



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

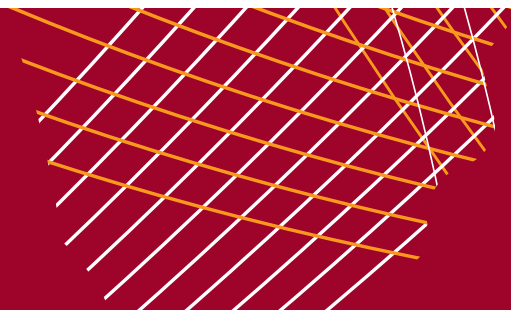


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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear friends, dear colleagues, dear partners,

It is with great pleasure that we present Conectas' 2011 activity report. 2011 was a very special year for Conectas, as it marked two very significant moments in the organization's history: the organization's 10th anniversary, a milestone!, and a leadership transition.

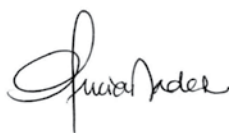
Conectas' 10th anniversary was an opportunity for the organization to look at how far it has come: we are proud of our accomplishments over the past ten years: Conectas has established itself as a reference organization in the field of human rights in the Global South; it has contributed to destabilizing the institutional practice of systematic human rights abuses in the Brazilian prison system; it has influenced the decisions of the Supreme Court with regards to fundamental rights; it has provided training and capacity-building courses to numerous NGOs in many countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia, and has fostered an extensive network of practitioners and scholars; it has produced and disseminated an academic publication that has contributed to fostering a critical debate on human rights issues from a Global South perspective; it has monitored and influenced Brazilian foreign policy with regards to human rights; it has worked to engage civil society organizations with regional and international human rights mechanisms; and it has established a fruitful dialogue with counterparts in the North.

On this journey, the contribution and inspiration of our partners, the support and trust of our donors, and the dedication of a talented and committed staff have been fundamental. To all of them, we express our heartfelt gratitude.

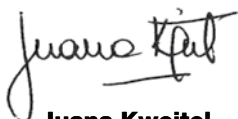
In 2011, Conectas underwent an important organizational change, as Malak Poppovic and Oscar Vilhena, the two founders of the organization, stood down as co-directors. The leadership transition was carried out under the direction of Conectas' Board of Directors. The new leadership has worked at Conectas for many years, and we are conscious of the responsibility that befalls us today in continuing to carry out the visionary work that started 10 years ago.

We know the challenges ahead are numerous and arduous, but we feel prepared to confront them. The values on which the organization was built: our idealism, ability to connect different actors and decision-makers, to innovate and to constantly reinvent ourselves, as well as our perseverance, will continue to guide us.

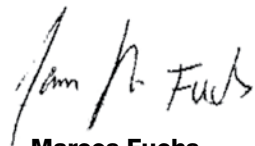
Sincerely,



Lucia Nader
Executive Director



Juana Kweitel
Director of Programs



Marcos Fuchs
Associate Director



TEN YEARS OF EXISTENCE



“ The building of an international human rights organization in/from the South required dedication, persistency and idealism from a group of human rights defenders. The challenge of assessing impact and value added of our activities in the protection of rights has always been at the center of our preoccupation”

Malak Poppovic, **Conectas' founder and currently Senior Advisor for special projects**

“ As a pioneer NGO and leader in the advancement of Human Rights around the globe, the UN Foundation is proud to have been one of Conectas' original supporters; The progress you've achieved to strengthen the voices of human rights advocates in the Global South and promote stronger South-South cooperation is a true testament to your unique vision and dedicated leadership and staff.”

Susan Myers, **United Nations Foundation**

“ Today, one of the most important challenges facing Human Rights defenders in the global south countries is to form effective networks and collaborations among themselves to force their governments to respect and promote Human Rights. We have found Conectas to be one of the most important and leading organizations on this front, particularly with Brazil emerging as a major power Conectas is playing an important role in focusing Brazil's foreign policy in Human Rights issues in countries such as Iran.”

Hadji Ghaemi, **International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran**

There are people and organizations that dedicate their existence to the defense of human rights. For them, the challenges and obstacles they face today are as daunting as ever.

Conectas was born ten years ago of the resolve of Malak Poppovic and Oscar Vilhena, two scholars and human rights defenders, who, convinced that a truly global, diverse and effective movement was key to the protection of human rights globally, dreamt up an organization that would connect voices of human rights defenders from the South among themselves, and would empower them to effectively defend, promote and protect their rights, at home and abroad. Over the years, the organization has evolved, grown and expanded into a reference human rights organization in the Global South. Projects have been added and areas have been strengthened in order to better respond to a constantly changing world order.

As Conectas celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2011, the need for louder, clearer, more determined voices from the South in the Global human rights agenda is being felt across the Global South and globally. More than ever, we feel ready, prepared, and entitled to carry out such an important mission.

The completion of our first ten years of existence is a milestone which led us to carry out a number of activities to reflect on the projects that were implemented and on the results achieved and to draw up some of the lessons that had been learned.

ON THE FRONTLINES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

In May 2011, Conectas organized a celebration meeting with partner organizations at the premises of the Ford Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, entitled “On The Frontlines of Human Rights in the Global South: Lessons Learned by Conectas and Partner Organizations”. The seminar brought together a group of human rights defenders, from Brazil and beyond, enabling donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss common approaches to building the human rights infrastructure of the Global South. A large number of countries were represented by the 30 participants: Argentina, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

The meeting took place as revolutions in the Arab World were redefining the global order; the event was a time to reflect and think, but also to celebrate the fact that human rights activists are currently on the front-line of a global revolution.

Malak Poppovic and Oscar Vilhena Vieira, founders of the organization, spoke of the motivation that led them to establish Conectas, in September 2001, and of the development of the organization's projects and main results since then.

“As we celebrate Conectas' 10th Anniversary, we also need to pay tribute to our partners, human rights defenders, NGOs, academics, from across the Global South, whose expertise, dedication to and faith in their causes were a permanent source of inspiration and knowledge. We could not have achieved any of it without them. They are our companions on this arduous journey.”

Juana Kweitel, **Director of Programs**, Conectas

“The global human rights movement needs to be a true reflection of the complexity and diversity of the causes it defends. For ten years, Conectas has sought to foster a more diversified, strong and effective voice from the Global South and we hope to be able to continue to do so for many years to come.”

Lucia Nader, **Executive Director**, Conectas

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE SUR JOURNAL - THE MAKING OF AN ORGANIZATION FROM/IN THE SOUTH

In a series of special articles in issue 15 of the Sur Journal, the founders and current directors of the organization discussed the challenges that were overcome over these ten years of existence, and those that still lie ahead. In three articles written by former and current directors and staff, Conectas shares its successes, challenges and reflections on the history of the organization since its creation.

ARTICLES

THE MAKING OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FROM/IN THE SOUTH

by Malak El-Chichini Poppovic and Lucia Nader.

"For its 10th anniversary, the purpose is to share our experiences, lessons learned and common achievements with friends and partners. This is particularly important because Conectas was from the start a collective endeavor that involved not only a dedicated team but also members of a network that has been built throughout the years."

STRATEGIC ADVOCACY IN HUMAN RIGHTS: CONECTAS' EXISTENCE

by Oscar Vilhena Vieira, and Eloísa Machado de Almeida.

"(...) we have found innumerable indications that the same actions by a small office of strategic advocacy, such as that of Conectas, can indeed contribute to a reduction in the invisibility of violations and the impunity of violators and the perfection of the institutional mechanisms that are geared toward the question of human rights."

A JOURNAL FROM THE SOUTH WITH A GLOBAL REACH

by Pedro Paulo Poppovic and Juana Kweitel.

"Today, seven years later, the political and economic world has changed. (...) New visions are surfacing that will undoubtedly affect the conceptualization and the struggle for human rights. The future of Sur Journal depends on us being able to understand and interact with this new reality."

CELEBRATION AT THE XI INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM

The XI International Human Rights Colloquium was a particularly symbolic moment, since the organization had been created at the closing of the International Human Rights Colloquium in 2001. At the end of the conference, to the tune of an all-women samba band, accompanied by a typical Brazilian lunch of "Feijoada," Conectas celebrated the close of its 11th Colloquium and its 10th anniversary with the participants, observers, Conectas' former and current staff, Conectas Board Members, and partner organizations.

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

While many successes have been reached, many obstacles overcome, and many battles won, the challenges ahead are still numerous:

