



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International  
Organizations in Geneva  
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Dainius Puras

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Leilani Farha

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Philip Alston

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Geneva, 6 March, 2018

Dear Dr. Puras, Ms. Farha and Mr. Alston,

I refer to the joint communication AL BRA 8/2017, dated 28 August 2017, on alleged human rights violations in the neighborhood known as of 'Cracolândia', located in the center of São Paulo. On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I attach the following comments prepared by the municipal government of São Paulo.

Please accept the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JLQNA', enclosed within a blue circular stamp.

João Lucas Quental N. de Almeida  
Minister-Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva

The “Recomeço” Program - A Life Without Drugs, launched in 2013 by the Government of São Paulo, encompasses actions in the region of Nova Luz with the purpose of supporting users of psychoactive substances and their families by promoting the prevention of drug abuse, treatment, social reintegration and rehabilitation, regulation and recovery of degraded territories and access to justice and rights. Strategic actions have been undertaken in the field of health, social care, justice, culture and leisure in the abovementioned region. The work is developed with the participation of the following Secretariats of São Paulo: Health, Social Development, Education, Public Safety, and Justice and Citizenship.

Since 2013, the main actions undertaken have been the provision of support and detoxification services; dental care; treatment in psychosocial care units (CAPS); treatment in therapeutic communities; accommodation in the so-called “Casa de Passagem” temporary housing; workshops / activities / therapeutic groups; pharmaceutical care; counseling; support of urban groups; vital signs check; care at “Recomeço” units and at the Reference Center for the Treatment of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (CRATOD).

A Working Group composed by different Secretariats was created to discuss a weekly program of action to help persons facing substance abuse in the region. The “Recomeço” Program’s strategy is to daily approach persons in the streets. The participation in the program is voluntary and there is no confinement measures. Persons who agree to join the program have access to the Reference Centers for Tobacco and Other Drugs and are diagnosed by a multiprofessional team.

The professionals of the “Recomeço” Program focus on guaranteeing that all drug users in Cracolândia receive treatment for substance abuse and have access to mental health services and social assistance. The program is based on the respect to the individual, with a view to guaranteeing human rights. It is of utmost importance that the actions undertaken focus on the integral care of persons facing substance abuse and their families and are guided by the need to protect rights and fight against discrimination, to respect individual autonomy, and to provide harm reduction measures.

Measures undertaken to ensure the physical and mental health of persons living in "Cracolândia", including those facing alcohol abuse, crack and other substances, are guided by major drug policy guidelines, which include:

a) Demand reduction through preventive actions to avoid licit and illicit substance abuse, as well as measures related to treatment, rehabilitation, harm reduction and social reintegration of users and addicts; and

b) Supply reduction through repressive actions against unlawful production and to combat illicit drug trafficking

It should also be highlighted the establishment of the National System of Public Policies on Drugs (SISNAD), by the Law n. 11.343/2006, which foresees measures to prevent the harmful use of drugs, and care social reintegration of users and addicts.