyé Society project supported by the Fund is aimed at stimulating the utilization of content and information in recently-initiated individuals from terreiro communities in the state capital, Aracaju, the Aracaju metropolitan area and the Continguiba Valley. The work is formative and is carried out through cycles of debates and local capacity-building. The organization believes this makes it possible to facilitate the affirmative construction of Afro-descendants' cultural and religious identity and thus develop the means to fight intolerance and prejudice. Another focus of the project is to influence the proposal of public policies directed at racial equality.

*The Calls for Proposals of the Brazil Human Rights Fund encompass Brazil's diversity. For us, it has contributed to disseminating the debate on institutional racism in Amapá.*

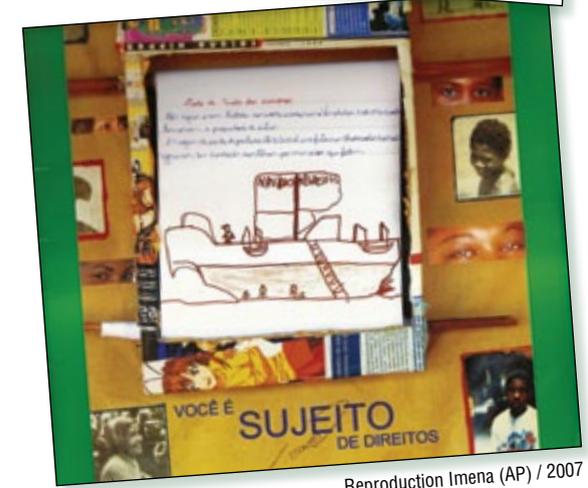
**Maria das Dores do Rosário Almeida**  
Vice-President of the Directing Board of Imena

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund was important to strengthening our activities and the visibility of our accomplishments in the fight against racial and religious discrimination.*

**Martha Sales**  
Projects Coordinator of the Omolâyé Society  
**Sônia Oliveira**  
Executive Director of the Omolâyé Society

*We focus on racial equality in the Northeast because it's a theme that has traditionally been neglected by traditional and corporate philanthropy and international cooperation. The Brazil Human Rights Fund is breaking with that.*

**Rui Mesquita**  
Program Officer for Northeast Brazil of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation



# LAND

## Ethnic diversity and the struggle for survival

**B**razil is one of the largest countries in the world, with a territory of 850 million hectares. More than half of that (587.1 million hectares) is arable land. However, a large part of the socio-economic potential of this territory is annulled by the prevalent land tenure system, which favors waste and intense land conflicts.

For 500 years Brazil's land tenure system has been characterized by high concentration of ownership and large plantations. As a result an oligarchic, patriarchal relationship with the land and elitist access to its benefits are still the cause of much injustice for rural populations.

According to the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (Incra), more than half of the country's rural property is in the hands of 5% of landowners: 330 million hectares for only 131,000 title holders. Around 75% of all registered lands in the Legal Amazon are plantations. Small and mid-sized properties make up less than half of the area constituted by large ones.

To make things worse, 62.4% of the area of all rural properties in the country is unproductive, according to the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT). The rest is used for pasture and monocultures of products such as soybeans, rice and eucalyptus.

Between 2003 and 2010 there has been a 75% increase of the area of land left idle, half of which is in the North. Today 69,000 landowners own 228 million hectares of unproductive lands. The figure is even larger if the parameter used is the 2006 Agricultural Census, which takes into account new techniques that improve agricultural productivity.

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund understands that land is central to ensuring the cultural, economic and environmental survival of indigenous and quilombola communities. That's why it supports initiatives that enable these groups to manage their lands and care for their stewardship in accordance with their culture and priorities.*

**Joenia Wapichana**  
Legal Advisor to the Roraima Indigenous Council

## Conflicts

**A**lthough most of Brazil's population is urban, rural areas are significant to the country's economy and to thousands of traditional communities. Sustainable land management is vital to indigenous peoples, quilombolas, faxinalenses [Translator's Note: inhabitants of rural communitarian communities in the state of Paraná], caiçaras [traditional coastal fishing communities] and other populations that have learned to live in harmony with the environment. Thus access to land goes way beyond economics, involving cultural and social aspects as well. Moreover, land concentration and idleness upset the balance of these traditional ways of life, excluding a significant portion of society. The result has been violent conflict and fierce disputes.

