



BREAK ING CORPSES

**CHILD
RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS**
during the
**RIO 2016
OLYMPICS**

| Terre des Hommes
International Federation

Terre des Hommes International Federation is a network of ten national organisations working for the rights of children and to promote equitable development without racial, religious, political, cultural or gender-based discrimination. Through the Children Win campaign, our main goal is to raise awareness and put pressure on sport governing bodies to mitigate the negative impacts and enhance opportunities of Mega Sporting Events on children.

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Methodology

This briefing is based on interviews with victims, families of victims, lawyers, public defenders, current civil police officers, academics and members of non-governmental organizations carried out in Rio de Janeiro from July 2016 to September 2016. In addition, we analyzed state data, some publicly available and some that were provided to Terre des Hommes upon request. We reviewed newspaper articles, academic studies, reports, and other documents. We also withheld the names of some victims for security reasons. Where we have used pseudonyms, we have indicated so in the relevant citations. All interviewees were informed of the purpose of the interviews and that their interviews might be used publicly. Child safeguard measures, including authorization of family members, were obtained for all interviews with children (according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child means every human being below the age of 18). No incentives were offered or provided to persons interviewed. Interviewees were free to stop the interview at any time, if they felt uncomfortable. All interviews were conducted in Portuguese.

Acknowledgments

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RECORDS *from a* “NEW WORLD”

The message of a “New World”, the official slogan of Rio 2016 Olympics, was one of optimism: this Olympics would be a showcase for new heroes, and for the transformative power of sport, in new territories and for the next generation.¹ Yet, when looking beyond the fireworks and glamour of the Opening Ceremony, it is not hard to see what kind of transformations the Games brought to the lives of the youngest citizens of Rio.

Rio’s “New World” saw the same increase in abuses already familiar from other Mega Sporting Events, such as 2007 Pan American Games and the 2014 World Cup. A number of violations specifically affecting children and teenagers could be observed once the Games had begun. As medals were awarded, the prospects of the Olympics leaving a brighter future for young people in Rio began to look more and more unlikely.

Terre des Hommes had already called attention to the risks related to the Rio 2016 Olympics in the lead-up to the event.² Now, the long-term consequences have been brought to light. Children that faced forced evictions have missed out on school places, moved to dangerous areas, and lost contact with friends and the social fabric of their previous communities. **Terre des Hommes’** interviews reveal strong evidence that indicates increase of police violence against adolescents in street situation and the intention of “cleaning-up” the streets as the games approached. Rio saw a devastating increase in number of overcrowded juvenile detention centers when compared to last year and a deterioration of the condition of the units.

Oppressive tactics and indiscriminate use of force were used by the police to repress young people peacefully protesting both in Rio and in São Paulo, including the use of rubber bullets, pepper spray and hand grenades. Notably, the high rates of killings by the police, which disproportionately affects young black men, increased during the Olympics in comparison to the previous year. Over the two weeks of the Games, at least two minors were killed by the police in Rio and around 75 under 18s were arrested for peacefully protesting.

In exposing these violations and facts, **Terre des Hommes** is urging once more the International Olympic Committee and other sport governing bodies to take seriously into account the recommendations mentioned at the end of this Briefing.

1. Rio 2016, “A New World: Rio 2016 unveils official slogan for Olympic and Paralympic Games”, 14 June 2016, <https://www.rio2016.com/en/news/a-new-world-rio-2016-unveils-official-olympic-slogan> (accessed on 05.09.15).

2. Terre des Hommes has contributed to the Chapter on Children and Adolescents of the “Mega-Events and Human Rights Violations Dossier – Rio 2016: The Exclusion Games” by the World Cup and Olympics Popular Committee of Rio de Janeiro, November 2015.



Olympic slogan "A New World", Rio de Janeiro, 2016

LEGACY of OLYMPIC EVICTIONS: FAMILIES TORN APART

Rio's City Hall has admitted that more than 22,000 families were evicted between 2009 and 2015.³ In addition to Vila Autódromo, the community neighbor to the Olympic Park, many projects listed officially as part of the Olympic legacy also involved thousands of evictions without respect to due process.⁴

Lack of clear information and basic services

The eventual demolition of homes created long-term psychological consequences for many children, some of whom sought psychological treatment for problems including persistent nightmares following witnessing the often violent demolition of their homes.⁵ Families interviewed by *Terre des Hommes* described having regretted moving to government housing due to the often distant location of the new homes and to incomplete or false information regarding access to services.

Many have been left in a precarious situation as they have not received official documents to prove they are the rightful owners of the house under the “Minha Casa, Minha Vida” (government social housing programme) scheme. Even though City Hall had promised it would just be a case of exchanging keys, many have received bills demanding that they pay the totality of the apartment cost. With nothing to prove they are the rightful owners, they have been left with bad credit ratings and the threat of homelessness hanging over them and their children.

Mothers told *Terre des Hommes* that their children could not find school places in their new locations and were forced to repeat a year. Others have faced long or dangerous journeys to school or to places where they receive essential medical care. Many parents also reported losing their jobs when they were moved to new areas as far as 60 km away from their original homes. This makes it difficult to support their families financially and increases the risk of child sexual or labor exploitation, as their income has reduced.

Moved into danger

The most common danger experienced by residents who have been moved to “Minha Casa, Minha Vida” blocks is the dominance of militia gangs. Formed of groups of police, ex-police, firemen, members of the armed services and criminals, they exercise a form of social control and fear over residents, prohibiting children to play outside at certain times, for instance.