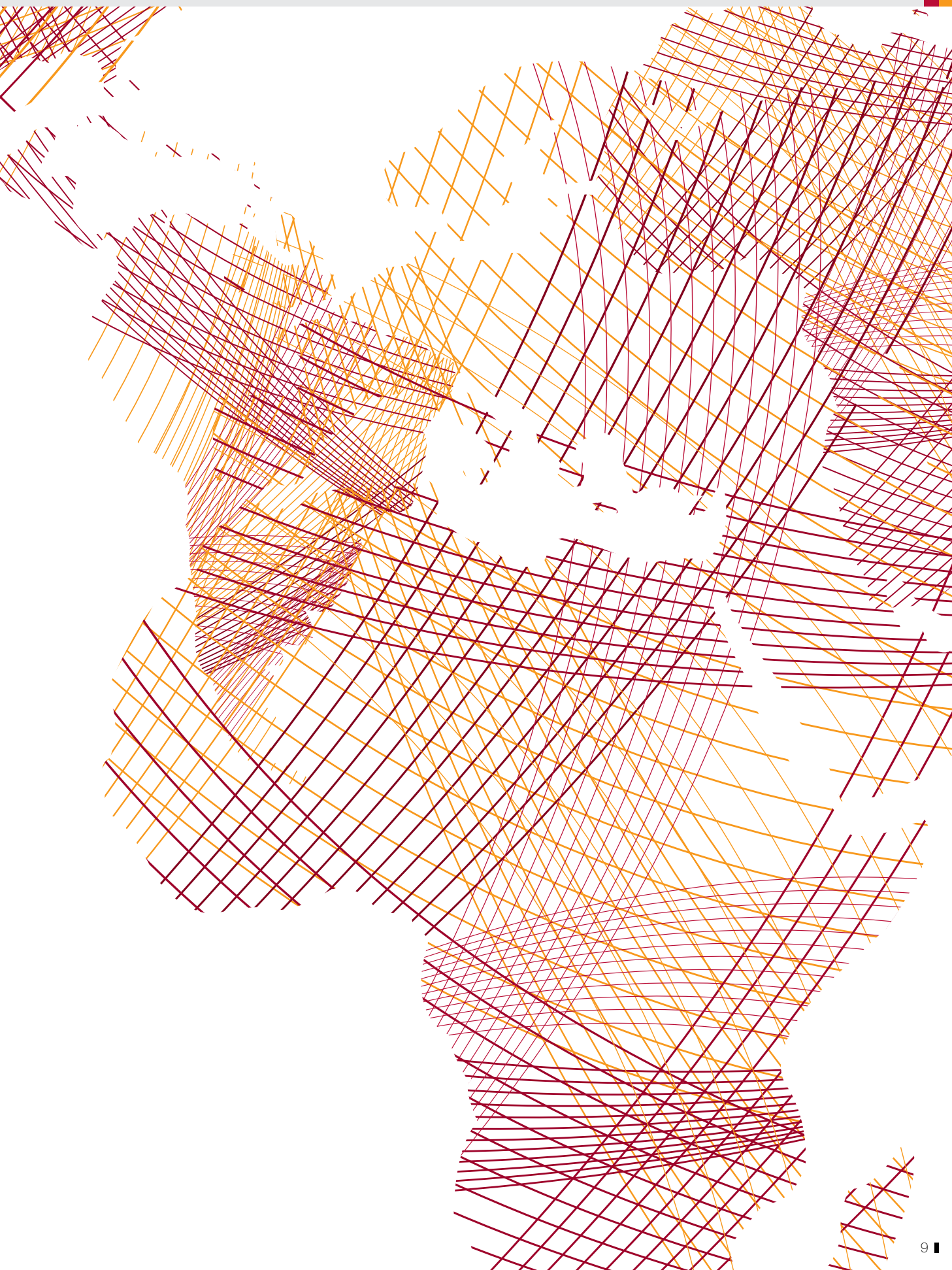
>> Organizations have to fight old battles while at the same time incorporating new strategies and agenda items to their work in a changing global order;

>> The sustainability of organizations in the South is constantly being threatened, as their infrastructure is often very much dependent on foreign, short-term funding, and, for number of them, their governance practices are still in the making;

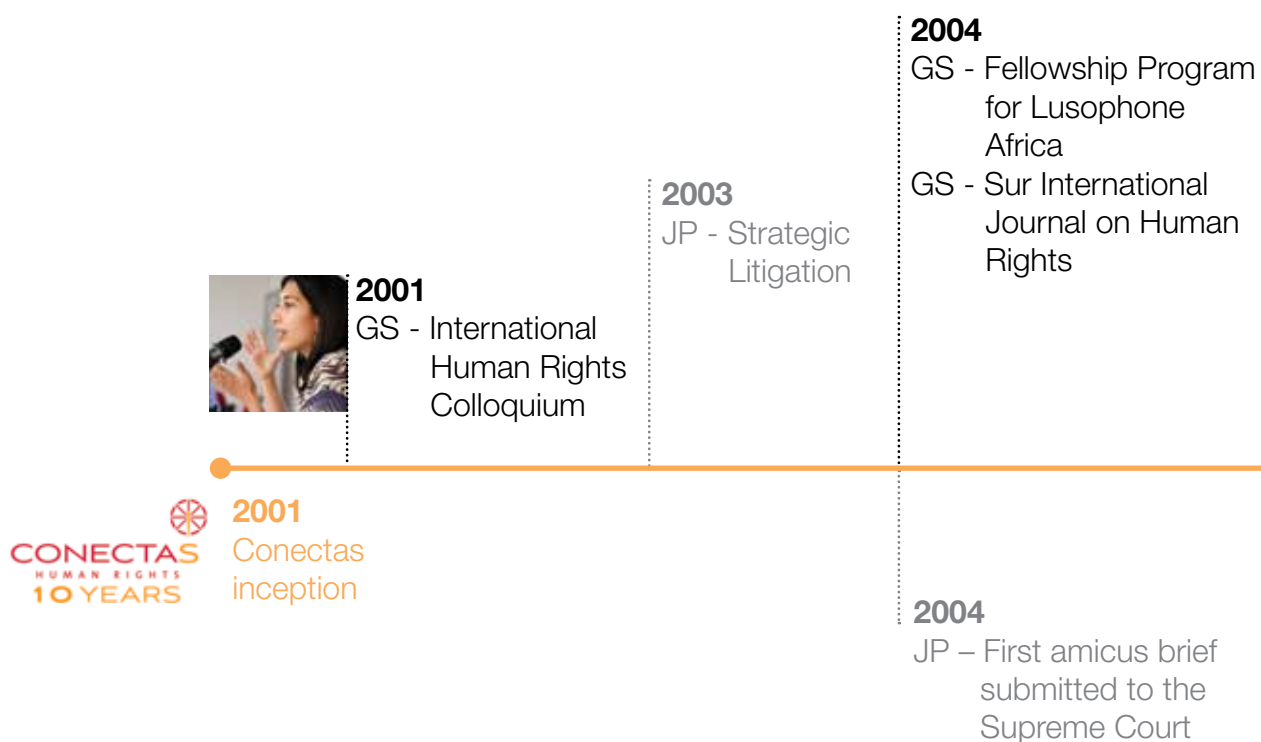
>> Organizations in the South often lack the local support of their own people and society, which makes it difficult to carry out the necessary, profound institutional reforms needed to remedy some systematic violation practices.

In the arduous journey that lies ahead, Conectas is grateful to all those who, since the very beginning or later, have believed in its mission, have invested in its people and work, and have stood side by our side in some difficult and challenging battles; much more than donors, they are our partners and inspiration.

In particular, our thanks go to our historic main donors, United Nations Foundation, Ford Foundation and the Open Society Foundations, who have always believed in Conectas' mission and supported us to make our vision of a strong international organization based in the South a reality.



TIMELINE



GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM - GS

JUSTICE PROGRAM - JP

INSTITUTIONAL - I

2005

GS - Foreign Policy and
Human Rights Project

2006

GS – Creation of the Brazilian
Committee of Human
Rights and Foreign Policy

2010

GS – Permanent
Representation
in Geneva

2011

JP – Permanent
Representation
in Brasília

**2006**

I - Consultative Status
with the United
Nations

**2009**

I - Observer Status
with the African
Commission on
Human and Peoples'
Rights

2007

I – Strengthening of the Institutional
and Communication department

2011

I - Directors'
transition

GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM

Ten years ago, a group of human rights activists, academics and practitioners founded Conectas Direitos Humanos, an international human rights organization based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with the mission of promoting respect for human rights and contributing to the consolidation of the Rule of Law in the Global South – Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Conectas was founded on some fundamental beliefs that are still embedded in the organization's *raison d'être*: human rights defenders and their organizations in the Global South have to be stronger and work collaboratively in order to have a greater impact; southern countries can play an important role to uphold the promotion and respect of human rights not only at home but also through their foreign policies; the relevance and efficiency of regional and international human rights mechanisms depend on the ability of civil society actors to work to improve them, holding their government's decisions in these fora accountable and to monitor the implementation of their decisions and recommendations.

However, many problems still stand in the way of the realization of these conditions, as human rights defenders and organizations:

- >> Frequently lack access to proper information, knowledge and experience-sharing opportunities, particularly with organizations working in similar contexts in the Global South;
- >> Suffer from a lack of resources and/or familiarity with the methods of work of international mechanisms and of the foreign policies of their countries;
- >> Face new challenges with the expansion of their work agendas, having to deal with new topics such as the link between economic development and human rights violations and the limits of the international community in dealing with crisis or conflict situations, as well as focus on historical struggles such as policy violence, torture and discrimination;
- >> In addition, they get little if no support, financial or political, from their own societies, to draw together the legitimacy and influence necessary to monitor their governments' international

decisions, and hold them accountable for not upholding human rights principles in foreign policy decisions;

>> Finally, the human rights agenda is still determined in large parts by developed countries or important historic international human rights organizations that have, among others, the necessary resources to produce knowledge and to influence mainstream international media.

More connected, qualified and informed voices from the Global South need to be heard, so that the international human rights agenda is a genuine reflection of human rights concerns all over the globe and real changes can occur on the ground.

Conectas has developed projects at the regional and international levels to address these issues and contribute to building a diverse and effective global human rights movement. These various initiatives, described in more details in the following pages, aim at building capacity and network for NGOs in the Global South in order to strengthen the autonomy and the individual and collective impact of human rights defenders and organizations, at fostering and disseminating the production of knowledge originating in the South, and at holding Brazil and other emerging countries' governments accountable for their foreign policy decisions affecting human rights:

FOREIGN POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR LUSOPHONE AFRICA

SUR JOURNAL



FOREIGN POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

OUR METHODOLOGY

Engage in advocacy activities to monitor and influence the foreign policy impacting human rights

Raise public awareness and use local and international media to denounce egregious human rights violations and problematic foreign policy decisions

Provide training to build capacity for human rights defenders and conduct collaborative cross-regional advocacy campaigns

Make use of regional and international human rights systems and mechanisms

Created in 2005, Conectas' Foreign Policy and Human Rights project aims at:

- *Making governments accountable at home for their foreign policies impacting human rights, by monitoring and influencing the foreign policies of key countries, especially Brazil and other emerging powers, to ensure better international protection;*
- *Promoting cross-regional activities, knowledge and experience sharing initiatives among southern civil society organizations and human rights defenders to improve the effectiveness and the reach of their action;*
- *Using regional and international human rights mechanisms, such as the UN Human Rights Council and the African and Inter-American Human Rights Commissions to provide visibility to cases of human rights violations, and to encourage States to comply with their recommendations.*

SIX YEARS IN OVERVIEW

Over the past six years, Conectas has influenced and increased visibility and public scrutiny on issues related to foreign policy on human rights, especially the Brazilian voting record at the UN and the country's position regarding human rights crises in specific countries, such as Sudan, Sri Lanka, Burma, Iran and North Korea.

It has also raised media coverage and improved checks and balances in the Brazilian foreign policy decision-making process.

Finally, it has become a reference in working to make Southern emerging democracies accountable at home for their international behavior.

