

BRAZILIAN FORCED MIGRANTS ABROAD: ENDEMIC INSECURITY AS A REASON TO FLEE

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the main reasons why Brazilians have sought for asylum abroad. This is a growing number of Brazilians who feel persecuted for reasons of race, gender, religion and sexuality and who do not find protection from the Brazilian State. This text aims to highlight the impact of violence, corruption and impunity, especially of political forces and legal-political institutions in the process of Brazilians fleeing abroad. Corruption as a rule and endemic impunity are incentives for increasing violence, especially against vulnerable groups, which makes Brazil an unsafe country in terms of protection and defense of human rights.

Keywords

Brazilian forced migrants; corruption; impunity.

1. INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS: BRAZIL IS NOT A SAFE COUNTRY

The prevalence of violence and organized crime in Brazil attest to the dangers faced by some Brazilian citizens within the country¹. The country is well-known for its high levels of violent crime. It has recently been listed as the 9th most violent country in the world, with 17 of the world's 50 most violent cities within its borders.² There are 57.000 assassinations in Brazil per year.³ According to the UN's World Health Organisation, violence is epidemic when it reaches more than 10 deaths per 100 000. In Brazil, this number has been almost tripled.⁴

Residents and visitors alike are at a much higher risk of violent encounters in Brazil than

in most countries, and those who dare to speak out against the status quo are in particular danger. Countless reports from bodies such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the UN, as well as journalistic, academic and personal accounts attest to this⁵. Violence is particularly prevalent in and around large urban areas, such as the city and state of São Paulo.⁶

Much of this violence is concentrated in the police force. Many people are targets of violence after having testified against police corruption and extortion. According to The US Department of State,⁷ state police officials continued to be involved in revenge killings and intimidation of witnesses who testified against police officials. Police often were responsible for investigating charges of torture and excessive force carried out by fellow officers⁸.

Brazil does not have an efficient security system to protect their citizens and foreigners in Brazil. It also reflects on the perception of 64% of Brazilians feeling unsafe and afraid of walking on streets at night, because crime is out of control.⁹ Children are also being shot.¹⁰ Brazil has listed as the 9th most violent country in the world,¹¹ with 17 of the world's 50 most violent cities within its borders.¹² An Atlas of Violence developed by Forum de Segurança (2020) showed that the number of homicides in Brazil had hit a new record, that is, nearly 60.000 people were killed.¹³

Another fact is that 55% of Brazilians are more afraid of police agents¹⁴ than they are of illegal militias and drug traffickers, indicating that the liberal use of violence by Brazilian police forces has eroded trust in law enforcement,¹⁵ which faces accusations of abuse and corruption, especially in connection with extrajudicial

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