During the first half of 2015, journalists from the local newspaper ‘Extra’ found that, at that point, more than half of “Minha Casa, Minha Vida” condominiums – 38 housing estates in the West – were controlled by militias.⁶ These included the Livorno condominiums, Trento and Varese, in Cosmos, and Treviso, Terni and Ferrara, in Campo Grande, receiving people removed because of the Olympics. Residents reported that strong intimidation and threats by active militia lead 300 residents of Vila União to accept eviction



New homes in Vila Autódromo and, in the back, tall windows of the Olympic Park's media center and Marriott hotel, Rio de Janeiro, 2016

without resistance or protest. There were also cases of children being moved to dangerous areas such as the “Minha Casa, Minha Vida” block in Senador Camará, where constant shootouts mean it is not safe to play outside, so children have to remain at home.

Vila Autódromo's new homes

Vila Autódromo was once home to more than 600 families. Although they had long lived under the threat of eviction, as the Games began to approach government pressure intensified: energy cuts, lack of clean water, debris left lying around and police violence during forced removals. After several years of protest, in April 2016 the government authorities at last agreed to rehouse 20 families within Vila Autódromo. Although the residents still had to fight until the last second in order to get their houses finished, one week before the Opening Ceremony they received the keys to their new homes. A new recreational area, residents association and cultural centre have been promised for after the Games.⁷

3. Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro, “Política Habitacional do Rio, suas diretrizes e números macros,” 24 July 2015, <https://medium.com/explicando-a-pol%C3%ADtica-de-habita%C3%A7%C3%A3o-da-prefeitura> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

4. Transoeste and Transolímpica bus rapid transit roads, regeneration of the port area, installation of a cable car in Providência and supposed car parks or other Olympic projects (which were never built) in Metro Mangueiro and Vila Recreio II, also involved thousands of evictions.

5. “Forced evictions in Rio favela for 2016 Olympics trigger violent clashes,” 3 June 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/03/forced-evictions-vila-autodromo-rio-olympics-protests> and <http://apublica.org/100/?p=298&lang=pt> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

6. Extra, “Na Zona Oeste, milícia domina 38 conjuntos do ‘Minha casa, minha vida’ e até pinta seu símbolo nos condomínios,” 26 March 2016, <http://extra.globo.com/casos-de-policia/na-zona-oeste-milicia-domina-38-conjuntos-do-minha-casa-minha-vida-ate-pinta-seu-simbolo-nos-condominios-15701296.html> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

7. Terre des Hommes, “Families begin new life in Rio's Vila Autódromo,” 17 August 2016, <http://www.childrenwin.org/families-begin-new-life-in-rios-vila-autodromo/> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

Portrait of a childhood interrupted

Pérola Teixeira, 12, lives in one of 20 homes built by Rio’s City Hall in Vila Autódromo. Pérola’s friends, including her best friend, have all left Vila Autódromo and she rarely sees them now. During the lengthy construction works for the Olympic Park and demolition of houses, Pérola was encouraged by her mother Sandra Maria to stay in because of the number of construction workers in the community, and the fear they could make sexual approaches to her. She particularly suffered with the dust from the debris left around the community because of her breathing problems. She described to **Terre des Hommes** how she fell in a hole left in the ground by tractors while cycling. Pérola experienced the psychological pressure exerted by City Hall first hand. “They said the last ones to leave would get nothing, they demolished one resident’s house while their things were still inside,” she said.

Click **here** and watch the interview.



“CLEANING” *the* STREETS: COMPULSORY COLLECTION *of* CHILDREN *and* ADOLESCENTS

In the run up and during the 2014 World Cup, municipal guards, together with inspection and sanitation institutions, would go through some city districts - generally in tourist areas - collecting not only garbage and illegal merchandising from street vendors but also people and children living in the streets.⁸ Last year, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child warned of a repeat situation in the build-up to the Olympics.⁹

No change in practice took place and the same violations continued right before and during the Olympics. Terre des Hommes investigation indicates an increase of police abuse against children and adolescents in street situation, including beatings, and many were taken to young offenders' units without having committed a criminal offence that would justify their internment.

Attempts in hiding poor black youth

At the end of 2015, buses traveling from the poorer north zones to the beaches and tourists areas were systematically stopped by police officers. Police sent teenagers, mostly young black youth from disadvantaged communities, who did not have money or documents, back home or to shelters. Terre des Hommes' interviews revealed strong evidence that this policy's goal, which had not existed until the approach of the Olympics, was to limit

access to more privileged parts of the city to male black youth from the favelas. Due to pressure from child rights organizations, this policy stopped before the Olympics started. However, the bus lines, which used to connect the north to the south, were permanently cut.

Almost at the same time, the government inaugurated the public-private partnership called Operação Segurança Presente (Operation Security Present), in collaboration with Fecomércio-RJ, an association of private commerce, services and tourism. Now counting with more than 500 agents (a mix of military police and civil agents), the operation is running in Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas, Aterro do Flamengo, Méier and the Center - all areas closely connected with venues built for the Olympics. According to official statistics, by the end of the Olympics, the operation saw more than 2,000 arrests, half of them allegedly for drug possession, 610 people living on the streets removed and many taken to shelters.¹⁰ Terre des Hommes could not access the number of minors under 18s encompassed in this information since official data is not disaggregated by age or gender.



Adolescents in street situation near Catete,
Rio de Janeiro, 2016

Violent approach to adolescents in street situation

Adolescents in street situation with whom Terre des Hommes spoke said they have noticed an increase of use of force by municipal guards aiming at taking them to shelters in the run up to the Olympics, including aggression and violence. Others described being dropped at the outskirts of Rio right before the start of the Games.