At the UN, Conectas participated in all main sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, and in sessions of the African Commission for Human and Peoples' rights. In 2010, Conectas included activities related to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

More than 500 human rights defenders from more than 25 countries received training from Conectas, with a special focus on ensuring civil society participation in the UN Universal Periodic Review and the African human rights system.

Conectas has launched, coordinated or participated in several international advocacy campaigns to revert the human rights violations in places like Burma, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Iran, and North Korea.



A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

> MAKING BRAZIL ACCOUNTABLE AT HOME FOR ITS FOREIGN POLICY

>> THE BRAZILIAN COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN POLICY AND THE MINIMUM AGENDA ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2011, Conectas' foreign policy coordinator served as Executive Secretary of the Brazilian Committee on Human Rights and Foreign Policy (CBDHPE), a mandate which was renewed until the beginning of 2013. The Committee, an initiative launched by Conectas in 2006 and which is composed by NGOs, legislative human rights committees and the Judiciary to make the Executive more transparent and accountable for its foreign Policy, has been an essential tool used domestically to monitor and influence the country's foreign Policy agenda with regard to its respect of human rights.

Minimum agenda

Leading up to Brazil's presidential elections in 2010, Conectas worked with the Committee for the adoption by the presidential candidates of a minimum agenda on human rights and foreign policy that would ensure Brazil's commitment to human rights nationally - by complying with and implementing obligations to which it is a party through Brazilian law and international human rights law - and Internationally - by governing its foreign policy according to the prevalence of human rights, as established in Art. 4, section II of the Federal Constitution, and by international obligations assumed by the country.

The Committee elaborated 10 commitments in Human Rights and Foreign Policy to which then candidate Dilma Rousseff publicly adhered and through which she pledged to:

1. Adhere to pending regional and international human rights documents, so as to broaden the spectrum of the protection of the human rights of all Brazilians.
2. Comply with and implement regional and international human rights decisions and recommendations, making such efforts public;

3. Comply with terms for delivering reports to regional and international human rights bodies. These should be drafted transparently, with a process of consultation with civil society;
4. Giving human rights priority over other interests;
5. Using the capacity for dialogue to support human rights;
6. Strengthening regional and international human rights bodies;
7. Emphasizing human rights in Brazilian bilateral agendas;
8. Guaranteeing access to information in the formulation and management of foreign policy;
9. Carrying out public consultations regarding Brazil's involvement in human rights;
10. Guaranteeing democratic control over foreign policy.

In May 2011, after President Dilma Rousseff took office the Committee organized a public hearing with the Lower House of Congress, in order to discuss with different branches of the government what measures would be adopted for the implementation of the Minimum Agenda. Since then, the agenda has served as a benchmark to monitor and evaluate the government's decisions with regards to human rights and Foreign Policy.

“The Minimum Agenda on Human Rights is of undeniable relevance as it fills the void created by the discretionary mandate of the Executive Branch in foreign policy, serving as an important reference guide to the monitoring and evaluation of the Brazilian foreign policy actions with regards to its transparent and participative aspects and, most importantly, to its respect for human rights.”

Camila Asano, **Foreign Policy and Human Rights**, Conectas

>> BRAZIL, THE UN AND THE MIDDLE EAST

In March 2011, Conectas, in partnership with the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (ICHR) coordinated the visit of two Iranian human rights activists and conducted an advocacy campaign in Brazil to influence the vote of Brazil at the Human Rights Council. Specifically, the human rights organizations were looking for the Brazilian support for a UN Human Rights Council resolution that would establish the mandate of a Special Rapporteur to investigate human rights violations in Iran. The mission resulted in the favorable vote of Brazil for the resolution. Until that point, Conectas had mostly focused its activities on Africa, Latin America and Asia. While clearly belonging to the Global South, the Middle East regions had not been the direct focus of Conectas' action but were rather indirect beneficiaries of some of its programs like the International Colloquium or the Sur Journal; indeed, the challenges presented by the language barrier and the lack of easily identifiable partners on the ground made it more difficult for Conectas to get involved.

As the Arab Spring entered into its most intense phase, and called on the international community, and on its civil society organizations, to react to the constantly evolving situation on the ground, Conectas focused increasingly on monitoring and influencing Brazil's foreign policy with regards to crises in the Middle East and North Africa, conducting vast, regional advocacy campaigns on the cases of Iran, Libya, Syria, or Egypt. In particular, international human rights mechanisms like the UN Human Rights Council were solicited, as well as intense use of internet and print media.

> ACCESSING THE UN SYSTEM

>> THE UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Conectas' passage through the second cycle of the UPR, in 2011 and 2012, was a critical time to expose some of Brazil century-old violations. Conectas got involved in the preparation process, submitted reports, and coordinated the effort of a number of other

civil society organizations, encouraging them to send reports to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Conectas' Foreign Policy and Human Rights project worked hand in hand with the Justice Program to elaborate a report on Human Rights Violations in Prisons and co-sign, in partnership with other organizations, four other reports on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Intellectual Property and Access to Medicine, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Human Rights and Companies. Important efforts were deployed throughout the past year to ensure that the UPR was a meaningful process through which Brazil could receive sound and important recommendations regarding its domestic track record on human rights issues at home during its review in May 2012. The implementation of the recommendations will remain a focus of Conectas' work in the years to come.

In addition, over the course of the past year, Conectas worked with a number of civil society partner organizations to help coordinate their participation in their own country's UPR. In Venezuela, Conectas taught a training course about the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

“ *Working with the UPR mechanism requires ongoing dedication. The review does not start and definitely does not end with the evaluation of the country in Geneva by the Human Rights Council. Perhaps the most challenging stage of this process starts right after the review, with the process of implementation of the recommendations, in order to attain the mechanism's ultimate objective: improving the human rights situation on the ground,”*

Fabiana Leibl, **Foreign Policy and Human Rights**, Conectas

>> LATIN AMERICAN VOICES AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The presence in Geneva of a permanent joint-representative between three Latin American organizations (Conectas together with CELS/Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales de Argentina and Corporación Humanas de Chile) has proven to be an essential tool through which to conduct advocacy prior to, during, and following the Council sessions. Through 2011, Conectas attended the 16th, 17th and 18th sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva. Advocacy was conducted on both thematic and country-related items, and focused on, among others, the human rights situation in Iran, Venezuela, Burma, Honduras, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bahrain, Libya, and Haiti; and on issues related to remote participation in the sessions for civil society.

Recognition as relevant stakeholder actors in the Treaty Bodies' reform process

Through the joint representation in Geneva, the three organizations were key actors during the consultations led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Treaty Bodies' strengthening process aiming to make the system more consistent, coordinated and effective. Three consultation meetings were convened by the OHCHR in 2011 and the organizations were represented in all of them. On April 2011, Conectas participated in the Civil Society Consultation on Strengthening UN Treaty Body System, held in Seoul, Korea. CELS participated in the Civil Society Consultation on Strengthening the UN Treaty Body System that took place in Pretoria, South Africa, in June 2011 and also attended the meeting in Dublin in November 2011, when the consultation process initiated by the OHCHR was concluded. The three organizations will continue to work together to ensure civil society participation and elaborate substantive proposals for the State-driven reform process that is now being conducted in New York.

>> THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Since 2010, Conectas has been conducting advocacy to pressure the Brazilian authorities to submit their report about the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In the meanwhile, Conectas has been coordinating a network of organizations that will prepare an alternative civil society report to the Committee. Brazil's passage in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review was a great opportunity to raise awareness of the issues. During Brazil's passage in Geneva, which Conectas attended along with a partner organization working on the issue, various countries asked questions about the implementation of the Convention, which Conectas sees as a great victory for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be understood and treated along other basic rights.

> REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS: THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

>> THE 50TH SESSION

The African Charter established the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Commission was inaugurated on 2 November 1987 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Commission's Secretariat has subsequently been located in Banjul, The Gambia.

In addition to performing any other tasks which may be entrusted to it by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Commission is officially charged with three major functions:

- *the protection of human and peoples' rights*
- *the promotion of human and peoples' rights*
- *the interpretation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*

Since 2011, Conectas has worked with African partner organizations to empower civil society organizations in Africa to make use of regional and international human rights protection mechanisms and to strengthen cross-regional cooperation in the Global South.

The engagement of civil society in this mechanism of the African human rights system is fraught with difficulties, such as delays in review and delivery times, unpredictability surrounding when the report on the State will be reviewed by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and weak monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations that result from the assessment process.

Yet the participation of civil society is essential to provide a counterpoint to the government reports and to allow the review to be conducted based on credible information. Therefore, the review of the report by the African Commission could lead to improvements in the implementation of the articles of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

In 2011, Conectas promoted the participation of activists from Angola, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa in the 50th session of the African Commission, which took place in Banjul, The Gambia, in October.

>> THE TRAINING COURSE

Prior to the session, Conectas co-organized a training course on the African Regional Human Rights Mechanisms, in partnership with International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations (OHCHR).

The training aimed at equipping human rights defenders and leaders from different parts of Africa to make better use of the regional and international human rights systems. In particular, the course focused on the African Commission for Human and People's Rights and the African Court on Human and People's Rights. The participants also conducted visits to the headquarters of the Commission in Banjul, and held a meeting with its staff. This allowed the participants to create contacts and build networks within the Commission, thus simplifying and clarifying the process of sending a case to the court, and encouraging them to do so.

According to Maria Lucia de Silveira of AJPD, Association for Justice, Peace and Democracy, Angola, the training was very useful and enlightening; it allowed human rights defenders to understand better the African Human Rights system, as well as the United Nations systems. It taught the importance of maintaining the information about human rights defenders secret, in order to protect them. It also allowed human rights defenders from various African countries to interact and share experience related to the strategies used by each organizations in the fight for and defense of human rights defenders.

“ *During the course, we were able to understand that Networking is one of the strategies that we have to use to allow action in network, because we are still very distant from each other, and this rapprochement is much needed.”*

Lucia da Silveira, AJPD – Associação Justiça, Paz e Democracia, Angola

>> ROAD MAP FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT: STATE REPORTING PROCEDURE OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

During the 50th Session of the ACHPR, Conectas, the Association for Justice, Peace and Democracy (Angola) and the International Service for Human Rights (Switzerland), launched the “Road Map for Civil Society Engagement: State reporting procedure of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. The purpose of the Road Map is to provide basic information for the participation of NGOs in the African Commission's assessment of human rights situations in member countries and, thereafter, in monitoring the recommendations to comply with the articles of the African Charter. Therefore, the Road Map describes challenges and gives tips that may be used by civil society during this process. The publication is based on real-life experiences from the organizations that contributed to its production; it was published in French, English and Portuguese.