Because of the high concentration of land in the hands of a few powerful owners, a large portion of the rural population, deprived of access to land and in need of means of survival, falls victim to degrading labor conditions. Many times, the reality faced by rural workers in their daily life is so undignified that conditions are analogous to slavery: wages are extremely low or non-existent, workdays long and with no rest, food and water inadequate and living quarters extremely precarious. Often workers are subjected to physical and psychological maltreatment and are threatened by their bosses. This scenario and the curtailment of workers' liberties constitute a situation of slave labor, one of the most staggering and frequent human rights violations in rural Brazil.

The need for agrarian reform is part of this context of inequality. In the past fifteen years, 48.3 million hectares

*The training courses opened the eyes of many comrades and the doors so that our project could reach these communities.*

**Ismael Kloster**  
General Coordinator of the Puxirão of Faxinalense Peoples Articulation

of land were used for reform. As a result 614,000 families benefited. Yet conflicts continue because that policy has not managed to ensure access to land to all who need it.

According to the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), land conflicts involving expulsions, paid gunmen and evictions are on the rise. In 2010 there were 638 cases. Pará is the national champion in this category: 46.4% of the cases of rural violence in Brazil took place in the state, where the number of murders is also striking – in ten years 205 people have been killed in land disputes, among them the nineteen landless peasants massacred in Eldorado dos Carajás (1996) and the American nun Dorothy Stang (2005). In 2011 alone, 34 people died in rural conflicts in Brazil.

Violence and the worst injustices related to land issues happen precisely where public power is unable to establish control or enforce the law. Perpetrators are rarely tried and impunity is the most frequent outcome of murders and violations.

The Brazil Human Rights Fund strives to put forward and strengthen initiatives that address this injustice and promote the rights of excluded and vulnerable groups.



Brazil Human Rights Fund collection

FOQS (PA) / 2011

## Quilombolas\*

**S**antarém Federation of *Quilombola* Organizations is one of the groups supported by the Fund that is working for the right to land. It seeks to promote and monitor the application of titles to *quilombola* lands in Pará.

Currently there are 966 processes for regularization of *quilombola* territories in Incra. According to the Santarém Federation of *Quilombola* Organizations, the state of Pará concentrates more than half (58%) of all *quilombola* lands that have received titles so far.

The group believes that the registration of these lands is one way to protect and ensure the rights of the 240 *quilombola* communities that have been identified in the state. Currently, *quilombola* communities are among the most affected by land conflicts. To give a sense of the severity and dimensions of the problem, in 2010 alone there were 79 cases of violence.

With the grant, the Santarém Federation of *Quilombola* Organizations trained young people to follow up on the land title application processes already underway in Pará and request the opening of new ones.

The organization also increased awareness of ethnic and territorial rights and provided training to leaders in charge of spreading acquired knowledge in their communities.

*\*Members of former runaway slave colonies.*

*The supported project enabled the empowerment of the young in their associations.*

**Antônio Pereira Pinto**  
President of the Santarém Federation of Quilombola Organizations

*Regarding the struggle of indigenous peoples for their rights, the support for small projects contributes directly to the confrontation of violations that take place within their communities and territories.*

**Gersem Baniwa**  
Director-President of Cinep and Trustee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund

## Indigenous peoples

The Brazil Human Rights Fund also dedicates special attention to indigenous peoples, whose rights are frequently disrespected. According to the Socio-Environmental Institute (ISA), Brazil's 235 indigenous peoples make up more than 800,000 individuals.

