

The Public Defender's Office and Rio de Janeiro's City Hall

In the Constitution the Public Defender's Office is defined as an essential institution in the Judicial process, with a mission to aid people (communities) in need, and defend human rights and constitutional principles. We see the increased relationship between the Public Defender's Office and the City Hall as a troubling development, considering the violent and disrespectful attitudes with which the City Hall's office has treated Rio's marginalized communities, as a result of the forced removals, in preparation for the World Cup and Olympics.

We demand the autonomy and independence of our Public Defenders. Our rights are being trampled on due to the increased association between the SEOP (Special Commission on Public Order), criminal police units and militia groups (Operation Guillotine). We are concerned the SEOP is pressuring Police Precincts not to report, or record, violent offenses, and abuses of power, by government officials, and City Hall's guard units.

In preparation of the World Cup and Olympics Mayor Eduardo Paes wants to create an "exclusive state." He is pressuring the President of the Judicial Branch to reach an understanding so that an injunction would not be granted against the City Hall's actions. State Union executives also want to speed up the public works development process, disregarding the rights of marginalized communities and incentivizing the city's elite with exemptions, suspensions on bidding and public tenders, and offering contract incentives that would create a tax burden on the city's treasury.

We are concerned these large sporting events could negatively influence the work of the Public Defender's office, and its mission, protected in Supplementary Law 80, Article 3:

- I - Protection of people's dignity and reduction of social inequalities
- II - Assertion of a Democratic State
- III - Prevalence and effectiveness of Human Rights
- IV - Guarantee of constitutional rights

As we have explained the City Hall's office has steam rolled over these rights and any meeting between the Mayor's Office and the Public Defender's office must be done with the goal of reaching these four objectives.

The Communities Of: **Vila Harmonia, Campinho, Vila Recreio I e II, Restinga, Vila Arroio Pavuna, Vila Autódromo, Vila das Torres, Solar da Montanha, Alto Camorim, Canal do Anil, Taboinhas, Comunidade do Metrô, Parque Colúmbia, Horto, Vila Elza, Laboriaux.**