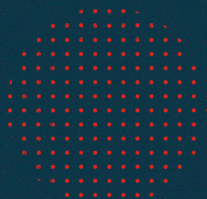


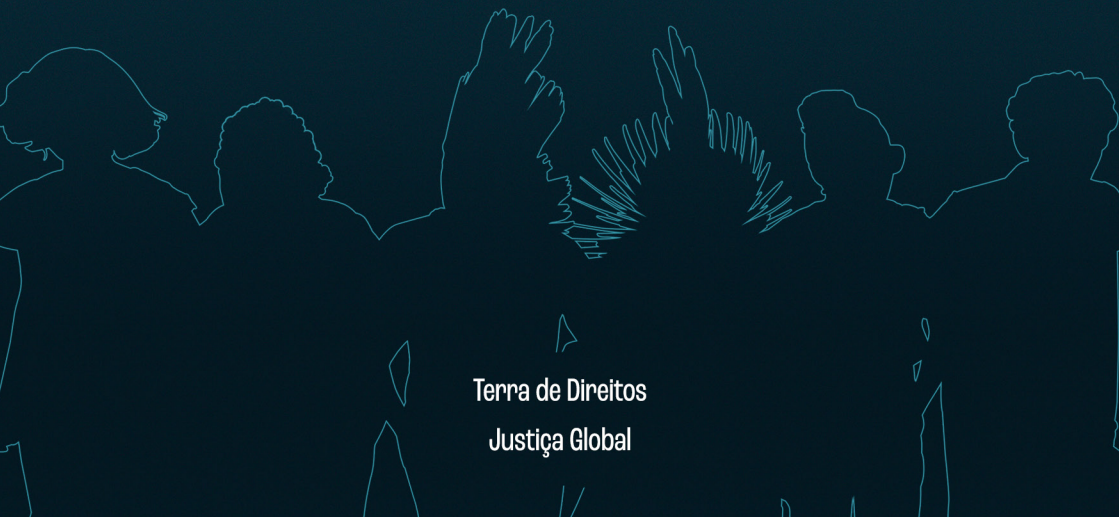
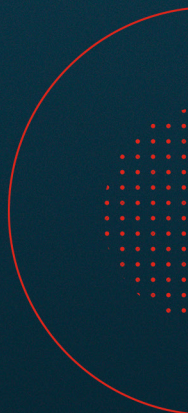
Fact Sheet



# ON THE FRONTLINE

**Violence Against Human Rights  
Defenders in Brazil**

**2019–2022**



Terra de Direitos  
Justiça Global

# INTRODUCTION

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*On the Frontline: Violence against Human Rights Defenders in Brazil* is a report that exposes the attacks on those who stand up for human rights in the country. The survey, conducted by the Brazilian human rights organizations Terra de Direitos and Justiça Global, covers the cases of violence that occurred between 2019 and 2022. The data was collected from news sources, previous reports, and cases monitored by **Terra de Direitos** and **Justiça Global**. The report highlights the violence against both individual and collective defenders, such as indigenous and quilombola peoples.

## VIOLENCE IN NUMBERS

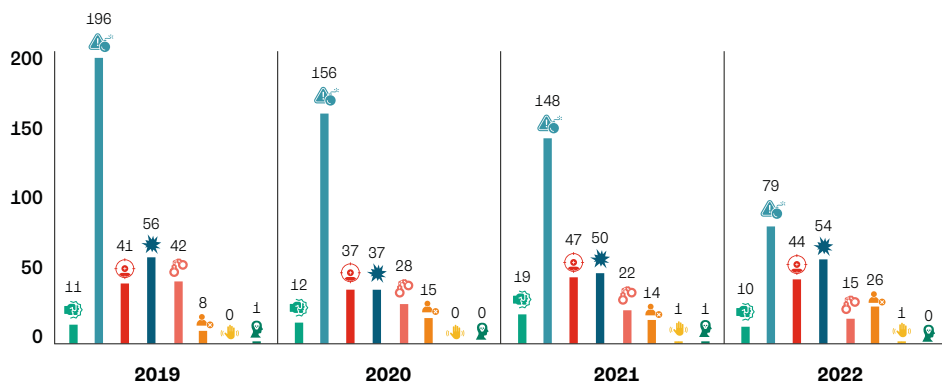
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**1.171 cases** of violence against human rights defenders were mapped between 2019 and 2022.