Among these, over 500,000 live in indigenous territories. In its five years in activity, the Fund has directed its support for indigenous people and assurance of the right to land toward this portion of the Brazilian population, as well as to the rights of indigenous people living in urban areas.

Currently there are 668 indigenous lands in Brazil, according to ISA. Of these, more than half are demarcated. This policy not only recognizes the cultural and territorial rights of these peoples, but contributes to slow down the advance of deforestation and land grabbing. Landowners, loggers and private companies however strongly oppose the recognition of indigenous rights, because they hope to use their lands for large ventures. The results of this are violent conflict and land disputes.

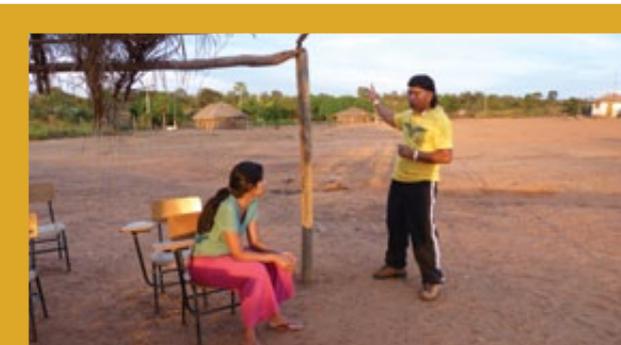
Mato Grosso is one of the states with the highest concentrations of indigenous population, with 41 peoples from a variety of ethnic groups. Among these the Xavante is one of the largest, with 15,000 individuals living in 165 villages (Funasa, 2010). In addition to land conflicts, this population faces serious social problems that threaten their communities. In 2010, for instance, infant mortality increased by 513% compared to 2009, according to the Indigenist Missionary Council (Cimi) – 92 children under five died of malnutrition or easily treated diseases.

The Babaty Xavante de Iro'Ōrāpe Institute (Ibaxi) is developing a project, supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund, that addresses that reality. It aims to impact education, culture, health, food security, sustainable development and especially alcoholism prevention in 34 Xavante villages of the São Marcos Indigenous Land, in which around 3,500 people live.

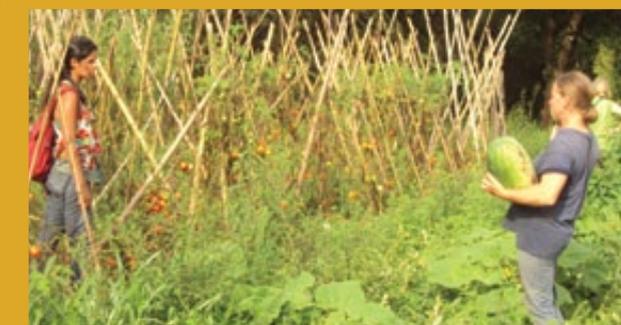
Today Xavante lands are surrounded by large farms and towns, which has put their socio-cultural existence at risk. Wildlife is no longer abundant and the soil has been depleted by alien agricultural practices introduced by the federal bureau

for indigenous affairs, FUNAI (National Indian Foundation), in past decades. This has disrupted the traditional way of life and affected the Xavante cultural identity. One of the consequences is the growing incidence of alcoholism and drug addiction, whose rates are a matter of increasing concern.

With the grant, Ibaxi has built the Recuperation and Support House, a nucleus for treating drug and alcohol addiction in Xavante villages, with adequate facilities and support from experts and the community. Ibaxi's project is also aimed at fighting prejudice and the causes of addiction through lectures, cultural events and debates.



Ibaxi (MT) / 2011  
Brazil Human Rights Fund collection



AMTR (PR) / 2011



Tembé (PA) / 2011

## Traditional communities

In 2008, the Brazil Human Rights Fund supported an initiative to increase the visibility of another group exposed to land problems and vulnerable to agribusiness: the faxinais, traditional rural communities settled in the Center-South of the state of Paraná. They make communal and sustainable use of grazing areas and forest and water resources, and private use of agricultural areas, where they plant a variety of subsistence crops.