Terre des Hommes received information that religious entities distributing breakfast for the population in street situation in the south zone of Rio were prohibited by City Hall from doing so during the games to prevent them from gathering in these areas.

8. University of Dundee, “Let’s Win this Game Together - Documenting violations of children’s rights around the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil”, 2015.

9. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, “Concluding observations on the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Brazil”, 30 October 2015.

10. Government of Rio de Janeiro, <http://www.rj.gov.br/web/imprensa/exibeconteudo?article-id=2920174> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

11. Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente (Brazilian Federal Law n 8.069, 13 July 1990), art. 122.

“Leave *us in peace*”

*Helena Dias*¹², 17, currently lives on the streets and said to **Terre des Hommes** that she saw an increase in aggression towards children in street situation starting from about a week before the Olympics began. She reported that while she sat on the streets with other youth in Laranjeiras in Rio de Janeiro, a white van approached the group. An official got out and hit one of the other children with a piece of wood with a nail attached to it. Helena reported that attacks with this weapon and severe beatings have been common during the games. Girls have been punched and hit, including on intimate parts of their bodies. She said adolescents in street situation were obliged to go to shelters during the Olympic Games, even if they did not want to go. Helena told **Terre des Hommes** that a group she knows was removed from the streets of the main touristic south zone of Rio and taken to Providência, a favela in the city centre. “There were more police on the streets because of the Olympics and they were aggressive, they were beating us” she said. When asked to send a message to the organizers of the Olympics, she said “leave us in peace and we will leave you in peace”.

Click **here** and watch the interview.

12. Name altered to protect the identity of the adolescent.

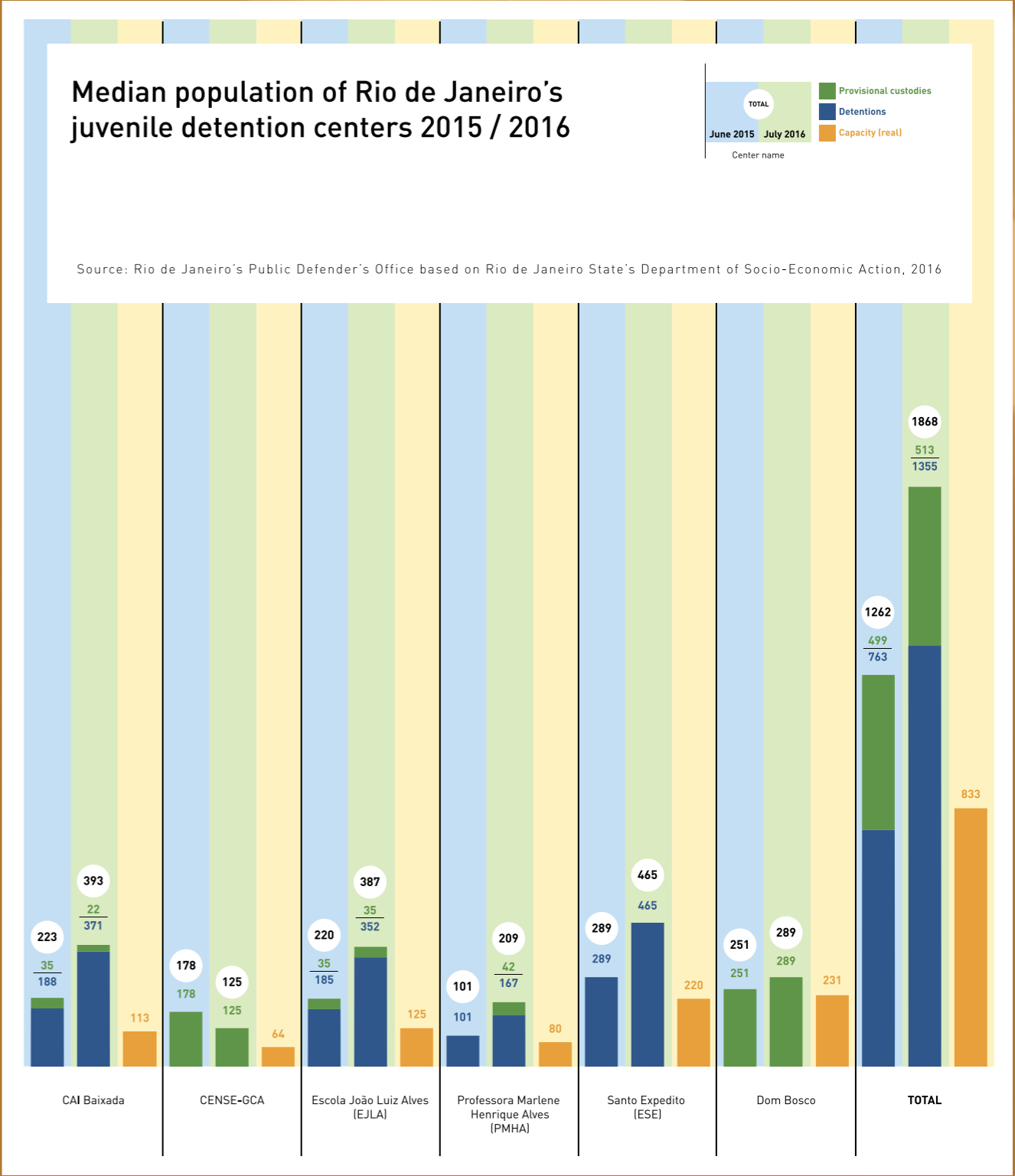


Child rights violations within juvenile detention centers

Terre des Hommes interviews showed strong evidence indicating an increase in the numbers of adolescents detained in juvenile detention centers administered by the State’s Department of Socio-economic action (DEGASE) due to the Olympics. Detention has been used in case of minor offenses such as non violent drug offenses or violations of conditions of a sentence.¹³ According to the Brazilian Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA), youths may only be detained in exceptional cases, as a last resource, and for offenses involving violence or serious threats of violence, repeat serious offenses, or for the “repeated and unjustified failure” to comply with conditions of a sentence.¹⁴