Burma mission to Brazil

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Conectas will continue to monitor Brazil's Foreign policy through its active role in the Committee of Foreign Policy, and through advocacy campaigns organized with partner organizations across the Global South. The recently passed Law of Access to Information will be used as a powerful tool through which to progressively contribute to the establishment of a culture of transparency in matters of Foreign Policy and Human Rights. This law represents a great potential from which all areas of the organization are already making use of. The organization will also conduct research on the limits of the use of force, the responsibility to protect, and the responsibility while protecting, all of which are appearing as central themes in Brazil's foreign policy.

Conectas has been active in monitoring the position of Brazil in the process of strengthening of the Inter-American System and denouncing the lack of dialogue with civil society. This promises to remain an important issue that Conectas will continue to follow in 2012.

The implementation of the UPR recommendations will remain a central focus of the organization's work in the year to come.

Finally, Conectas will also increase work with partner organizations from IBSA countries (India, Brazil, South Africa) to demand accountability and greater coherence in their foreign policy with regards to human rights.

ESC

WOMEN
MULHERES
FEMMES

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
INDIGENAS
POVOS

OP AUTOCHONES

ANES
ENFANTS

IMPO
IN JU
SOLIDA
IGUALDA
MUDANCA

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM

OUR METHODOLOGY

Presentations and debates on issues of great relevance to the Human Rights community

Working groups and case studies organized among linguistic and regional groupings

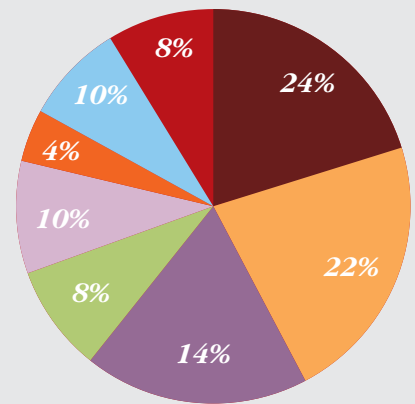
Networking events and opportunities to build contacts

The International Human Rights Colloquium strengthens the individual and collective impact of Global South human rights defenders by producing knowledge and sharing experiences concomitantly, in order to encourage them to assume even more important roles in the promotion of human rights in an international arena. The Colloquium is a unique international gathering that shows the depth and reach of the contacts that Conectas has established over the years in many parts of the Global South; the diversity of the participation is a testimony to Conectas' ability to conduct its work well beyond regional and linguistic lines, because increasingly, human rights defenders confront challenges that can be overcome through similar strategies

TEN YEARS IN OVERVIEW

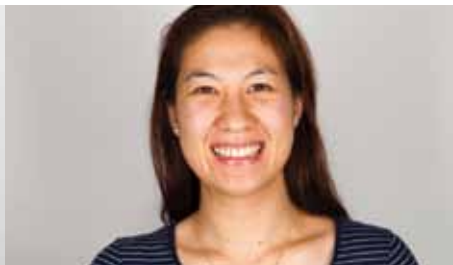
Since its inception, the International Human Rights Colloquium has brought together more than 1065 defenders from over 65 countries in the Global South. Over the years, human rights defenders have gathered in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for a week of experience sharing, capacity and network building. The event, organized along a horizontal methodology that encourages the inclusion of participants as speakers and fosters the analysis of concrete practical cases, promotes the elaboration of strategies and ways to confront challenges. The Colloquium has given light to numerous partnerships, and has been used as a platform from which collaborative projects and joint advocacy campaigns have been launched. Thanks to the training they received in Sao Paulo, many human rights defenders have been empowered to access the mechanisms of Regional and International Human Rights systems. Thanks to the continued support of trusting donors, the Colloquium has been able to innovate and expand in both reach and scope. Initially simultaneously translated into three languages – English, Spanish and Portuguese – the Colloquium is now also made available in French.

Colloquium's Participants by Region



“ I have learnt that despite the differences of language, race and geographical location, the language of human rights and dignity for all is the same.”

Bellinda Chinowawa **Zimbabwe**



“ When you meet people from different parts of the world and you hear that they are experiencing the same thing in their work, there is a feeling of solidarity - knowing that if they were able to overcome obstacles and challenges, our region can too.”

Maria Patricia Cervantes **Philippines**



“ I felt that I participated in a high-level activity, to discuss current and extremely relevant topics. I understood the importance of South-South relations.”

Margarita Navarrete **Uruguay**

A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

In 2011, Conectas organized its XI International Human rights Colloquium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from November 5 to November 12, 2011. The capacity-building and experience sharing event focused on the “Implementation of International and Regional Human Rights Decisions and Recommendations” and gathered 50 human rights defenders from 30 countries from the Global South (Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe), and 39 speakers and observers, among them human rights defenders, funders and academics.

The novelty was the inclusion of French as the fourth official language of the Colloquium. This addition allowed for the participation of human rights activists from various francophone countries, namely Morocco, Algeria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Haiti. This has enabled Conectas to expand its networks to French-speaking African countries, which will contribute to expand the scope of its cross-regional work.

The theme of the XI Colloquium, “Implementation of International and Regional Human Rights Decisions and Recommendations” was chosen for its growing relevance and importance in the field of human rights. Since its creation, the United Nations (UN) and regional human rights systems have been fundamental in the protection of rights, and they have contributed substantially to the improvement of the rule of law in various regions. These mechanisms have, in many cases, been the final remedy available to victims when local institutions fail to protect basic rights. However, despite their importance, many are the challenges for the implementation at the national level of international and regional human rights decisions and recommendations.

Over the course of the week-long program, the theme was discussed and analyzed from the following perspectives: UN human rights system, including treaty bodies, special procedures, Universal Periodic Review, and other innovative UN mechanisms for implementation, as well as regional human rights systems.



Participants to the 11th International Human Rights Colloquium.

“In a time of uncertainty about the efficacy of the UN and the regional human rights systems, we wanted to analyze the real impact of these bodies in protecting human rights on the local level and to provoke a critical debate in civil society on the relevance of these systems and the obstacles that are faced.”

Thiago Amparo, **Research and Training Coordinator**, Conectas

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM



PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

In 2012, the Colloquium will address the following theme: Innovation in Human Rights: Rethinking Agendas and Strategies in the Global South. In a constantly changing world, organizations in the Global South are confronted with the enlargement of their work agenda and the need to incorporate new strategies.

- New work agendas have been added to historical struggles. Among them, will be discussed the link between economic development and human rights violations and the limits of the international community in dealing with crisis or conflict situations.
- New strategies have been added to traditional methods of work. Considering the complexity of human rights issues, producing knowledge for action remains a challenge to organizations in the Global South. In addition, the use of technology for human rights purposes, although largely debated, has not been completely assimilated into their work.

On the other hand, if the expansion of the agendas can invigorate the organizations, it can also raise various challenges. The aim of the 2012 Colloquium is to discuss collectively these new challenges and share experiences.

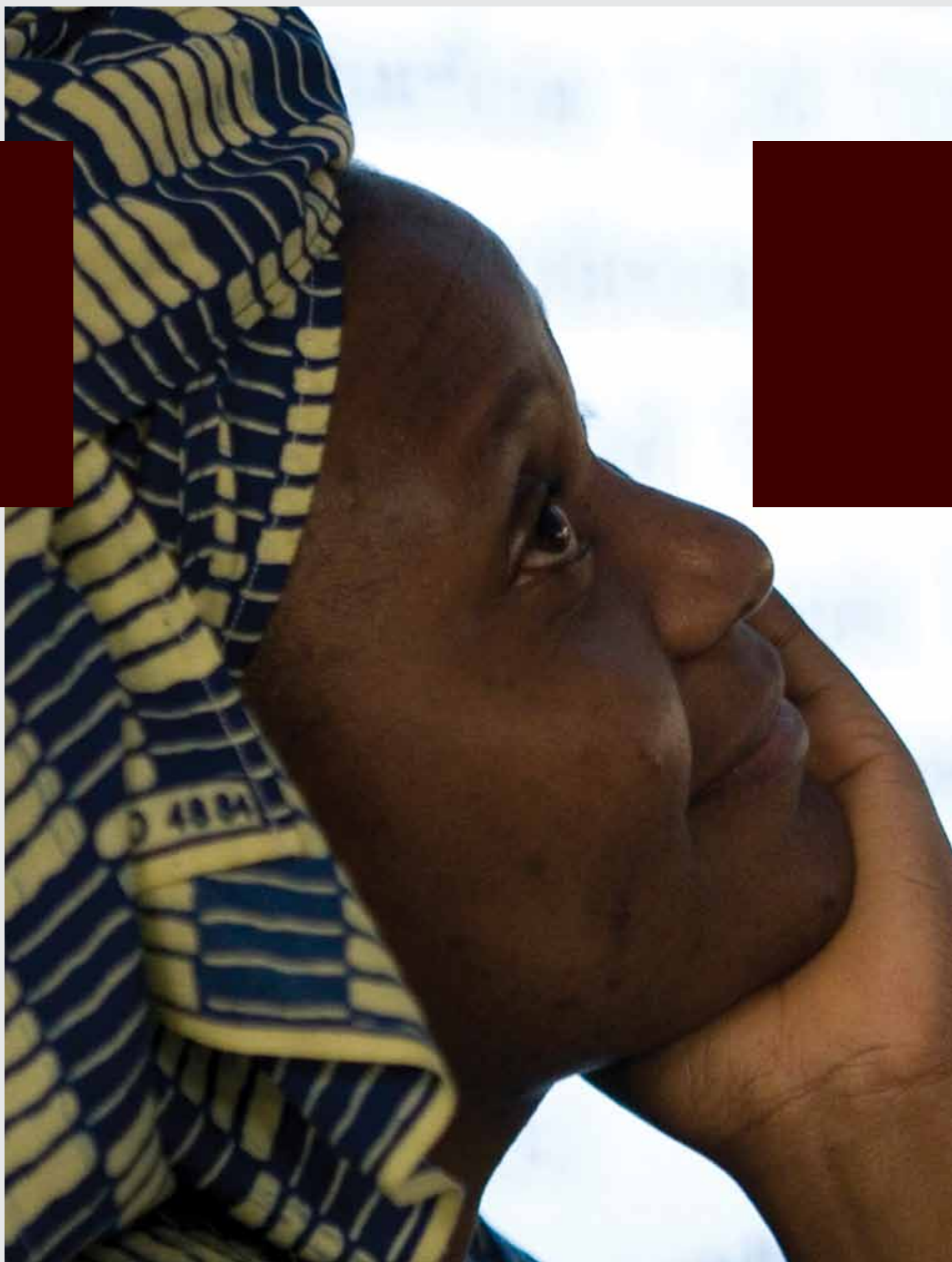
The 2012 Colloquium is divided into four subjects:

1. Economic development and human rights violations, focusing on violations committed by companies and the impact of state policies which prioritize economic growth over universal access to rights.
2. Limits of the international community and the use of force, especially in situations of conflict and grave human rights situations;
3. Knowledge for action, debating mainly the autonomy of Global South organizations in relation to the production of knowledge and ways to make the work with pressing human rights issues compatible with research.
4. Technology and the enforcement of rights, with emphasis on the role of social media and other developments brought by the digital revolution and its impact on human rights organizations.