Their way of life is under threat by agribusiness. Paraná is Brazil's largest producer of grains such as soybeans, corn, wheat and beans, and slaughters 25.5% of all poultry in the country. According to the Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock, agribusiness is expected to grow by 15% in the state in 2012, reaching R\$ 646.7 billion (approximately US\$ 324.4 billion) compared to R\$ 582.6 billion (US\$ 292.25 billion) in 2011.

In recent years agribusiness and land speculation have advanced on to the properties of the faxinalenses. Those who have remained in rural areas are highly concentrated and prevented from exerting their ethnic and collective rights. It is estimated that in Paraná alone there are at least

25,000 of them. Another 15,000 were forced to move to urban centers.

The Brazil Human Rights Fund's grant was directed to a project by the Puxirão Articulation of Faxinalense Peoples, a social movement that represents those communities in southern Brazil. Its mission is to promote the articulation and mobilization of the faxinalenses to defend and promote their ethnic and collective rights in order to ensure and maintain access to their territory.

One of the project's activities was the training of faxinal residents through workshops in fifteen communities to educate 300 leaders on ethnic and collective rights. The purpose was to provide knowledge of legal instruments and mechanisms that can be used to demand the rights of 700 faxinalense families and thus turn them into active participants in the processes of construction of and intervention in public policies.

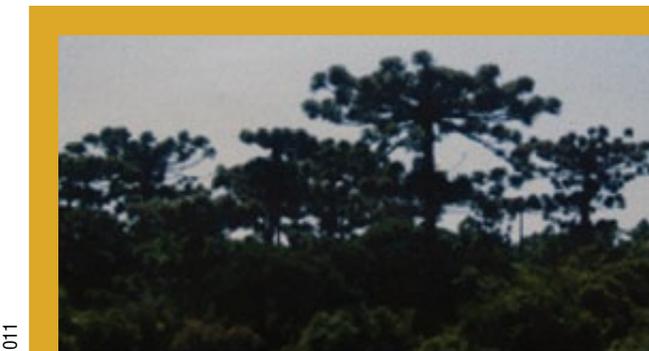
In these five years the Fund has supported a variety of traditional communities' projects, such as those of coconut shell breakers, small-scale fishermen and communitarian pastoralists, among others

*The Fund encourages projects related to the struggle for land distribution. It considers land not just a means of production, but in a wider sense, in which many populations combine familial cultivation with a common-use area.*

**Maria Emília Pacheco Lisboa**  
Advisor of the NGO Fase and member of the Selection Committee of the 2007, 2010 and 2011 Calls for Proposals

*We supported some of the projects selected by the Brazil Human Rights Fund that value the inhabitants of the Amazon Region and contribute to the construction of a fairer society.*

**Rodolfo Gutilla**  
Director of Corporate Affairs of Natura



Fotos: Reproduction / Faxinalenses (PR) 2011



# CITIZENSHIP

## The right to full dignity

In a democracy individuals must have access to a number of rights – political, civil and social – and, simultaneously, uphold their own obligations. These are the fundamental conditions for the exercise of full citizenship. And since rights are impossible to dissociate, it is imperative that all are respected. The absence of one necessarily annuls the realization of others.

Brazil, despite being a democratic country, is still a very unequal society. Rights are the privilege of a few and duties, the sacrifice of many. The asymmetry among individuals produces a landscape of marginalization for significant portions of society.

In dealing with inequality, common sense leads us to think that treating individuals as equals would be enough to resolve the problem. The truth is that people are different from each other, and to democratize the access to rights, particularities and specific needs must be taken into account, or else injustices might be reinforced.

## → Dealing with specificity and complexity

The Fund supports many projects dedicated to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, without forgetting their individual context and the uniqueness of their problems. In general the rights of these groups are violated by state institutions, which are often unable to meet their specific demands.