Rio de Janeiro’s Public Defender’s Office periodically receives information of the number of youths detained in juvenile detention centers by DEGASE and regularly checks them during their visits. According to this data, in six of Rio de Janeiro’s State juvenile detention centers, there was a numeric increase of 606 youths in total during the past year alone. In June 2015, the percentage of capacity in these centers was an already inhumane 151% , whereas this year they face an unacceptable level of 224% (see *graphic on pg. 15*). In fact, all of DEGASE’s units in the State of Rio are critically overcrowded, its great majority operating with numbers of internees of at least the double the capacity. The average rate of increase from 2015 to 2016 is 48%, clearly indicating a strong policy of incarceration before the Olympics.

Terre des Hommes received reports that the facilities do not meet basic standards of hygiene and health, lacking basic supplies including food, clothing, medicine and staff. Many of the youths receive no education whatsoever, constituting a violation of their rights under the Brazilian Constitution and international law.



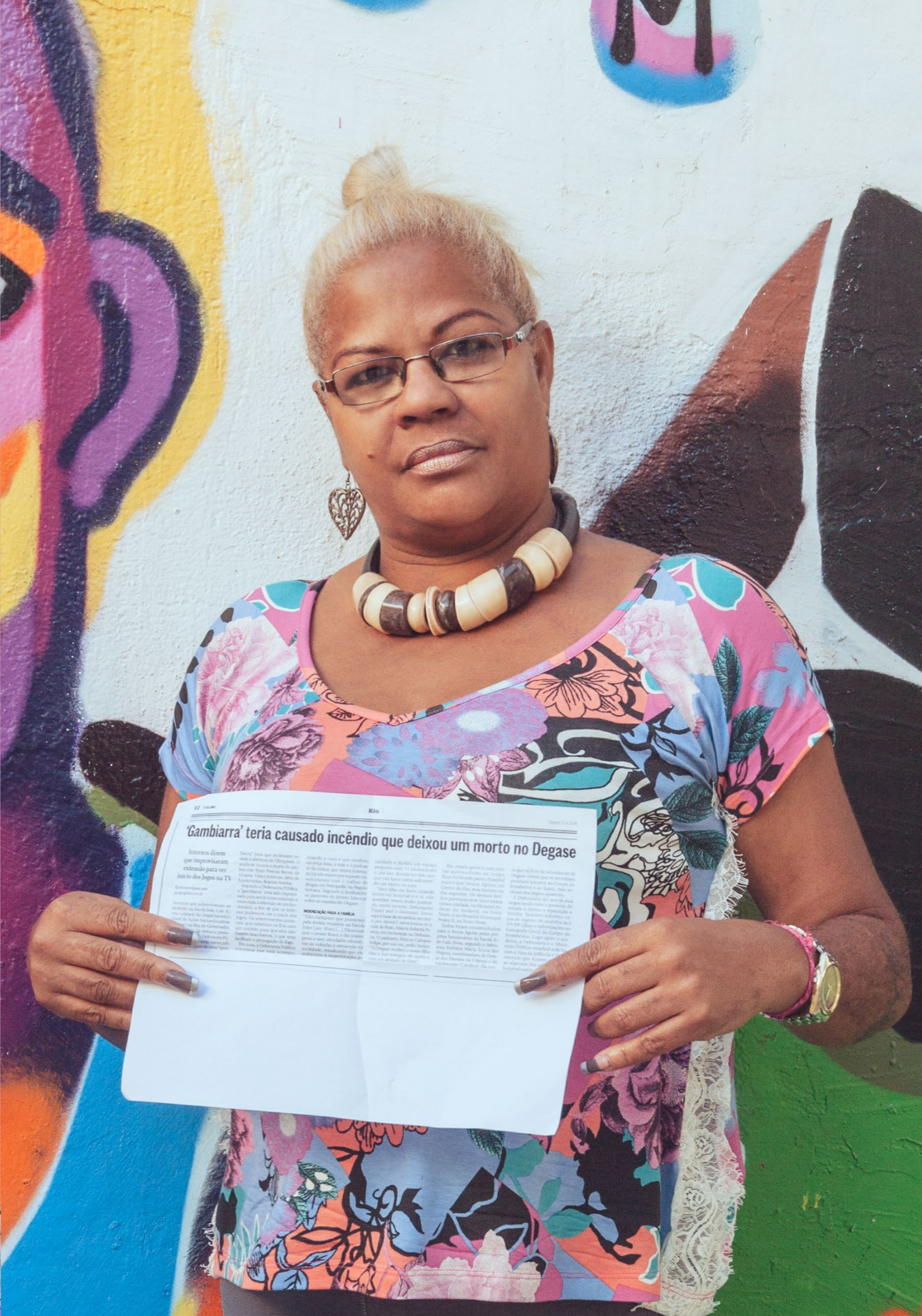
13. For instance, violation of probation.
14. Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente (Brazilian Federal Law n 8.069, 13 July 1990), art. 122.