"In recent years, it has been rare for a conversation to occur between organizations from the Global South without at least one of these themes being the subject of heated debates. At the colloquium, we intend to take a closer look at these agendas and strategies, and debate both their impacts on human rights and the challenges that organizations face when incorporating them into their daily activities," explained Lucia Nader, executive director of Conectas.

In each of these sections, it will be debated both the changes brought up by these new challenges in the human rights agenda as well as the strategies that human rights organizations have been currently using to deal with those challenges.

In addition, in the years to come, the Colloquium will increase its reach and depth by increasing the participation of defenders from Francophone Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East as well as Asia. Additionally, to reinforce the impact and follow up opportunities of the collaborative actions launched during the Colloquium, regional, smaller meetings will be organized in between annual meetings.



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR LUSOPHONE AFRICA

OUR METHODOLOGY

Study International Human Rights Law at the prestigious Pontifical Catholic University (PUC-SP)

Attend complementary in-house courses and lectures developed by Conectas

Visit NGOs

Perform an internship program in a Brazilian NGO

Participate in the International Human Rights Colloquium

Apply the knowledge acquired in Brazil in a one-year human rights project in their home country.

The Human Rights Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa strengthens the work of human rights activists from Lusophone Africa in their countries of origin, by promoting capacity-building and peer-learning, and by connecting them with other human rights defenders from the Global South. The program is an initiative of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) in collaboration with Conectas Human Rights.

SEVEN YEARS IN OVERVIEW

Since its inception in 2004, 38 activists from Angola, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique have taken part in the Human Rights Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa in Brazil. Initially conceived as a 9-month program, the fellowship evolved into a 5-month experience, which, as the 2011 Fellows' evaluations showed, allowed the program participants to really focus on and make the most of their activities in Brazil, while not staying away from home for too long. A personal project, which is elaborated as part of the application process, is the focus of another full year during which they are Fellows of the Open Society Foundations. Thanks to their time in Brazil, thanks to the knowledge, experience and network they have built, they implement a new strategies and are able to impact change on the ground in a very concrete way.

Fellows have gained knowledge, training, experience and built networks, often making important contacts within their field of work. During these 7 years, the Fellowship has had a deep impact on the work and lives of its participants, at times contributing to reversing ancestral practices of human rights violations.

In 2011, a law is passed that criminalizes female genital mutilation in Guinea Bissau, thanks in part to the contributions of a former Conectas Fellow

Augusto Mario da Silva, vice-president of the Guinean League for Human Rights (GLHR), was a Fellow at Conectas in 2008, where he developed a project on how to fight practices of genital mutilation in his home country; the project was then implemented by GLHR, and included actions of advocacy with public institutions able to intervene in the normative aspect of the violating practices, campaigns of public awareness of the problem through conferences and advocacy aimed at religious and community leaders, doctors, fanatecas (women who practice mutilation) and victims. The League's contributions were instrumental in getting the law that prohibits genital mutilation in Guinea Bissau passed. 45% of women aged 15 to 49 years are affected by the newly prohibited practice, due to its deep significance in traditional culture.

“Conectas is part of this victory, to the extent that it participated directly and actively in the development of strategies that were adopted to achieve this result.”

Augusto Mario da Silva, **Guinean League for Human Rights**, Guinea Bissau.



Augusto Mario da Silva, Guinean League for Human Rights, Guinea Bissau.

A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

For themselves: for the four fellows from Mozambique who came to São Paulo from July to December, 2011, through the Human Rights Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa, the fellowship was a life-altering experience. The fellows gained knowledge, training, experience; they built networks and made important contacts within their field; they built confidence and renewed motivation in their work; they were exposed to a new way of life, a new culture, which impacted their vision of the world, their vision of their work, their vision of themselves.

This year, the participants completed a course on Human Rights Law at the Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC - SP), with the renowned Professor Flavia Piovesan. Concomitantly with their academic activity, they also held a four-month internship in an NGO, whose areas of focus and activity were similar to theirs back home. After this period, in December 2011, participants returned to their home country where they started implementing their own projects to protect human rights and public interest advocacy.

“ *The exchange students were excellent and have made an extraordinary contributions to our progress. I am grateful for their participation”*

Flavia Piovesan, **Law Professor**, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo

2011 PROGRAM FELLOWS



Mr. Cosme Crisanto Nyusi, 33, is a lawyer and works as a legal and technical supervisor at the Center for Legal Practice of the School of Law at Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM-FD-CPJ). The project he developed during the program focused on offering legal assistance to economically disadvantaged citizens, and is entitled “Promoting Access to the Justice System for Prisoners in Situations of Violated Pre-trial Detention Rights”.

“For having had an opportunity to be in touch with the Brazilian culture, having experienced the way Brazilians handle life in general, there will be a positive transformation in my life, for me, and for all the people around me.”



Ms. Ferosa Abel David Chaúque Zacarias, 31, works as a lawyer of the Mozambican Association for Women in Legal Careers. She developed a legal aid project, entitled “Advocating for Victims of Domestic Violence and Promoting Women’s Human Rights.”

“It is hard to describe in brief words what the Fellowship Program represents in my professional and social life. I am very thankful for the richness and diversity of the Fellowship activities and for all the knowledge I have acquired through this Program, particularly in my field of work. I am greatly thankful to everyone that made it possible for me to have had the opportunity to participate in such a program in São Paulo, Brazil. The Fellowship Program revived my activism and consecrated me as a human rights activist for women in Mozambique.”



Ms. Katia Sofia Mussagy de Oliveira, 28, works as a Counselor (Psychologist) offering support to victims of domestic and sexual violence for the organization Muleide (Association for Women, Law, and Development). Within the program she developed a project to promote the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, entitled "Psychological Counseling for Victims of Domestic Violence and Childhood Sexual Abuse."

"Through this experience, I realized the importance of giving a human and specialized treatment to the victims (...) I will be able to do my work as an activist in a more organized and structured manner, based on scientific knowledge."



Mr. Saite António Junior, 28, is a junior researcher and the program manager of democratic governance and social policy program of CEMO (Center for Mozambican and International Studies). His project addressed the theme: "The situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Mozambique - a human rights-based analysis."

"The internship, the courses and the visits (...) allowed me to believe that it is possible to contribute to the improvement of the life conditions of those who leave their countries in search for a better life around the four corners of the world."



Fellows visit an NGO in São Paulo

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

The fellowship is currently being reformulated, and might be reintroduced in 2013, under a new format: Within the context of Conectas' 10th anniversary and the development of the new strategic planning for the organization's next 5 years, Conectas identified the need to deepen its work with regards to the international role played by emerging powers such as Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and South Africa. This process also led to the assessment that the fellowship could also reflect this new world order by enabling Conectas to expand its network of partner organizations beyond its traditional areas of focus, thus creating new opportunities for common action and research.

The new fellowship format will be based on the expertise acquired over the past seven years, and maintain the selection of one fellow per year from a Lusophone African country keeping alive the fruitful network Conectas has built in this region; in addition, the Fellowship will select fellows from new emerging powers. The length of the fellowship would be reduced to around 3 months, which was evaluated among former Fellows to be the optimal duration. Research and advocacy will be emphasized, the fellows will continue to combine theoretical (short courses with in house experts) and practical experience (an internship in an NGO in Sao Paulo) with a research project, in addition to networking activities. They will have the opportunity to produce a policy paper or an academic article to be submitted to the Sur Journal regarding their area of work and will be automatically selected to participate in the International Human Rights Colloquium, as was already the case.

The research project will be developed by the Fellows in collaboration with Conectas prior to his/her arrival and will focus on comparative research that can inform and benefit both their organization back home, as well as Conectas' work, in a mutual exchange experience.



sur

The image is an abstract graphic design. It features a large, dark red rectangular area in the lower half. Above this, a fan of colorful rectangles (blue, green, orange, purple, red, yellow, pink, light blue, and olive green) is arranged in a semi-circular pattern. A white circle is positioned in the center of the red area, containing the word 'sur' in a grey, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the text 'sur' is a small, dark grey, downward-pointing triangle. The background is a light grey with a fine, diagonal line pattern.

SUR JOURNAL

OUR METHODOLOGY

Foster diverse and informed debate
on human rights

Publish authors from diverse backgrounds
and countries

Disseminate an academic publication
for free, online and print, primarily in
Global South countries

Seek to contribute to the improvement
of academic production originated
from the South

The SUR Journal is a biannual publication that contributes to a critical debate on human rights issues from a Global South perspective and fosters the dialogue among academics and human rights defenders from the Global South and other regions of the world. The SUR Journal is produced in three languages - Portuguese, English and Spanish - which makes it the only human rights academic publication of its kind. Published in print and online (www.surjournal.org), it is distributed free of charge to about 2,700 subscribers in over 100 countries. It is also indexed in important international online databases and available at online international academic platforms.

SEVEN YEARS IN OVERVIEW

Since 2004, 15 editions of the Sur Journal have been published, 70% of the content written by authors from the Global South.