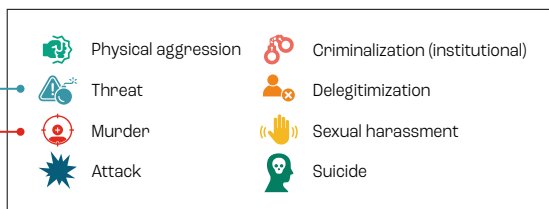
### Violations by year:



## Violations by type of violence and by year:



Threats are at the top of violations, with an **annual average of 144 cases**.



On average, **3 defenders were murdered per month** in the analyzed period.



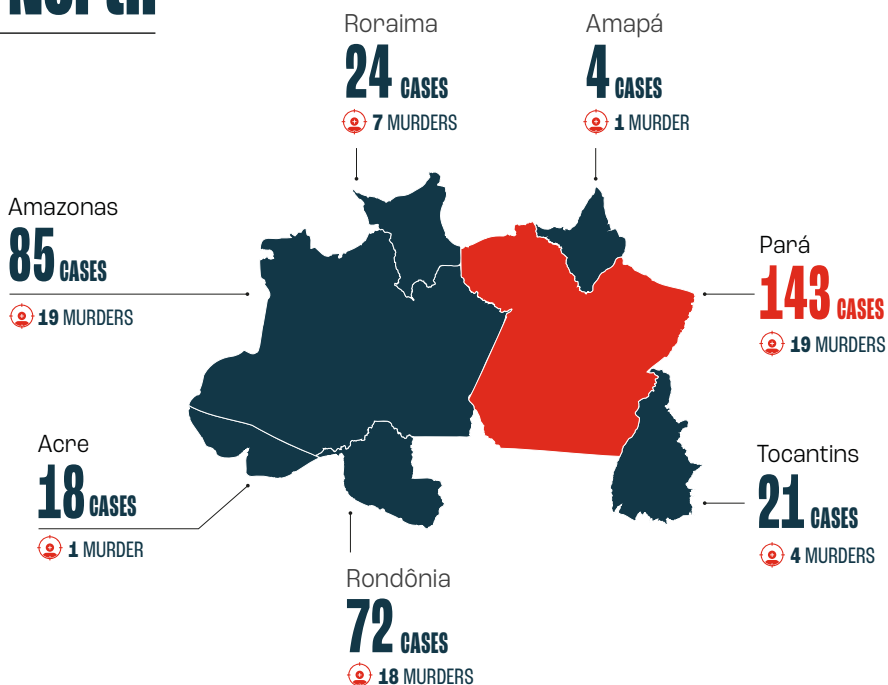
140 murdered human rights defenders were fighting for **the right to land, territory, and an ecologically balanced environment**; this is the type of struggle of 78.5% of human rights defenders victims of any type of violence identified by the survey.



Even though 2022 is the year with the lowest number of cases, it is the year with the **highest proportion of murders** among registered cases.