Fire in a DEGASE unit

On August 5, day of the Opening Ceremony, nine teenagers who were detained in the DEGASE unit known as the Escola João Luiz Alvez (EJLA) on Ilha do Governador, suffered burns when a fire broke out inside of their cells. According to family members, the electric system short-circuited when they attempted to fix the wires of their TV so they could watch the Olympics' Opening Ceremony. The unit is failing in almost every aspect of the youths' basic rights, operating with a 309% capacity. Ryan Pereira Bento, 15, suffered 100% burns on his face and died the next day. Since the unit had no vacancy and Ryan had not committed an offense by means of grave threat or violence, his sentence should have been changed from closed to semi-open condition.¹⁵ Eight others suffered first, second and third degree burns and were taken to the hospital in the city centre. Even those with severe burns were kept handcuffed out of fear they would try to escape. Ryan's family was from Petropolis, another town about 70km away from Rio de Janeiro. Family members and NGO workers are asking why he had been sent to Ilha do Governador in the first place, instead of a center closer to his home. This question remains to date unanswered. What has been confirmed however is that "[the unit] was overcrowded. Everyone knew something was going to happen, they just didn't know what," said **Monica Cunha** of Movimento Moleque, a project which works with young people. On 2 September, another youth severely burned died at the hospital.

Click [here](#) and watch the interview.

15. *Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente (Brazilian Federal Law n 8.069, 13 July 1990), art. 122.*



SHOOTINGS *and* POLICE KILLINGS: SECURITY *for* WHOM?

Violence in Brazil disproportionately affects young black men. Brazil has the second largest number of homicide victims among children and adolescents in the world.¹⁶ Homicide is the main cause of death among adolescents between 12 and 18 in Brazil, responsible for 36,5% of the cases. The possibility of young black men being murdered is almost three times higher than whites and male adolescents are roughly twelve times more at risk than girls.¹⁷ According to recent research, 71.7% of the homicides are committed with firearms.¹⁸ In 2015, in the city of Rio de Janeiro alone, police officers were responsible for one in every five homicides.¹⁹

As Olympic Games approached, police killings increased

As highlighted by Amnesty International Brazil, the months of April, May and June 2016 saw a 103% increase in the number of police killings in the city of Rio de Janeiro when compared with the same period in the previous year.²⁰

Young people were particularly affected by the increase of police interventions as the Olympic Games approached. In fact, police killings also happened in favelas that have Police Pacification Units (UPPs), a security programme involving the permanent stationing of police in favelas which began in 2008 in Rio. This was around the time it was announced that the city would be hosting the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics and Paralympics.

Jhonata Dalber Mattos Alves, 16, was shot dead by the Police Pacification Unit in the Borel favela on June 30. Family members claimed that he had been eating from a bag of popcorn which police had confused with drugs. The police, on the other hand, claimed that he belonged to a drug gang which exchanged fire with the officers. No gun was found by forensic officers who later investigated the scene.²¹ On July 22, 14-year-old Shayane Santos was killed by a stray bullet in the São Carlos favela. Although there was not a police operation in São Carlos at the time, the family believe it came from the Special Operations Police Battalion (BOPE) in nearby Coroa favela on the same night.²²

16. UNICEF, *Hidden in Plain Sight – a statistical analysis of violence against children*, 2014.

17. *Homicídios na Adolescência no Brasil, Índice de Homicídios na Adolescência (IHA)* 2012.

18. *Mapa da Violência* 2016, “*Homicídios por armas de fogo no Brasil*”, 2016, pg. 21.

19. Amnesty International, “*Violence has no place in these games! Risk of human rights violations at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games*”, 2 June 2016.

20. Amnesty International Brazil, “*Rio 2016: Operações policiais violentas e com mortes são o legado para a segurança pública*”, 22 August 2016.

21. O Globo, “*Polícia investiga morte de jovem no Borel*”, 1 July 2016, <http://oglobo.globo.com/rio/policia-investiga-morte-de-jovem-no-borel-19623753> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

22. O Dia, “*Adolescente morre vítima de bala perdida no Morro do São Carlos*”, 22 July, <http://odia.ig.com.br/rio-de-janeiro/2016-07-22/adolescente-morre-vitima-de-bala-perdida-no-morro-do-sao-carlos.html> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

Continued violence while athletes competed

The security scheme for the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics was the biggest in the history of Brazil. It included 85,000 police staff around the city (ie the double of London in 2012)²³, 47,500 of those coming from the National Security Force.

At least eight people have been confirmed up to now to have been killed by the police over the course of the two weeks of the Rio Games. Two of them were under 18. Riot Police Unit who arrived at the favela Bandeira 2 in Del Castilo on August 11 left three community residents dead, including César Soares dos Santos, 14; Matheus Amâncio de Aragão, 15. Residents described people running to avoid the gunfire, including mothers with babies in their arms. They believe the police acted in retaliation, as the day before a soldier from the National Security Force had been shot dead in nearby favela Maré.²⁴

23. G1, “*Olimpíadas Rio 2016 terão 85 mil profissionais atuando na segurança*”, 30 July 2015, <http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/olimpiadas/rio2016/noticia/2015/07/olimpiadas-rio-2016-terao-475-mil-profissionais-de-seguranca.html> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

24. O Dia, “*Confronto na Favela Bandeira 2, em Del Castilho, deixa três mortos*”, 12 August 2016, <http://odia.ig.com.br/rio-de-janeiro/2016-08-12/confronto-na-favela-bandeira-2-em-del-castilho-deixa-tres-mortos.html> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

25. According to Instituto de Pesquisas e Estudos do Turismo do Rio de Janeiro (Ipetur-RJ) and Fundação Cesgranrio.

26. Fogo Cruzado: <http://fogocruzado.org.br/> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

27. According to Instituto Igarapé and Visão Mundial, “*O que dizem as crianças? Uma consulta sobre violência a partir da percepção de crianças e adolescentes*”, 2016.