Over the years, in partnership with other organizations, the Journal has published thematic issues on transitional justice; access to medicines; rights of migrants and refugees; economic, social and cultural rights; the UN Millennium Development Goals; corporate accountability, and the rights of persons with disabilities. All issues of the Journal, since its beginning, have been peer-reviewed by a body of international experts.

In 2010, Sur established a partnership with the renowned Carlos Chagas Foundation (FCC), which supports the journal and serves on its Editorial Board.

The growing prestige and increase in readership of the Sur journal indicate that the publication fulfills legitimate needs of fostering a critical and informed debate on human rights issues originating from the South.



SCOPE

Attempting to reduce language barriers in the conduct of complex discussions on human rights issues among researchers from several different countries, the Sur - International Journal on Human Rights is published in three languages, and is made fully available on the Internet, facilitating its access to the largest possible number of people.

PLURALITY

The Sur Journal counts on the collaboration of researchers from several countries, in a sustained effort to identify issues relevant to different realities, and aiming at exploring new frontiers in the human rights debate. The Journal is open to a plurality of contexts and perspectives, present in each one of its publications.

PERSPECTIVE

Aiming to ensure internal consistency and adopt a political and not only an academic dimension, the journal intends to privilege discussions whose main focus are centered on countries of the Global South. The idea is to insert in the global debate an agenda benchmarked by the demands and priorities identified by the South in human rights discussions.

A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

ARABIC SPECIAL EDITION

In January 2011, a special edition of the Sur Journal was published in the Arabic language for the first time, in partnership with the Egyptian organization Partners in Development for Research, Consulting and Training (PID). This special edition gathered articles from academics and human rights experts from different countries of the Global South and reflected the work presented at the first conference held by the Journal in 2009 in Cairo, Egypt, entitled “Debate on Human Rights: Southern Perspectives,” which received human rights activists from all over the globe. This special edition is part of a constant effort to expand the scope of reach of Sur Journal’s authorship and readership, in order to include all regions of the Global South.

THE 14TH EDITION

The 14th edition of the SUR Journal released in June 2011 focused on the rights of persons with disabilities, debating the impacts of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in different national and regional settings, and evaluating the consequences of this normative evolution for human rights systems in the Global South.

SUR’s final selection of articles aimed to encompass the diversity of approaches to disability-rights, both in terms of regional representation and thematic scope.

Authors debated the main challenges for the effective implementation of the Convention and how the new Convention is articulated with the preceding human rights legal framework. Subjects such as accessibility and mobility, education, labor, legal capacity and life in community were of particular interest in this edition, and a special interest was also given to articles analyzing the disabilities issue in disaster and conflict contexts.

“We have spent four years in the United Nations drafting the Convention text. It was the Human Rights’ text most rapidly approved in the history of the UN, because there is a global recognition that this is a urgent and emerging humanitarian cause that cannot be ignored by countries” – Regina Atalla, president of The Latin Ameri-

can Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS)

The 14th edition was launched during a public event held during the 11th International Rehabilitation, Inclusion and Accessibility Technologies Trade Show (Reatech) in São Paulo, with a debate focused on the impact of the Convention on the national and regional human rights protection systems and on the work of activists in the field.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Its Optional Protocol

The UN Convention, which counted with the participation of a large number of civil society organizations - notably disability-rights organizations whose motto was “Nothing about us, without us” – during its negotiation, was approved in 2006 and entered into force in 2008, counting today with 153 signatures and 109 ratifications. It constitutes one of the most important tools in the promotion of social inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide. The local implementation of this instrument varies, however, according to national and regional contexts.

CONTENTS – 14th EDITION

- **MAURICIO ALBARRACÍN CABALLERO** – Social Movements and the Constitutional Court: Legal Recognition of the Rights of Same-Sex Couples in Colombia;
- **DANIEL VÁZQUEZ AND DOMITILLE DELAPLACE** – Public Policies from a Human Rights Perspective: A Developing Field
- **J. PAUL MARTIN** – Human Rights Education in Communities Recovering from Major Social Crisis: Lessons for Haiti the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

- **LUIS FERNANDO ASTORGA GATJENS** – Analysis of Article 33 of the UN Convention: The Critical Importance of National Implementation and Monitoring;
- **LETÍCIA DE CAMPOS VELHO MARTEL** – Reasonable Accommodation: The New Concept from an Inclusive Constitutional Perspective;
- **MARTA SCHAAF** – Negotiating Sexuality in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- **TOBIAS PIETER VAN REENEN AND HELÉNE COMBRINCK** – The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa: Progress after 5 Years;
- **STELLA C. REICHER** – Human Diversity and Asymmetries: A Reinterpretation of the Social Contract under the Capabilities Approach;
- **PETER LUCAS** – The Open Door: Five Foundational Films That Seeded the Representation of Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities;
- **LUIS GALLEGOS CHIRIBOGA** – Interview with Luis Gallegos Chiriboga, President (2002-2005) of the Ad Hoc Committee that Drew Up the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

THE 15TH EDITION

The 15th edition of the SUR Journal, launched in December 2011, featured two main dossiers. The first one focused on the implementation of decisions of international and regional human rights mechanisms at the local level, gathering case studies from Brazil, Argentina and Russia on this matter. This set of articles highlights the importance of regional and international human rights mechanisms, which constitutes a locus for human rights defenders to mobilize their causes, calling up attention to issues that are neglected at the national level. In addition, those articles point out the difficulties of translating successful stories in international fora into legal and political gains at the local level.

The second dossier celebrated the 10th anniversary of Conectas Human Rights and revisited the history and work of the organization in the last decade. Through memories and accounts by current and former directors of the organization, this dossier summarizes and discusses the successes and challenges of Conectas as a contribution to the dialogue among human rights organizations from the Global South.

“None of the initiatives discussed in the articles would have been possible without the participants of the colloquium, the authors of SUR, the exchange students in the Fellowship Program for Portuguese-Speaking Africa and the partners in the Foreign Policy Project and the Justice Program. Nothing would have been accomplished without the support of various donors who, since 2001, have believed in and supported the work of an organization with ambitious and innovative causes. To all, our most heartfelt gratitude,” – With these words, Lucia Nader, Juana Kweitel and Marcos Fuchs, directors of Conectas Human Rights, presented the special supplement to the 15th issue of Sur.

CONTENTS – 15th EDITION

- **ZIBA MIR-HOSSEINI** – Criminalising Sexuality: Zina Laws as Violence Against Women in Muslim Contexts;
- **LEANDRO MARTINS ZANITELLI** – Corporations and Human Rights: The Debate Between Voluntarists and Obligationists and the Undermining Effect of Sanctions;
- **INTERVIEW WITH DENISE DORA** – Former Ford Foundation's Human Rights Officer in Brazil (2000-2011).

Implementation at the national level of the decisions of the regional and international human rights systems

- **MARIA ISSAIEVA, IRINA SERGEEVA AND MARIA SUCHKOVA** – Enforcement of the Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Russia: Recent Developments and Current Challenges;
- **CÁSSIA MARIA ROSATO AND LUDMILA CERQUEIRA CORREIA** – The Damião Ximenes Lopes Case: Changes and Challenges Following the First Ruling Against Brazil in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
- **DAMIÁN A. GONZÁLEZ-SALZBERG** – The Implementation of Decisions from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Argentina: An Analysis of the Jurisprudential Swings of the Supreme Court;
- **MARCIA NINA BERNARDES** – Inter-American Human Rights System as a Transnational Public Sphere: Legal and Political Aspects of the Implementation of International Decisions.

SPECIAL ISSUE - CONECTAS HUMAN RIGHTS - 10 YEARS

- **MALAK EL-CHICHINI POPPOVIC AND LUCIA NADER** – Conectas Human Rights: The Making of an International Organization From/In the South;
- **OSCAR VILHENA VIEIRA AND ELOISA MACHADO DE ALMEIDA** – Strategic Advocacy in Human Rights: Conectas' Experience;
- **PEDRO PAULO POPPOVIC AND JUANA KWEITEL** – A Journal from the South with a global Reach.

ACADEMIC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

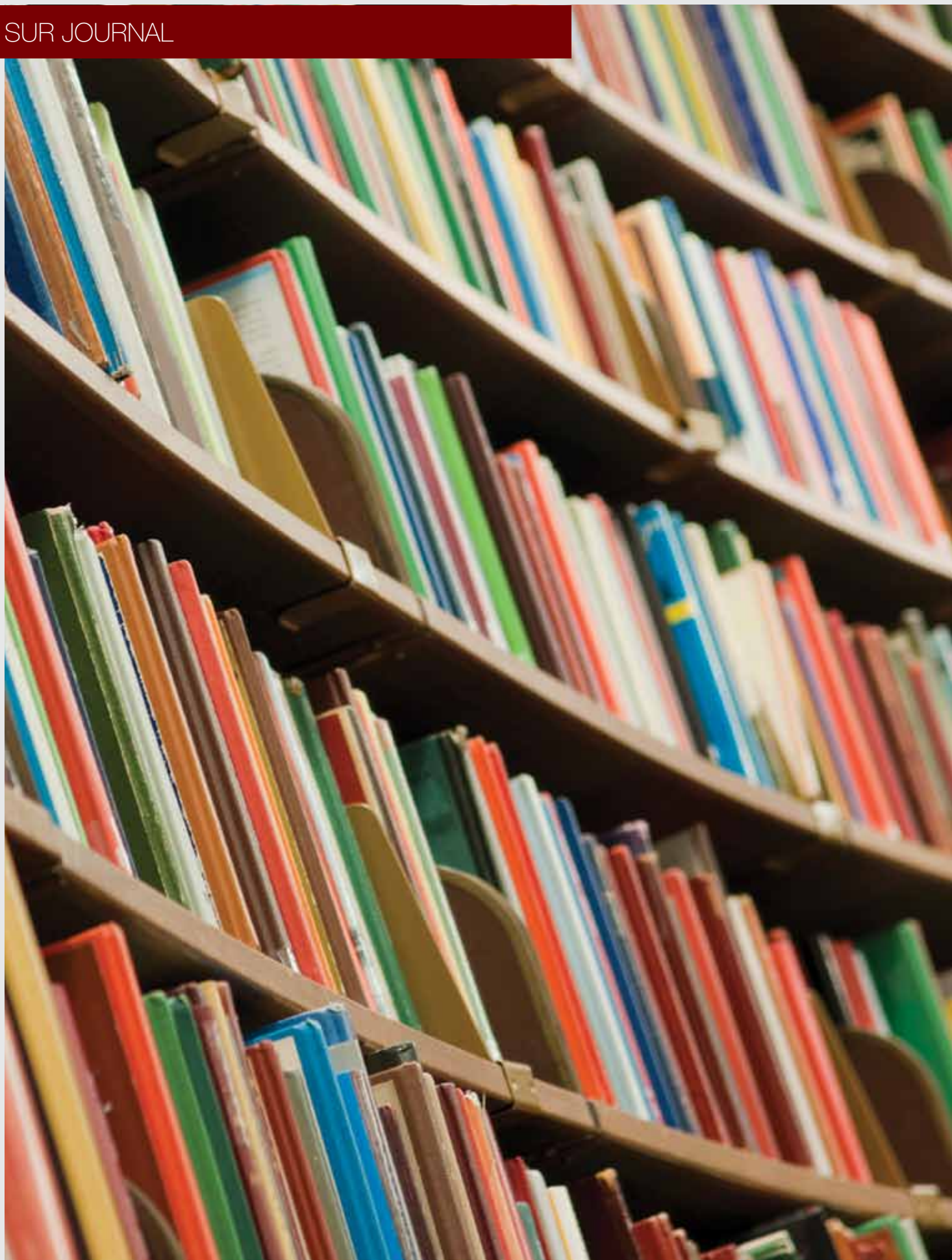
In order to encourage academic production from Human Rights activists in the Global South, Conectas, in partnership with the Carlos Chagas Foundation and with the support of the Ford Foundation, launched an academic mentorship program; the goal of the program is to contribute to the development of the human rights field in Brazil by enabling young academics to write innovative articles.

