



PARTIDO SOCIALISMO E LIBERDADE – ALAGOAS

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Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
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The Partido Socialismo e Liberdade (PSOL) of Alagoas, by its president Marcela Carnaúba Pimentel and Maria Valéria Costa Correia, presents to you informations on human rights violations in the State of Alagoas, more specifically in its capital Maceió.

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FORCED DISAPPEARANCE REPORT: Case of Jonas Seixas da Silva

CONTEXT

Alagoas is one of the most violent states in Brazil. This reality is expressed in official indexes, either from State Public Security Secretariat or from the recent study on violence carried on by the Federal Research Institute of Applied Economics, IPEA. The five states with the highest homicide rates of black people are located in the Northeast region. In 2017, Rio Grande do Norte had the highest rate, with 87.0 deaths per 100,000 black inhabitants, more than double the national rate, followed by Ceará (75.6), Pernambuco (73.2), Sergipe (68.8) and Alagoas (67.9). However, this gap was further widened in 2017, when the homicide rate of blacks exceeded that of non-blacks by 18.3 times.

In fact, it is astounding to note that the land of Zumbi dos Palmares is one of the most dangerous places in the country for black individuals, while bearing the title of the safest state for non-black individuals (in terms of the chances of intentional violent lethality). In the year 2020, until the month of August, according to the Secretariat of Public Security of Alagoas (SSP), Maceió had 228 lethal and intentional violent crimes, out of which 88% are black or brown people. In this perspective, the IPEA (2020, p.48) asserts that:

[...] when the subject is vulnerability to violence, blacks and non-blacks live completely different and opposite realities within the same territory. Alagoas, to cite the most emblematic example, is the state that presents the greatest differences in victimization between Blacks and non-Blacks, with homicide rates for Blacks being 17.2 times higher than for non-Blacks.

Allied to this socio-political problem, emphasized by the lack of public policies and structural racism, we also have the 5th most violent police in the Northeast, and according to data from the “Monitor da Violência”¹ about 51 people were killed by active police officers in Alagoas, against 2 active police officers killed in the first semester of this year; during this pandemic there was an increase in reports of police violence. It is important to point out that the direction of this truculent approach of the Alagoas police, and why not to say Brazilian police, has class and color markers, because the common victims are young blacks and residents

¹ A partnership between the news web-site G1, the Brazilian Forum of Public Security and the Universidade de São Paulo.



of the poor suburbs of Alagoas, especially in the capital Maceió, who suffer with the "firm grip" and armed hand of the state.

THE CASE OF JONAS SEIXAS DA SILVA

And it is in the midst of this conjuncture of violence and oppression that we bring the case of forced disappearance of a black man and resident of the Grota do Cigano neighborhood of Jacintinho, suburb of Maceió. Jonas Seixas da Silva, 32 years-old and a bricklayer's servant, was approached by the Military Police of Alagoas on October 9, 2020 at around 4 pm in the vicinity of his residence, arrested and placed in the trunk of the car; and since then, was no longer seen by his family and friends. However, prior to this approach, according to reports of his partner, Angélica Silva, when opening the door of the house she came across three police officers and "they asked for Jonas and I said he was not at home. They went in and said they had a warrant for his arrest and reviewed his entire closet. Then they left." It's important to emphasize that this warrant never appeared, and the family doesn't even know the content; the family's lawyer looked for arrest warrant and search and seizure order in Jonas' name, but he didn't find either one.

Still according to Angélica, after her husband was arrested by the Military Police of Alagoas, she was informed that Jonas Seixas da Silva was taken to the Police Station located in the neighborhood of Farol; and immediately she went to the Police Station taking his documents and cell phone. As she arrived at the Police Station, there she waited until 9:00 p.m., but they did not check in with her husband. The last image that relatives and neighbors have of Jonas, is arrested and thrown in the trunk of the car and asking for water, because they had used pepper spray at the time of approach.

According to the family's lawyer, Arcelio Alves, the relatives searched for Jonas at every Civil Police station in the capital and even at the Institute of Legal Medicine (IML), but they couldn't find him. The Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil (OAB)², the Public Prosecutor of Alagoas (MPAL) and the Military Police Inspectorate (PM) have been searched, according to Arcelio, and they stated that they are making the necessary arrangements.

² Brazilian Bar Association.



Two days after the event (12/11/2020), Jonas' family and friends made a protest in Jacintinho neighborhood, more precisely closing Cleto Campelo Avenue. That day, Claudineide Seixas da Silva, Jonas' mother, reported that a policeman approached her and said he remembered the case: "We gave him a press and released him in Cruz das Almas", the officer would have said. The mother and her companion doubt the version, since Jonas did not look for anyone and did not return home after the fact. Jonas Seixas da Silva was known as a quiet person, the relatives say, and got along well with everyone. He had been arrested for drug trafficking in 2010, and was currently working as a bricklayer's assistant. He spent four years in jail before being released. "Every month he went there to sign, until now, in the pandemic, when they stopped the service, he went to make sure," Angélica says.

So far, neither the Military Police of Alagoas, through its Internal Affairs Office, nor the State of Alagoas and the Public Ministry of Alagoas (MPAL) have officially taken a position on the Jonas Seixas da Silva case. The silence is resounding and only endorses the neglect of the Renan Filho Government in promoting the protection of life and its dignity, disrespecting and denying the Rights to the population of Maceió and Alagoas. It is worth mentioning that it is not the first time that the Alagoas police use violence and arbitrary capture of people as a mechanism of repression and coercion. The forced disappearance has been a recurring practice in the peripheries of Brazil by the state apparatus. In Maceió, in 2014, we witnessed the disappearance of the boy Davi, who despite social mobilization in search of answers to his disappearance, to this day, we have no news of his whereabouts. How many Davi and how many Jonas will be captured and kidnapped by the state? For how long will this violent approach in the peripheries and against the black people be naturalized?

RECOMMENDATIONS

We would like this Rapporteur to receive and analyze the information contained in this report:

1. The whereabouts of Jonas Seixas;
2. Hold a public manifestation about the facts exposed in this Report;



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3. Request a statement from the Brazilian and Alagoas authorities regarding the facts presented;

4. Make recommendations to the Brazilian State in order to reduce the number of human rights violations especially related to the lethality of the Security Forces, contained in the reports above.

Sincerely,

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