Children hiding from shootings in the favelas

While 90% of tourists rated security in Rio de Janeiro “good” or “excellent”²⁵, residents of favelas reported shootouts in several areas, often at some distance from the tourist zones of the city and the Olympic sports venues. According to the Fogo Cruzado (Crossfire) App, a collaborative digital platform designed to map shootings and armed violence in Rio de Janeiro, 92 shootouts took place in Rio de Janeiro during the Olympics.²⁶

Armed violence also impacts on other rights, such as the right to education, since schools are closed and classes cancelled when shootings take place. According to the Child Security Index, an open source app to map children and adolescents’ perceptions of everyday violence, when asked whether their classes had ever been called off because of shootings, 35% of children answered positively.²⁷

August 19 was an intense day of shootouts in Complexo do Alemão. Residents posted pictures on social media of children hiding in the toilets in order to protect themselves from the crossfire. In addition to Complexo do Alemão, North Zone favelas Acari, Borel, Del Castilho, Manguinhos, and Maré; West Zone favela City of God; and South Zone favela Cantagalo also experienced intense police operations during the Games.

PROTESTS: TEENAGERS HARSHLY REPRESSED *by the* POLICE

Terre des Hommes' interviews revealed an aggressive approach by the police, with indiscriminate use of force towards adolescents who decided to protest during the 2016 Olympic Games. Prior to the Olympics, young protesters told Terre des Hommes that some groups of teenagers decided not to protest at all due to the fear of oppressive tactics, such as pepper spray, rubber bullets and stun grenades, seen during the World Cup, which they believed almost certainly would be used again.

On August 5, day of the Opening Ceremony, two protests against the negative impact of the Olympics were publicly announced on social media. One in São Paulo, in Avenida Paulista, and another in Rio de Janeiro, close to Maracanã, where the ceremony was being held. In both protests the police used intimidation tactics as soon as people started to gather in the square. They would randomly search protesters and surround them, leading to tensions. Terre des Hommes received reports that the police infiltrated the protest, a practice illegal in Brazil.²⁸

In Rio, although the protesters had come to an agreement with the police regarding the organization of the protest, the cavalry unit and police cars blocked the way of the protest for no apparent reason. Upon the arrival at the agreed destination point and as people were dispersing, the police threw tear gas in the middle of the square, again without apparent motive, while children were playing in the square's playground.

In São Paulo, the protest related to the Rio Olympics was predominantly attended by high school students. Military police tried to prevent the teenagers from marching the route they had planned claiming they had not revealed it previously, although it was published on Facebook prior to the event. Some protesters reported to Terre des Hommes that there were up to five police for every protester. After a firecracker was launched into the crowd, the police used the illegal tactic of surrounding protesters so they could not move freely, known as 'kettling', leading to the arrest of almost all of them. During this period, teenage protesters reported receiving threats and verbal abuse from the police, including sexual comments aimed at girls under 18. A young protester told Terre des Hommes that her friends were hit with hand-held batons and that police officers used pepper spray indiscriminately. Around 100 protesters were detained, and of those, around half were under 18. Although walking the streets without your identity documents is not a crime in Brazil, about 14 teenagers that did not have documentation and whose parents did not come to collect them from the police precinct, were taken to Fundação Casa, a juvenile detention center in São Paulo. After the arrival of activist lawyers, all the teenagers were released without charge, but had their names registered by the police.



Military Police detaining Gabriel Reis, 17, at the Olympic Games opening protest near Maracanã Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, 2016

Another protest in Rio's suburb of Meier on August 12, in the middle of the Olympic Games, was harshly and unnecessarily repressed by the military police. They were once again prevented from taking the route they had chosen and publicly announced, which would have been towards the Engenhão Stadium, where the athletics events of the Rio Games took place. Mostly led by students, protesters faced stun grenades, tear gas and rubber bullets.

At least 50 were arrested being more than half under 18, and one person was injured. Part of those arrested were framed under the Football Supporter Statute.²⁹