Over the years, the SUR editorial committee detected a certain difficulty for Global South activists with intellectual talent, social compromise and carrying innovative ideas in writing human rights articles following academic criteria. Seeking to favor a plurality of authors and bring new perspectives to the human rights field, SUR has decided to launch a mentorship program, which will give an opportunity to a number of selected authors to gain training in academic writing under the supervision of specialized tutors, and will be published in the Sur journal.

The launch of the program was a great success and it received more than 130 submissions in its first call for papers. Five articles have been reviewed and will be published in the 17th issue of the Journal.

“ Part of the richness of the first edition of the Academic Mentorship Program was its pioneer character. Our main goal and challenge was to provide a framework within which young researchers and well-known Brazilian human rights specialists could effectively dialogue and exchange in order to produce solid and innovative articles. It is part of our own learning process to understand how to improve the relationship between authors and mentors, so that good ideas can effectively become solid arguments in an academic article. We do believe the Program has a role to fulfill in this regard and we are already preparing our second edition to be held next year.”

Laura Waisbich, **Sur Journal**, Conectas





sur

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

In the years to come, the Sur Journal's contents will be more oriented towards practitioners, adding to its academic articles shorter, more practical articles and case studies that will target human rights defenders and practitioners.

To expand distribution and reach of readers as well as potential authors, the Journal will be translated into additional languages, allowing new regions and communities to access its content. The SUR dissemination efforts will be supported by an upgrade of its website, and the additional use of video and audio interviews with authors to make the website more appealing to a wider variety of readers. The SUR website will also be improved to become more user-friendly, and allow for more efficient searches among the Sur archives. Given the success of the first edition of the mentorship program, plans are in place to potentially expand its scope to include additional countries and languages.

JUSTICE PROGRAM

Brazil still suffers from endemic violence, deeply entrenched patterns of police abuse, and grossly unfair sentencing and incarceration practices, among a host of other problems. Out of a population of 190,000 adult inmates in Sao Paulo, approximately 40% are pretrial detainees who are illegally detained awaiting trials beyond the maximum three-month period determined by law, without access to lawyers or legal services.

These abuses are borne disproportionately by poor communities and vulnerable groups that have limited recourse to the courts and legal redress. This dire state of affairs is made worse by the fact that strategic human rights litigation and pro bono public interest ‘lawyering’ is neither widely known nor practiced in Brazil. Brazilians like to say that their country has “beautiful laws”. The problem is not in the laws themselves but in their highly imperfect implementation – representing a collective failure among the various national institutions.

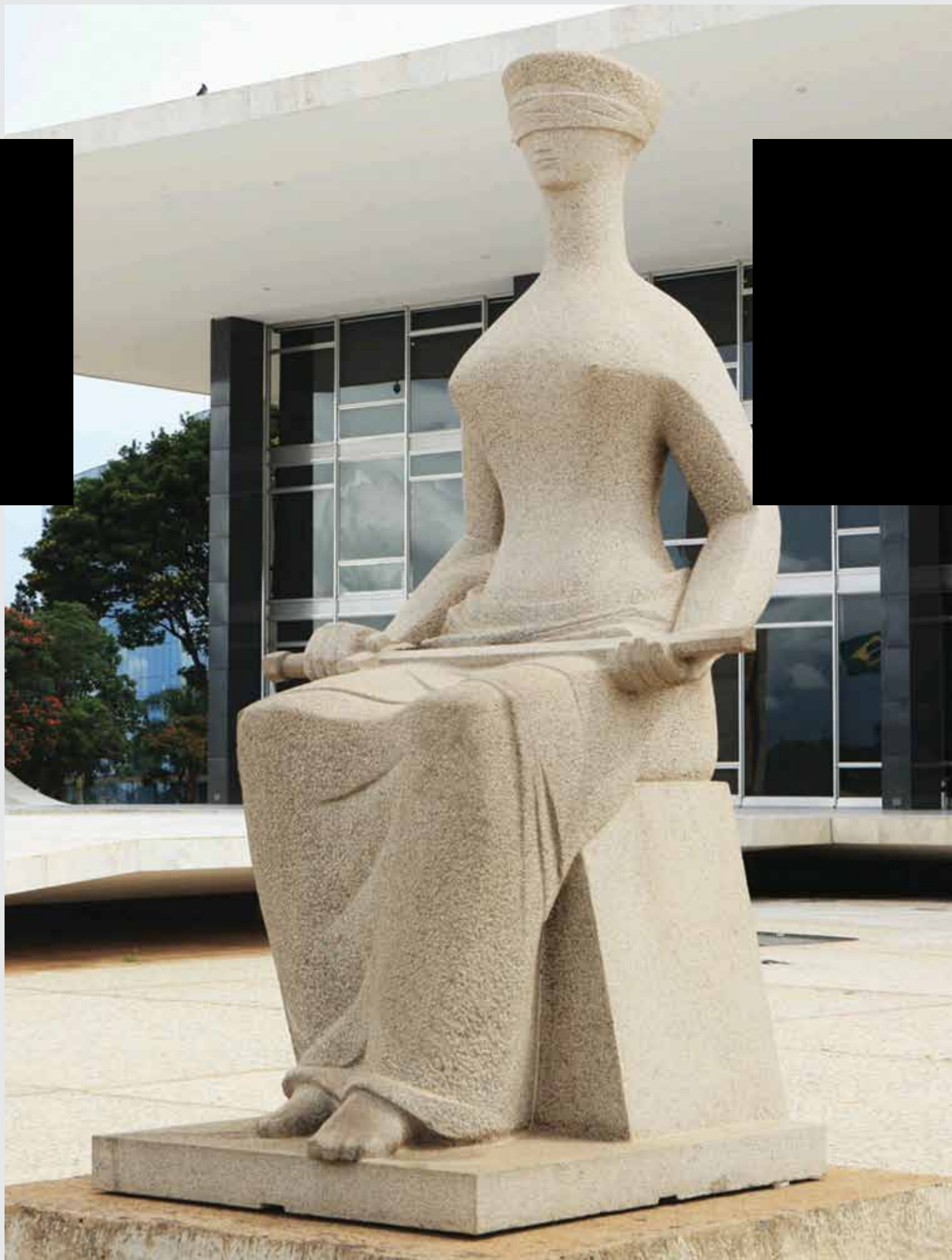
Considering the context of lack of law enforcement in Brazil, Co-nectas has set its own strategic litigation office, consisting of a small in-house legal team specialized in constitutional and international human rights law, who works in close collaboration with partner organizations in the field of criminal justice, with the objective of protecting the rights of vulnerable groups.

The idea is to select and work with paradigmatic cases and advocacy activities that have the potential to “destabilize” systematic institutional practices of human rights violations, by creating political embarrassment and generating public debate and accountability of the perpetrators of human rights violations.

In addition, Conectas works to influence the Brazilian Constitutional debate in order to strengthen the role of the Brazilian Supreme Court in the protection of human rights, by ensuring that the interpretation of legislation is favorable to human rights and to the rights of minorities, especially through the use of *amicus curiae*. In 2011, Conectas started a pilot-project to monitor the impact of Development on human rights.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE



THE JUSTICE PROGRAM

OUR METHODOLOGY

Develop legal and non-legal strategic action at national and international levels

Influence the Brazilian constitutional debate (Amicus Curiae)

Monitor the executive and legislative branches of government on criminal justice issues, in partnership with a group of organizations

Participate in public debates to influence in the drafting of public policies and laws that ensure the promotion and protection of human rights

EIGHT YEARS IN OVERVIEW

Since 2003, Conectas has filed 65 indemnity suits for damages and administrative proceedings regarding torture or death cases in units of the Brazilian juvenile detention system, having achieved great successes such as raising judicial indemnification standards. In the past few years its activities have expanded to curb abusive practices in the Brazilian adult prison system. Important results have been accomplished such as the deactivation of the most overpopulated jail in the State of Espírito Santo and the removal of prisoners detained in metal containers in that State.

Conectas is responsible for more than 15 other strategic actions related to police violence and the prison system, part of them at the United Nations system and regional human rights mechanisms.

Looking to support suit causes involving the guarantee of fundamental rights and to participate in the Brazilian constitutional debate, Conectas has submitted 42 “amici curiae” before the Brazilian Supreme Court since 2004.