## Violations by state

### North

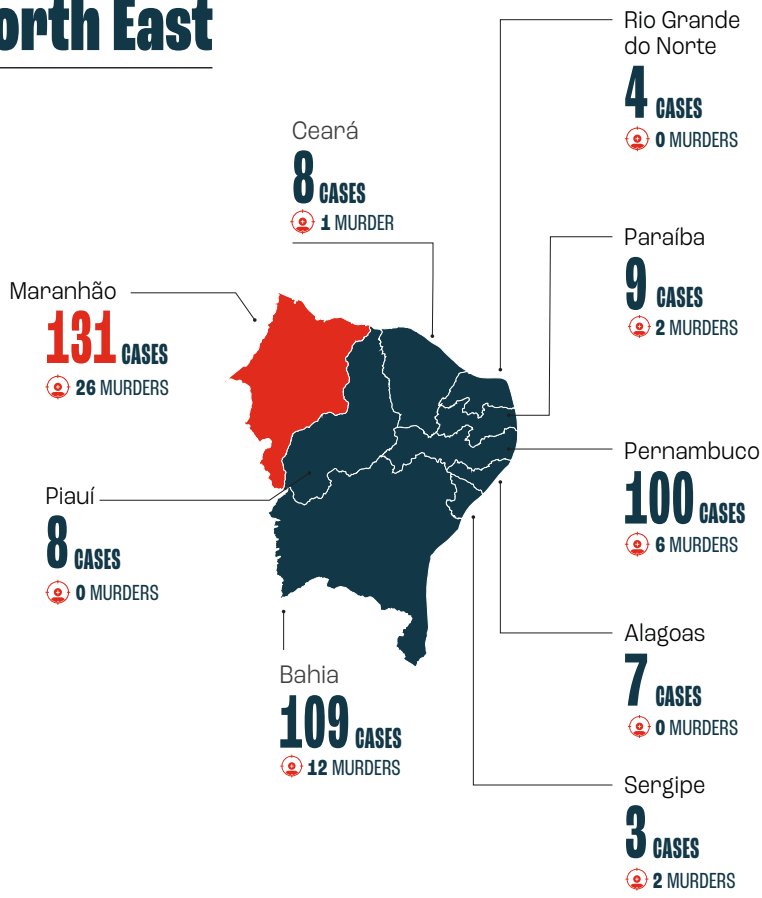


All **27 states** of the federation had at least one incident of violence mapped during the period.



The state with the highest number of registered violations against human rights defenders was **Pará**, where 143 violations occurred, followed by **Maranhão**, with 131 cases, and **Bahia**, with 109 cases.