28. UNICEF, *Hidden in Plain Sight – a statistical analysis of violence against children*, 2014.

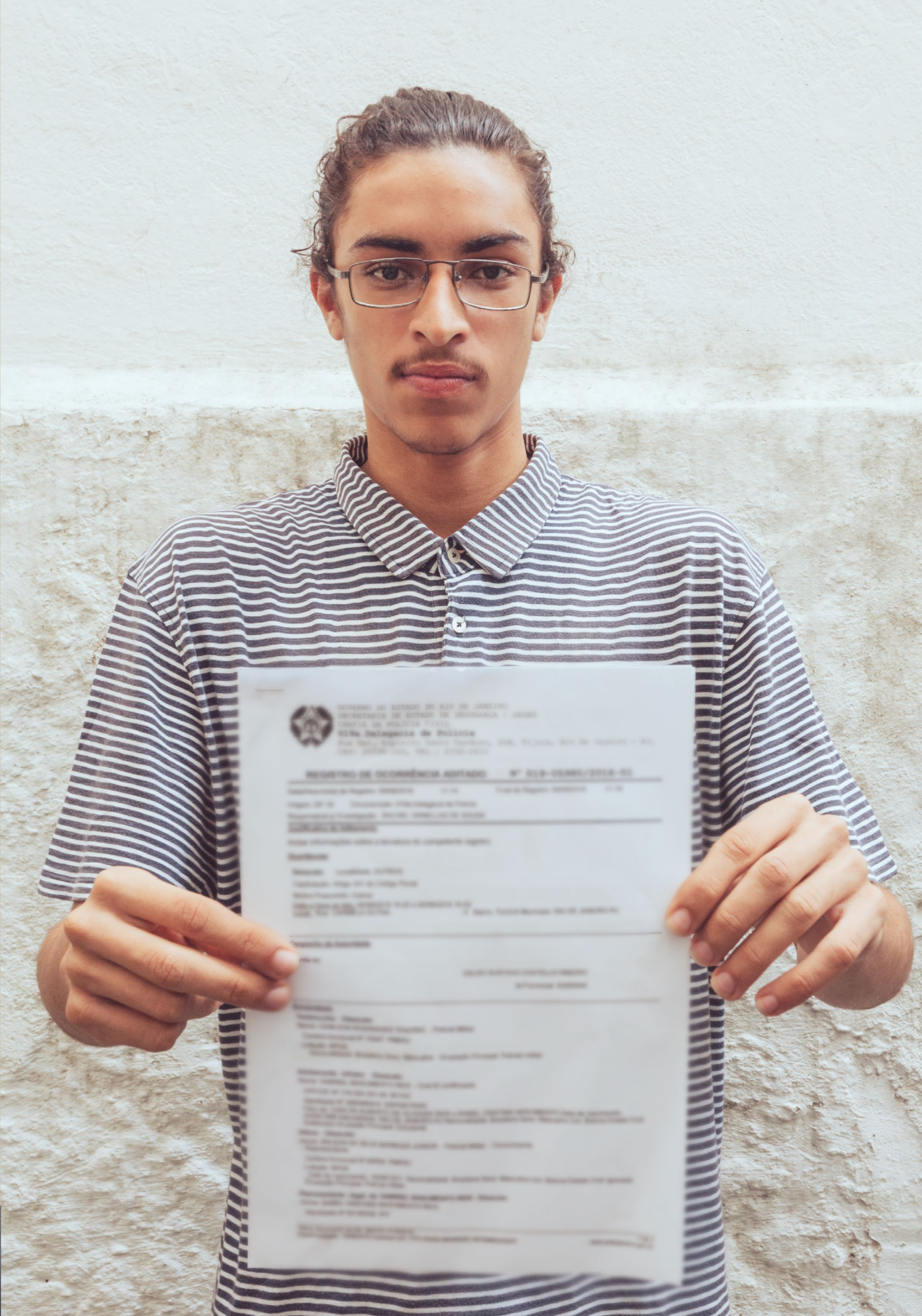
29. According to Article 41B, paragraph 1, I (Law N. 10.671, of 2003) constitutes a crime, to "disturb the order or provoke violence in a ray of 5km in the surrounding area of a sport facility".

Detained *in protest with his mother*

Gabriel Reis, 17, who is not affiliated to any parties or social movements, had been attending protests in Brazil with family members since 2013, when a wave of mass protests took the country, due to, among other reasons, the population dissatisfaction with the World Cup. On August 5, the night of the Opening Ceremony, Gabriel left the house to join the protest against the negative impact of the Olympics in Rio and was later joined by his mother, Isabel Reis. When the police blocked the streets, they provoked a surge forwards and a number of protesters ended up in a bakery for shelter. Police officers entered the bakery, destroying furniture and hitting people for no apparent reason. Inside the bakery, Gabriel was arrested and handcuffed with his hand behind his back. Outside, about thirty officers arrived exclusively to put Gabriel in the back of a police vehicle, together with his mother, who insisted on going with her son. Isabel described to **Terre des Hommes** that for about two hours, the car drove around, as police were unsure which precinct to take him to due to his underage status. Many roads were closed or jammed with traffic due to the Opening Ceremony. The officer who received Gabriel's case accused him of contempt. Gabriel was eventually sent home at 9pm, five hours after he had left the house. He did not receive the documents relating to his case until four days later, as the police precinct had run out of paper for the printer. During a meeting with representatives of the Civil Police of the State of Rio de Janeiro, **Terre des Hommes** requested more information about his case which has not yet been provided.³⁰

Click **here** and watch the interview.

30. Meeting between Terre des Hommes' representatives and members of the Civil Police of the State of Rio de Janeiro, held on 24 August 2016.



CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION DUE *to* HIGH INFLUX *of* TOURISTS: REALITY *or* MYTH?

Less than a month before the Olympics, the media reported that three teenagers were rescued from sexual exploitation, among a group of eight in total, at a beach near the Olympic venues in Barra de Tijuca.³¹ The teenage girls were allegedly between 15 and 16 years old. On 29 August, El País reported on a child sexual exploitation ring operating in front of the Olympic Stadium. According to the news outlet, girls between 14 and 21 were attracted by adverts of scholarships for models posted on social media, promising a luxurious life. The gang rented three apartments in front of the Olympic Park. One of them, decorated with pink walls, served as residence for at least four adolescents – monitored by cameras 24 hours a day.³²

Yet it is difficult to have an overview of the phenomenon or even reach a precise number of cases of child sexual exploitation during the Olympics. As this is a particularly hard crime to track, at this stage it is not possible to even confirm that there was an increase in the number of cases.³³ Usually, the starting point of anti-trafficking campaigns is linked to the belief that the high influx of tourists during the Olympics increases the risk of child sexual exploitation. However, this type of violation actually appears to be connected to other impacts such as forced evictions and street “clean-up” operations related to Mega Sporting Events.³⁴ For instance, before the Olympics, children at risk of being evicted reported to Terre des Hommes fear of sexual abuse due to the presence of a high

number of male construction workers for Olympic related infra-structure.