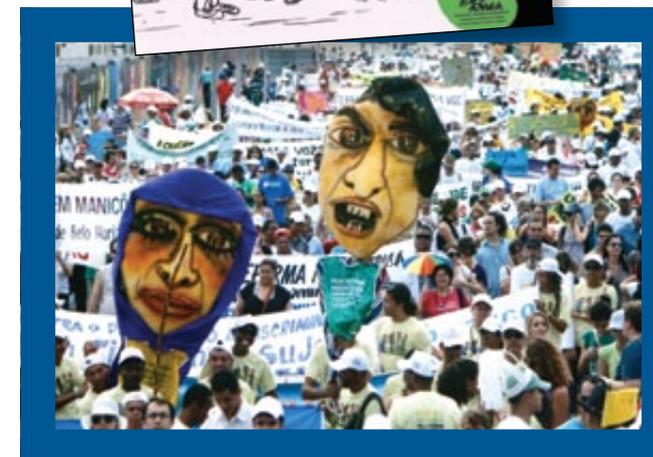
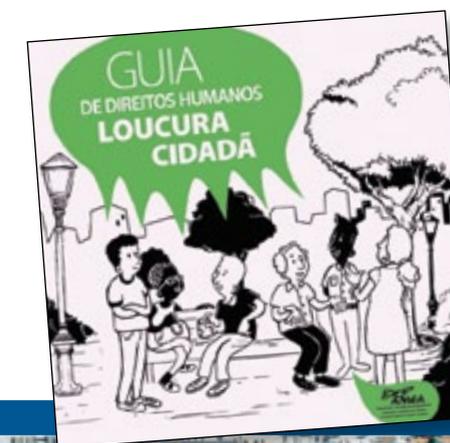
Such is the case of mental health patients, who for decades received inadequate treatment. For the past twenty years, the anti-asylum movement has proposed a new form of dealing with these patients, through a therapeutic approach that respects the uniqueness of the individual and values the preservation of social and family bonds.

Since 2001 the Federal Mental Health Law, which regulates the process of psychiatric reform in Brazil, assumes internment to be a last recourse. The model fostered a substitute network of assistance based on family and social insertion. As a result of that policy the number of psychiatric beds dropped from 120,000 in the 1980s to little more than 50,000 today.

However according to the Walking Metamorphosis Association of Users of Mental Health Services and their Families (Amea), however, not all these replacement services have been adequately prepared to receive the asylums' former populations. The Federal Psychology Council reports 76 cases of death, maltreatment and torture in public and private hospitals and therapeutic communities in the country between 2002 and 2010.

To transform this reality, the Fund supported two Amea projects (2008 and 2010) that trained mental health patients and their families in citizenship and human rights in order to combat these kinds of violations.

One of the accomplishments of the projects was the creation of a physical space used to provide guidance to patients and families about their rights, since the general public has little information about psychiatric reform. Amea also works to build awareness on the debate about patient services and establishes dialogue with public authorities in order to intervene and participate in the formulation of public policies.



Fotos: Reproduction Amea (BA) / 2010

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund has a dual vocation: to support organizations that traditionally have none and to bring in sectors of society aware of the need to help human rights organizations.*

**Renato Roseno**  
Member of the Cedeca-Ceará and Trustee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund (2005 to 2008)

*The support of the Brazil Human Rights Fund contributes decisively to the survival and expansion of the struggle for human rights.*

**Sandra Carvalho**  
Assistant Director of the NGO Global Justice and member of the Selection Committee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund since 2008

*Actions that promote human rights through culture and art, such as those supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund, are most welcome.*

**Danilo Miranda**  
Regional Director of Sesc São Paulo

*We are empowering residents threatened with eviction due to the 2014 World Cup. We allow them to express, audiovisually, their aspirations and needs.*

**Roger Quentin Pires**  
Member of the Magic Eye – Audiovisual Educommunication in Mobile Media

*Brazil Human Rights Fund's support takes new, practically unprecedented forms; as in the case of the female street peddlers of Rio.*