# North East



# South



# Central-West

Mato Grosso

**53** CASES

 **10** MURDERS

Mato Grosso  
do Sul

**57** CASES

 **9** MURDERS

Goiás

**7** CASES

 **0** MURDERS

Distrito  
Federal

**29** CASES

 **0** MURDERS

# Southeast

Minas Gerais

**58** CASES

 **1** MURDER

Espírito  
Santo

**10** CASES

 **3** MURDERS

São Paulo

**74** CASES

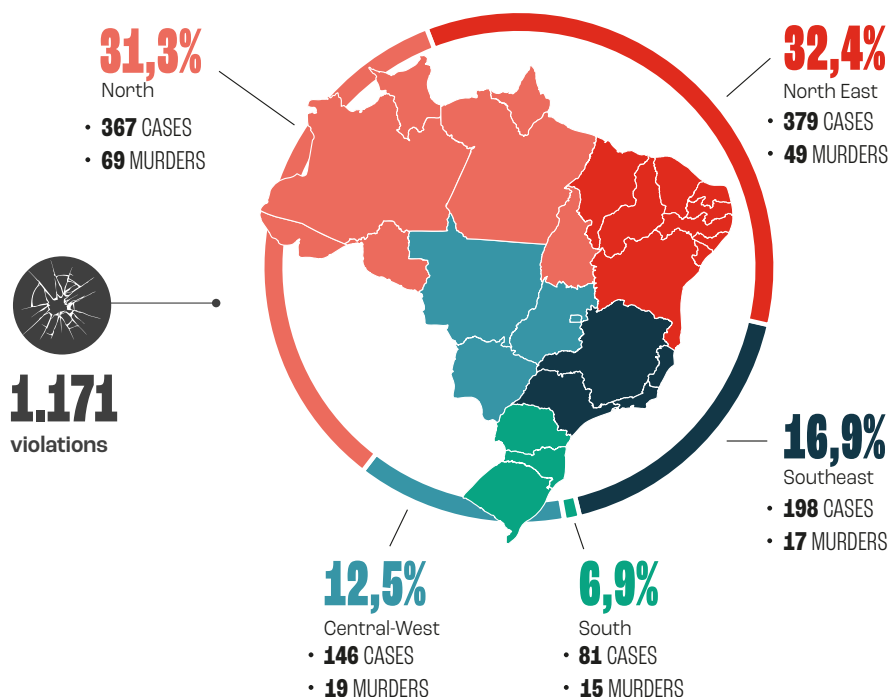
 **8** MURDERS

Rio de  
Janeiro

**56** CASES

 **5** MURDERS

## Violations by region



Among the five Brazilian regions, **the Northeast and North concentrate the greatest number of violations** against human rights defenders

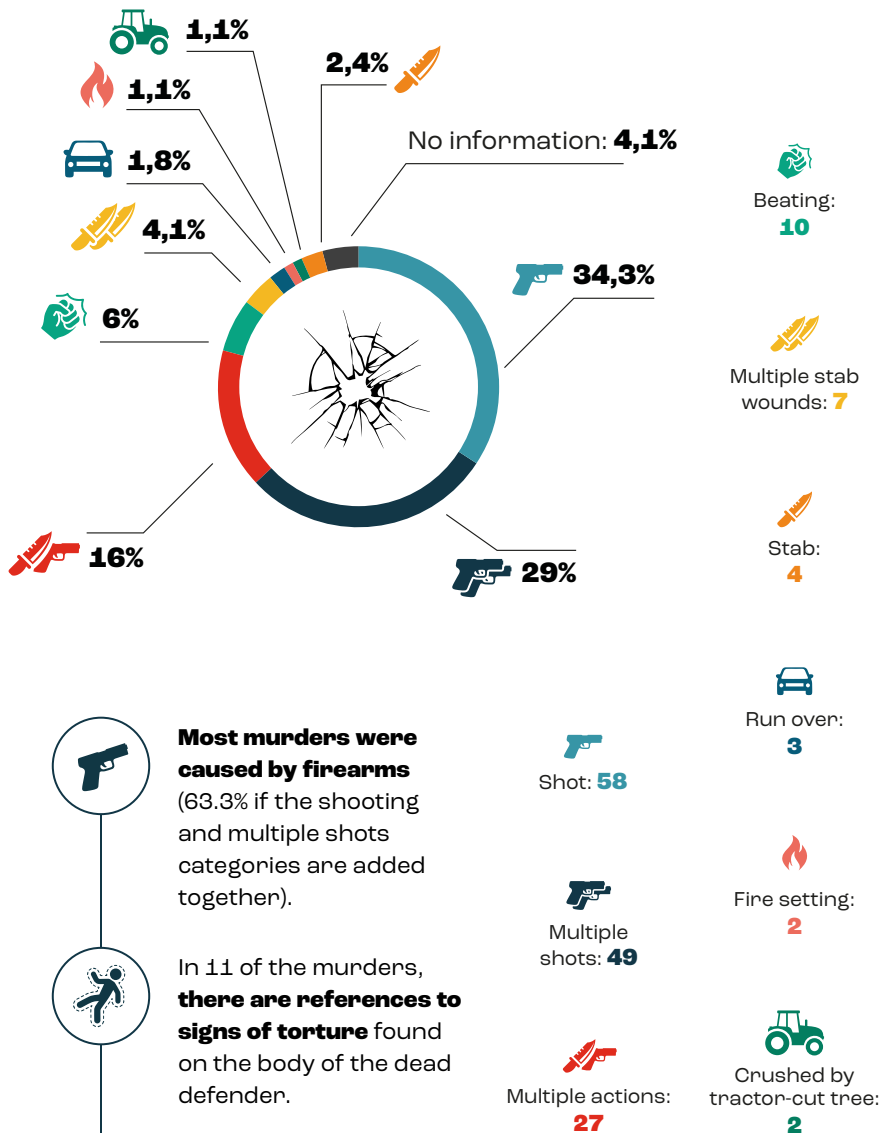


**The North is the region with the highest number of murders**, which can be explained by the high rate of **land conflicts** in the region (grabbing public lands, invasions of indigenous lands, deforestation, illegal mining)