Socially vulnerable, transient or excluded groups are most affected and at the same time are by their nature less visible to authorities and NGOs.³⁵ Depending on the race, gender, class and nationality involved, an interaction can be understood as flirtation or child sexual exploitation. Research conducted by Childhood Brasil on the issue of sexual exploitation of minors among 316 construction workers at different construction sites has found that 67% of the construction workers have admitted knowing that other workers paid for sex with children and adolescents and 25% admitted to have done so themselves.³⁶ Girls and boys being sexually exploited are not perceived as victims – in fact, not even as children or adolescents. This shows a banalisation of child sexual exploitation and the invisibility of the phenomenon.



31. *Folha de São Paulo*, “Policia resgata oito adolescentes sob exploração sexual em area Olímpica”, 9 July 2016, <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/2016/07/1790108-policia-resgata-oito-adolescentes-sob-exploracao-sexual-em-area-olimpica.shtml> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

32. *El País*, “Prostituição infantil com vistas para o Parque Olímpico”, 29 July 2016, http://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2016/07/28/politica/1469733522_602997.html (accessed on 04.09.2016).

33. Marcel Hazeu and Frans van Kranen, “Sexual exploitation of children in Brazil: putting a spot on the problem”, 9 May 2014.

34. ECPAT Global Study: *Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*, “Child Sexual Exploitation: What do Mega Sporting Events have to do with it?”, May 2016.

35. Brunel University, “Child Protection and FIFA World Cup”, July 2013.

36. Childhood Brasil, “The sexuality of the Civil Construction Worker – Sex Trade and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents”, 2009.

CONCLUSION *and* RECOMMENDATIONS

As the Olympic flame was extinguished, so was the promise of a “New World” for future generation. The Games lasted two weeks, but the legacy of exclusion and violation of the rights of children and adolescents will continue to live on for years after the Closing Ceremony.

The medium and long-term consequences for those children who were evicted due to the Olympics are far-reaching, from the psychological to the economic disruption of families removed to distant locations. Rio 2016 had the biggest security operation Brazil has ever seen. But the tourists’ feeling of security came at a high price for adolescents living in the favelas. Violence against youngsters ranged from an increase of killings by the police and unnecessary use of force when approaching adolescents in street situation, a surge in overcrowding in juvenile detention centers and their deterioration, to an alarming increase in police repression of peaceful protests.

Instead of a positive legacy, many children and teenagers in Rio de Janeiro and beyond will remember the Olympics, at which they were neither invited to nor included in, as an event which violated their rights.

Recommendations

It is undisputed that the Brazilian government has a responsibility to protect young people and make sure their rights are not violated. Nonetheless, sport

governing bodies such as the **Olympic Committee (IOC)**, also have a duty to respect these rights. In fact, policies and practices adopted by the **IOC** have the potential to prevent, mitigate, document and respond appropriately to the full spectrum of abuses directly caused or exacerbated by the Olympics.

Aligned with the recommendations made public by **Terre des Hommes** right before the start of the Rio Games, we call upon the **International Olympic Committee** to:³⁷

- Communicate with the Rio 2016 Local Organising Committee (LOC) and Brazilian authorities to ensure that they:
 - a) take all appropriate measures related to violations of child rights caused or exacerbated by the Rio Olympics, including to ensure victims have access to legal advice and assistance,
 - b) observe due process and that individual cases are duly investigated, with access to remedy and compensation.
- Include in the foreseen revision of the 2024 Host City Contract (expected for the fourth quarter of 2016)³⁸ and in all future contracts:
 - obligations to ensure compliance with international human, child rights and anti-corruption standards in the delivery of the Olympic Games,

- provision of access to effective remedy in the event of human or child rights violations as well as incidents of corruption,
- sanctions, up to and including the termination of the contract, for noncompliance with these obligations to respect human, child rights, and anti-corruption standards,
- stipulate in all contracts with commercial partners that they must respect human and child rights throughout their supply chain,
- monitor and manage all impacts consistent with human and child rights obligations, and finally,
- a report on all actions taken, which should be made public.

- Include human and child rights and anti-corruption as part of the decision for awarding the Games;

- Adopt robust human rights due diligence, including a risk and impact assessment with a strong focus on vulnerable groups, such as children and youth, and act upon the findings through the development of an action plan;
- Ensure all future Olympic host countries commit to the protection of human rights, including child’s rights, and implement anti-corruption measures;
- Track and report all stages of the Games, as well as support an external independent monitor to oversee the implementation of the commitment and actions planned following due diligence;
- Enable access to remedy, including the establishment of a grievance mechanism and investigation of complaints; and
- Have in place internal human rights capacity guide and advise on all human and child rights related activity.

In recent months, the **IOC** has started to show some promising signs of willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue and take the aforementioned elements into account. But it is certainly too early to tell if these signs will translate into fundamental and concrete changes, and if future Games will actually “create a better world and leave this as a legacy to the generations to come”.

37. On 2 August, *Amnesty International Brasil* and *Terre des Hommes* organized a press conference on the risk of the Olympics where the *Sport and Rights Alliance (SRA)* released a set of recommendations to the IOC. See more: <http://www.childrenwin.org/ioc-in-talks-over-human-rights-recommendations/> (accessed on 04.09.2016).

38. *International Olympic Committee, Host City Contract Principles – Games of the XXXIII Olympiad – Candidature Process 2024, September 2015, pg. 1.*

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