**Juana Kweitel**  
Program Director of the Conectas Human Rights and member of the Selection Committee of the 2008 Call for Proposals

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund's support was essential for our development as an association. It gave us subsidies to operate more solidly in our quest for anti-asylum psychiatric reform.*

**Josuéilton de Jesus Santos** | President of Amea-Bahia  
**Sérgio Pinho dos Santos** | Vice-President of Amea-Bahia  
**Ludmila Cerqueira Correia**  
Lawyer and supporter of Amea-Bahia

## → Violence against diversity

Other initiatives the Brazil Human Rights Fund supports guarantee the citizenship of the LGBTTT (lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transvestites and transsexuals) population in critical situations, such as, for instance, domestic violence and incarceration in the prison system, in which human rights violations are intensified because of the individual's sexual orientation.

The Brasília Feminist Lesbian Association – Venus' Boot, one of the organizations that have the support of the Fund, is dedicated to fighting violence against lesbians. To that end it collects data on the enforcement of the Maria da Penha Law in cases of lesbian-phobic violence in the Federal District.

According to a 2010 Rainbow LGBT Citizenship Group survey, discrimination due to sexual orientation takes place mostly in the family environment (39%) and among friends and neighbors (29%). Domestic violence among lesbians is also a concern: 33% of the respondents said that they had suffered some kind of violence from their partners. The enforcement of the Maria da Penha Law could be one way to combat such violations, but ignorance of the law and the difficult access to it are the main reasons it is seldom enforced in cases such as so-called "corrective rapes," often committed by family members.

In recent months several cases of aggression against homosexuals have been exposed in the media. In a 2008 Perseu Abramo Foundation survey, around 90% of the respondents said that they believe that the LGBTTT public is subject to prejudice, but only 30% admitted that they themselves are prejudiced. According to the survey, transvestites suffer the most discrimination.

To change this the Mato Grosso do Sul Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals (ATMS) had projects supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund, in 2009 and 2010, aimed at mobilizing the LGBTTT populations in the state. The organization believes that, through the articulation of activists of the LGBTTT movement, it is possible to influence relevant public policies. After the creation of three nuclei in the state, the project carried out training activities to enable gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transvestites and transsexuals to participate in local and regional public policy councils.

Another situation that afflicts homosexuals, bisexuals and transvestites are the conditions they face in prison. In that environment, the group is even more exposed and vulnerable to moral and physical aggressions due to sexual orientation. In general their cells are separate from those of heterosexuals, but that does not stop abuse and discrimination against them.

The Lions of the North Gay Movement develops a project with the support of the Fund to assist the LGBTTT population in Pernambuco state prison units through which it monitors prison conditions and provides technical and social assistance. For the Movement, building consciousness and sensitivity toward LGBTTT is important in order to reduce the violations they are subjected to in the prison system.

*The Brazil Human Rights Fund did justice to the LGBT collectives and to our historical demands for participation in the construction of public policies, for a society in which discrimination and prejudice are confronted as cultural and institutional problems.*

**Tatiana Nascimento e Bruna Araújo**  
Project Advisors of the Brasília Feminist Lesbian Association – Venus' Boot

*The support of the Fund has contributed toward the implementation of effective actions against homophobia.*

**Cris Stefanny**  
General Coordinator of the ATMS



Fotos: Reproduction ATMS (MS) / 2010

## → At-risk youth

Children and adolescents are also vulnerable to a variety of violations, of which the high rate of lethal violence against teenagers in Brazil is symptomatic.

According to Unesco, the average adolescent homicide rate for 267 Brazilian municipalities is 2.03 per 1,000. That number is quite high, considering that the ideal rate in a non-violent society should be close to zero.

The need for public policies to reverse this situation is imperative. The project of the Center for the Defense of Children's and Adolescents' Rights (Cedeca-Tocantins), supported by the Brazil Human Rights Fund, carried out activities to end violence against this population. The project's goal was to confront all forms of violence against children and adolescents, especially life-threatening and physically and psychologically demeaning violence. To do so Cedeca developed actions against institutional violence and in defense of health care, the social control of the state and the monitoring of public administration, as well as training programs on the human rights of children and adolescents.