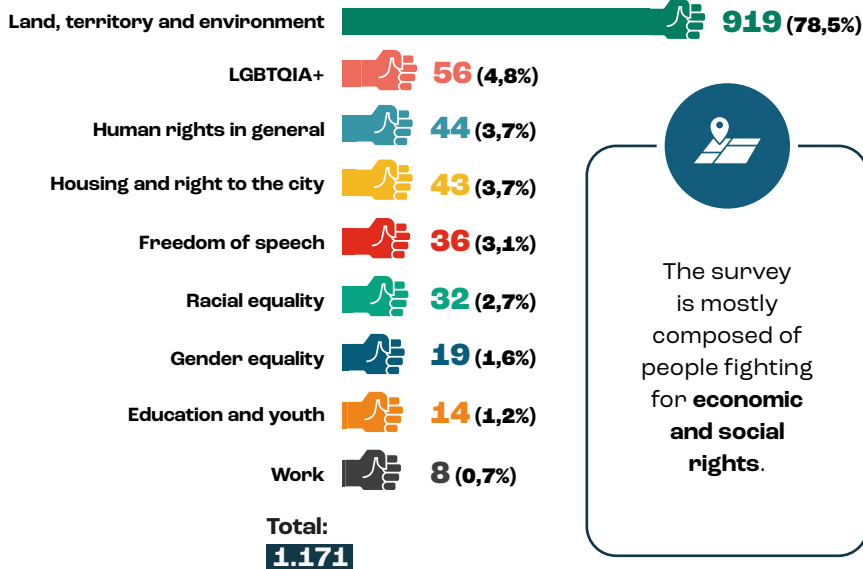
Almost half (47%) of cases of violence against human rights defenders were registered in the **Legal Amazon**.

## Characteristics of the murders

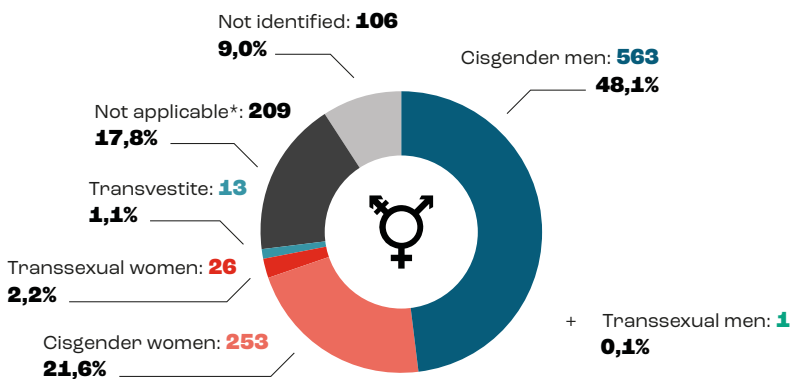




## Type of struggle of the defenders

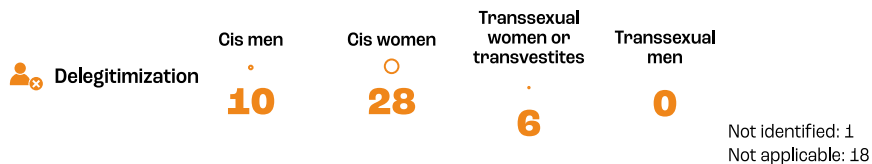


## Victims' gender



\* The gender category, as well as color or race, does not apply to cases in which the victim was a collective subject (such as a social movement, an entity, or a community).

## Gender, by type of violation:



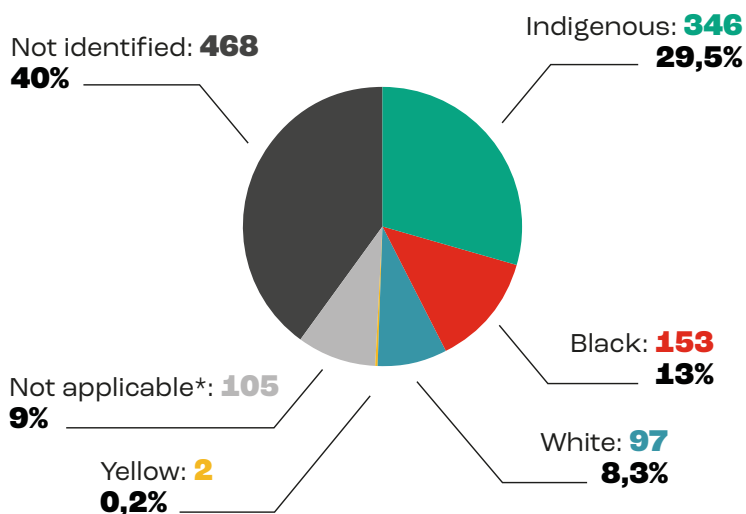
For every 5 people murdered,  
**4 are men**

Women are more often victims of **threats**, which represent 63% of the violence registered against them.

The proportion of murders among **transsexual or transvestite** defenders is also high: 1 out of 4 violence registered against this population, in the survey.

\*The table shows only the types of violations whose aspects related to gender, color, or race were observed in more detail in the research

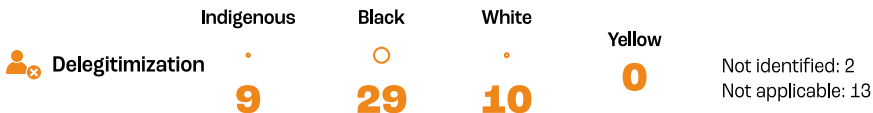
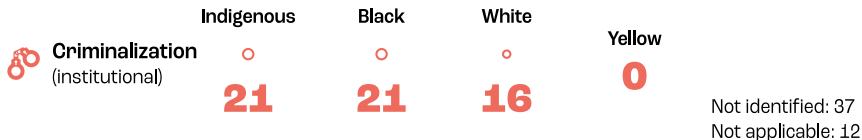
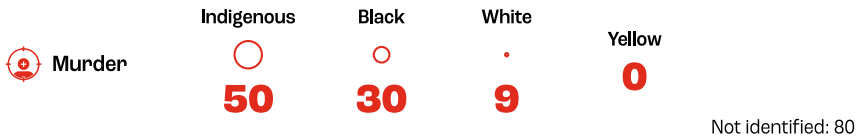
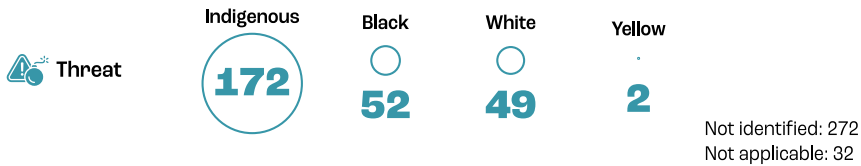
## Color or race of victims:



**Indigenous people were victims in more than ¼ of the cases of violations** registered in the survey and in almost 60% of the cases in which it was possible to identify the race or color of the victims.

\* The category of color or race, as well as gender, does not apply to cases in which the victim was a collective subject (such as a social movement, an entity, or a community).