The socio-educational system is another universe in which the Fund strives to intervene to protect vulnerable youth from violations by the state. In Brazil the policy of mass incarceration is not restricted to the prison system for adults, which holds more than half a million people.

The number of youths interned in the 142 units of São Paulo's Casa Foundation

(formerly Febem) has increased by 16% since last year. Today there are more than 8,000 juvenile inmates in the state. Even with a new structure in the admission system and the extinction of the notorious Febem, human rights organizations continue to receive denunciations of violations against inmates.

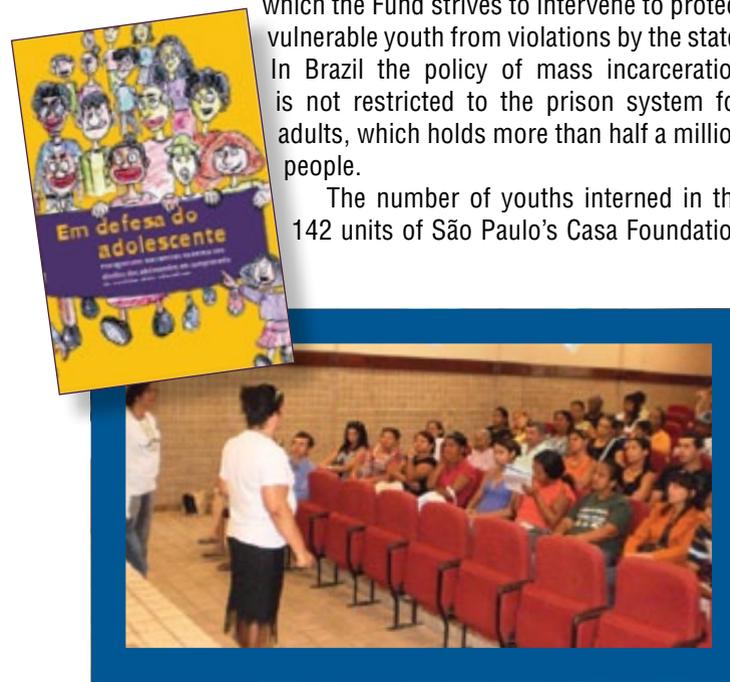
Between 2007 and 2008, the Brazil Human Rights Fund supported the actions of the Association of Mothers and Friends of Children and Adolescents at Risk (Amar) in São Paulo to monitor the conditions of juvenile inmates. The project encourages the social control of public policies and the strengthening of collective actions by the adolescents' mothers. To that end it carried out actions such as the creation of a monitoring instrument, the delivery of denunciations and dialogue with organs such as the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Public Defender's Office and the Judiciary, as well as campaigns, family assistance, and a capacity-building course. Every year since, the Fund has supported Amar initiatives in other states, such as Rio de Janeiro (2009), Pernambuco (2010), the Federal District (2011) and Rio Grande do Sul (2011).

*The financial support of the Brazil Human Rights Fund made possible the implementation of our organization, which was a dream of children's rights militants in Tocantins, and today it is an important ally in the legal and social protection of children and adolescents.*

**Simone Brito**  
Member of Cedeca-Tocantins

*The support of the Brazil Human Rights Fund contributed to strengthen and expand forms of social control through oversight of socio-educational measures at the Casa Foundation and the fight against institutional violence in the internship units.*

**Conceição Paganele**  
President of Amar-São Paulo



Fotos: Reproduction Amar (SP) / 2008

## → The Violator State

One of the main duties of states is to ensure and protect the fundamental rights of their citizens, to make democracy possible and consolidate it. However, as we have seen, it is often the very state that violates these rights, especially when its institutions use force and authority to oppress and discriminate.