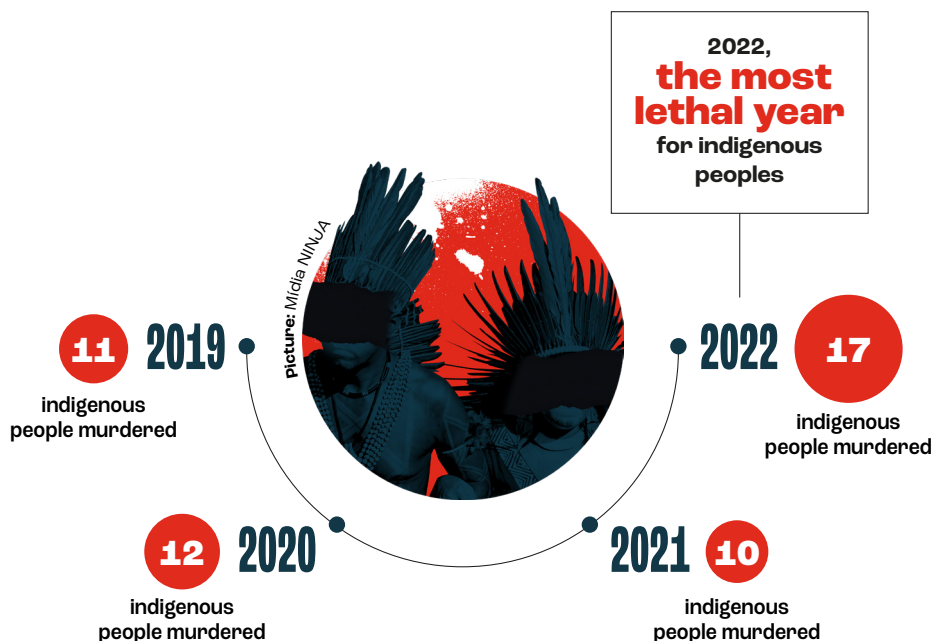
## Color or race, by type of violation:



The average number of **indigenous and black people** murdered is greater than the average of other violations suffered by these population groups

**Murders** are 1 out of every 5 violence registered against black defenders; among white male and female defenders, murders account for nearly 1 in 10 reported violence against this group

\*The table shows only the types of violations whose aspects related to gender, color, or race were observed in more detail in the research



## Violator agent and types of violation

### Public agent



### Private agent



Private agents are **primarily responsible for attacks** on the lives of human rights defenders, threats, and attacks.



In most of the murders, it was farmers, miners, private security guards, or other actors belonging to the typology of **private agents** who committed the crime.



In the 26 murders in which the presence of a **public agent** is pointed out, it is the police. In some of these, the police are cited as being co-responsible alongside ranchers and gunmen.

### Public agent



Attacks



**35**

(19,4%)



Criminalization



**100**

(35,8%)



Delegitimization



**37**

(13,3%)

Total:

**244**

### Private agent



Attacks



**86**

(22,9%)



Criminalization

.

**4**

(1,1%)



Delegitimization

.

**13**

(3,5%)

Total:

**360**

# THIS REPORT IS CO-AUTHORED BY TWO BRAZILIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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**Terra de Direitos** was founded in 2002 and advocates for the defence, promotion, and enforcement of human rights, especially economic, social, cultural, and environmental. It supports human rights defenders in their role of social transformation and challenges the structural causes of violence against people and communities in struggle for rights. It uses a movement lawyering strategy that combines advocacy, popular education, and domestic and international litigation. It also works for fair access to land, agroecological production, biodiversity protection, and the democratization of the justice system.

[www.terradedireitos.org.br](http://www.terradedireitos.org.br)

**Justiça Global** was founded in 1999 and works to protect and promote human rights and strengthen civil society and democracy. It denounces human rights violations, influences public policy making for fundamental rights and gender and race equity, promotes the strengthening of democratic institutions, and urges the authorities to ensure that victims of human rights abuses and those who defend them are protected and respected. It has four thematic programs and an administrative area, forming a multidisciplinary team that articulates research and documentation strategies, litigation, advocacy, communication, and training.

[www.global.org.br](http://www.global.org.br)



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