The Mariana Criola People's Legal Aid Center, which the Brazil Human Rights Fund supports, operates in this context. The goal of its project is to combat police violence against informal workers in Rio de Janeiro. To that end it collects data, prepares workshops and follows up on legal proceedings, in addition to scheduling meetings to lobby the Public Defender's Office.

A 2009 survey by the House of the Working Woman carried out with 201 street vendors in the city revealed that 70% have been harassed by the Municipal Police and 61% have had their merchandise apprehended. Among the respondents, 16% have been beaten by the Municipal Police and the Military Police. There were also cases of arrests and imprisonment (4%).

Besides being subjected to police repression, informal workers are deprived of a number of social rights, like

labor rights, in addition to having limited access to health care and education. Because of the low profitability of their activity, they must work long hours without rest and live in conditions of economic instability.

And yet, at the same time, the informal economy throughout Brazil has grown year after year. A 2011 study by the Getúlio Vargas Foundation and the Brazilian Institute for Competitive Ethics (ETCO) pointed out that it accounts for 18% of the country's GDP.

The police has also demonstrated ostensible abuses of power on at least one particular occasion. Between May 12 and 21 of 2006, several São Paulo cities were the scene of violence and insecurity, initially due to attacks by the criminal organization First Command of the Capital (PCC) and then with the violent reaction of the police and death squads.

In the first six days, 59 policemen were murdered. In the following days, 492 civilians were killed by firearms in the state, according to the São Paulo Regional Medical Council (CRM). Many victims showed evidence of summary execution, CRM reports demonstrated.

Five years later the suspected executions have not been investigated. Only one death was: in late 2011 the

Judiciary deemed the state responsible for a murder and determined a compensation for the victim's family. It is against this backdrop of omission and impunity that the Mothers of May, a movement comprised by mothers, family members and friends of the victims, has mobilized for justice in memory of the dead. The Brazil Human Rights Fund supports the organization through a project offering solidarity to the family members of those killed by police force, denouncing the cases, doing follow-ups on the investigations and lawsuits, taking part in events that contribute to the cause and strengthening a national network against violations by the state.

State abuses, unfortunately, are not restricted to police force. With the 2014 World Cup just around the corner, the Brazilian government has been investing in infrastructure to meet the demands of such a mega-event. In Fortaleza, the capital of Ceará, more than R\$ 560 million (US\$ 302.7 million) will be spent in public works. But simultaneously urban occupations are being removed to areas in the periphery with no infrastructure or access to basic services. It is estimated that 3,500 families will be affected.

In response to this type of violation, the collective Magic Eye – Audiovisual Educommunication in Mobile Media has developed a project with the support of the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

It consists of assisting sixty city youths in the production of documentaries that publicize and strengthen the struggle for the right to land and housing through communication and education. The purpose of the project is to create nuclei of production and distribution of the videos in partnership with NGOs and residents' associations that operate in the communities of Aldacir Barbosa, Trilhos and Barroso, currently under threat of being forcibly removed.

In this same context, since 2011 the Fund has supported the World Cup Popular Committee, organized by Rio Grande do Sul's Madre Cristina Solidarity Action Association. The purpose of the initiative is to promote community organization, monitor human rights violations in communities and produce information to denounce the socio-environmental, urban and economic impacts resulting from public projects for the World Cup in Porto Alegre.



*With the support of the Brazil Human Rights Fund, we are succeeding in not letting the crimes the state committed in May of 2006 be forgotten.*

**Débora Maria da Silva**  
Coordinator of the Mothers of May



*Traditionally the resources directed to organizations of the LGBT movement are health-related. The importance of the Brazil Human Rights Fund is that it is one of the few funds that invest in the area of sexual diversity from the perspective of the defense of human rights.*

**KK Verdade**  
Project Manager of the Elas Fund and member of the Selection Committee of the Brazil Human Rights Fund since 2009



Mães de Maio (SP) / 2011



Mariana Criola (RJ) / 2011

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