The organization was also a pioneer in filing lawsuits to defend the implementation of public health policies in Brazil and to overcome the negative effects of protections to intellectual property on access to essential medicines. Today, adapting to the constant evolving reality of human rights violations, Conectas is now broadening its scope of work and engaging itself in causes related to development and human rights.



A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

> CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE BRAZILIAN PRISON SYSTEM

>> THE BRASILIA PROJECT

In February 2011, Conectas in partnership with the organizations Instituto Sou da Paz and Pastoral Carceraria, established a presence in Brasilia in order to monitor and influence the Executive and Legislative branches in the area of Criminal Justice. The Brasilia Project, as it is called, established a productive dialog with many different criminal justice decision makers, both in Congress and the executive branch and created some positive changes within the legislative debate.

The intensive advocacy work of Conectas' representative in Brasilia resulted in an important victory this year, when the Congress approved the Law of Alternative Precautionary Measures to the Detention of Suspects which was finally passed in July 2011 and represents a potential to significantly reduce pre-trial detention, since it extends the list of precautionary measures that can be taken by a judge within a criminal proceeding. Before this law, the judge only had two options of precautionary measures to apply to a defendant that awaits trial: either determine preventive prison or grant the defendant temporary freedom. This law increased to eleven the number of alternatives, and bans the use of preventive prison in milder offense cases whose maximum penalty is below four years. This law represents an important progress in Conectas' fight against the abusive use of preventive prison.

>> PRETRIAL DETENTION

The decision adopted in December 2011 by the Supreme Court of the State of São Paulo, and which ordered that permanent prisoners be sent to adequate establishments, and not be maintained in police stations or public prisons, represented a victory for the fight against the abusive use of preventive prison. In this case, Conectas had supported the separation of pre-trial detainees from permanent detainees through amicus curiae and by providing updated

“ *The committed, consistent and rigorous technical work of advocacy with the Legislative and the Executive has been essential to ensure some basic guarantees and create new legislative and policy proposals for the Brazilian criminal justice problems, which are numerous. We have developed long-term strategies with partner organizations, joining skills and expertise towards a common ideal. Although the task is arduous, we have had some important successes, such as the Law of Alternative Precautionary Measures and the Prison Sentence Remission for Studying,*”

Vivian Calderoni, **Justice Program**, Conectas

data illustrating that systematic violations of human rights of prisoners are still a reality in the State of São Paulo. This decision is significant as it also contributes to fighting one of the main causes of human rights abuses in prisons, which is overcrowding. While Conectas' admission as amicus curiae was rejected by the judge rapporteur of the case, the petition was kept on the records and the arguments contained therein were considered by the court judge Antonio Malheiros during the trial.

>> RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN PRISONS

The right to education in prisons was a cause Conectas started to fight for in 2011, by participating in public debates and mobilizing partners to develop concrete actions. While education

in prisons is a right provided by Brazilian law, only 8% of the prison population in the State of São Paulo actually benefit from it. The importance of providing education to prisoners, however, is undeniable especially through the perspective of “inclusion”. Access to education must be universal; depriving detainees from this right is discriminatory and reinforces the logic of exclusion, already present in their lives. Conectas, along with several partner organizations and the São Paulo Public Defender’s office, cooperated throughout the year to file a public civil action to guarantee the right of education to women in the Santana women prison in São Paulo, where, out of 2.636 women prisoners, only 11% have a chance to study and 79% of the women who do not study would like to do so.

Additionally, in June, 2011, a law that guarantees Prison Sentence Remission for Studying was finally passed. This law has the potential to increase access to education among Brazil’s prison population. The approval of this law, which Conectas supported together with partner organizations through the Brasilia Project, corrects a shortcoming in the Brazilian Prison Law which, until now, only permitted sentence remission for prisoners who work. The remission of sentences for studying will follow the same proportional scale as remission for working and will help promote access to education for people in detention in Brazil.

>> STRENGTHENING OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE

This year Conectas intensified its work to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the Public Defenders’ Offices (PDO) at the federal level, and in the state of São Paulo. Considering that the PDO’s work revolves to a large extent around the criminal justice system, Conectas collaborated with the São Paulo PDO for the formulation of an institutional policy on effective treatment of pre-trial detainees, by performing advocacy work, participation in public hearing, and submitting suggestions for procedural aspects, imprisonment conditions and monthly monitoring visits to Provisional Detention Centers in São Paulo. At the Federal level, successful efforts were made towards the creation of an external Ombudsman for the Union’s Public Defender. In an amicus curiae, Conectas defended the independence of the Public Defender’s Office in the state of Maranhão and Minas Gerais, supporting the idea that the institution should not be subordinated to any political authority, such as the governor’s office.

THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS’ OFFICES

While the Brazilian constitution establishes that the government shall give free legal assistance to all people living in Brazil (nationals or not), this is not truly implemented in practice, as most Brazilian states have not yet approved the creation of their Public Defender Office (PDO). When they exist, PDOs are often overloaded with work, counting with a small team of public defenders and are often not entirely independent to perform their work. As a result, millions of people do not have access to free legal assistance, limiting access to justice only to a few.

“*The independence of the Public Defender’s Office is essential; this is a vital institution to guarantee access to justice and to promote human rights to vulnerable people who need the government’s free legal assistance services,*”

Rafael Custodio, **Justice Program**, Conectas

>> PREVENTION OF TORTURE - ACCESSING THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

In 2011, the monitoring visit of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), established by the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OP-CAT) which Brazil ratified in 2005, of all places where persons are deprived of liberty was an opportunity for Conectas to raise some of the critical issues that the organization has been working on: by assisting and serving as one of SPT’s main interlocutors during their visits, Conectas’ staff and partner organizations contributed to the SPT’s final report by making sure that the following essential measures were included in the Subcommittee’s recommendations:

- Creation of the National Mechanism to Combat and Prevent Torture, as well as the creation of state-level mechanisms.
- Strengthening the role of the Public Defender’s Office, particularly with a permanent presence of public defenders in detention facilities.

- Independence of the agencies responsible for preparing medical and expert reports (Forensic Medical Institutes and Departments) from the institutional structure of the police.

- Ending the vexatious strip searches of prisoners' relatives.

Following up on this visit, Conectas continued – and will continue – to monitor and pressure Brazilian authorities to ensure that the SPT report is amply disseminated and that answers are given to its recommendations.

To further discuss the issue, Conectas co-organized the first Regional Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, which was held in June 2011 in Santiago (Chile). Forty human rights experts involved in the policy-making process in their countries and representatives from civil society organizations participated in the meeting. They agreed on the need of strengthening mechanisms for the prevention and sanctioning of torture in the region. Juan Méndez, the UN Special Rapporteur, emphasized that torture is not eliminated solely by the fact that there are democratic governments in Latin America; its eradication will depend on the commitment of States to implement systematic policies. Moreover, the Consultation was an opportunity for NGOs to elaborate a shared diagnosis of the regional situation. Conectas took the opportunity to denounce the impact of prison overpopulation in the country, the lack of proper access to justice and the abuse of pre-trial detention.

THE SPT REPORT

Published in June, 2012, the report reveals that “the prohibition of torture is widely ignored” in Brazil. The revelation was made by members of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) after a series of visits to detention facilities across the country in September 2011.

The document recognizes that the Brazilian legal framework on torture is adequate, but not enforced. “The SPT is concerned by the gap between the law and its application in practice, since most of the rights and guarantees provided for in the national legislation are widely ignored.”

When it ratified the Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2005, Brazil agreed to create a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) for torture. A bill to create such a mechanism was finally drafted last year by the Executive and is currently pending in the National Congress. In its report, the SPT was emphatic about the need to make important changes to this bill in order to guarantee an open, transparent and inclusive process – particularly in relation to civil society – for the selection and appointment of NPM members.

>> VICTORIOUS OUTCOMES OF THE WORK DEVELOPED ON THE JUVENILE PRISON SYSTEM

During the last years, Conectas had lodged lawsuits on behalf of adolescents detained at Fundação Casa, aimed at ensuring redress for victims of abuse, penalties for the perpetrators, and changes in institutional practices. In February 2011, Fundação Casa was condemned to pay BRL 300.000,00 (approximately USD 190.000.00) as compensation to the family of R.G, a teenager who was killed by other inmates in its facilities in 2003. In an unprecedented decision, the compensation for moral damages included the payment of a monthly pension by Fundação Casa to the mother of the victim. Conectas' objective in fighting for such damages awards is to send a public message that these lives are not worthless. Another judicial decision, in April 2011, condemned Fundação Casa for mistreatment and excessive use of violence: it was sentenced to pay the equivalent of 100 Brazil's minimum wages (a total of BRL 55.000,00, or USD 35.500.00) to the adolescent D.S.S. in compensation for the aggression suffered on December 8, 2005, which led to the loss of his right eye. After the incident, the Inter-American Court ordered the facility to be shut down, in view of the human rights violations that had taken place there.

“The SPT visit brought a very positive unforeseen development. It helped mobilize civil society organizations and should contribute to the approval of state level monitoring mechanisms, primarily in the state of Sao Paulo, required by the OPCAT for the prevention of torture, which Brazil has not yet established. This needs to happen as soon as possible in order to put an end to the egregious human rights violations that are taking place in police stations and prisons all over Brazil.”

Marcos Fuchs, Associate Director, Conectas

> CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE REGARDING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

>> CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Defending children's rights, Conectas and partner organizations were accepted as *amicus curiae* in November 2011 to support the constitutionality of a public policy that establishes age groups and broadcast times for television programs (rating system), which had been challenged by the Brazilian Labor Party. Considering 96% of Brazilian homes are equipped with a TV and that Brazilian children watch an average of 5 hours of television per day, the impact of television on the development of children's mental and emotional health is undeniable and its protection is of great importance.

> VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS THEMES SUPPORTED BEFORE BRAZIL SECOND UPR CYCLE

The second passage of Brazil by the UN Universal Periodic Review, a unique process created in 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly involving a review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States once every four and a half years, was an opportunity for Conectas to, along with partner organizations, ensure that some of the human rights violations that still persist in Brazil, especially with regards to violence and torture in the prison system, and with regards to the violations committed by multinational companies in big development projects such as the Belo Monte dam, be taken into consideration and dealt with greater consistency and poise by the Brazilian authorities. Conectas elaborated and co-signed, in partnership with other organizations, five reports on: the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Intellectual Property and Access to Medicine, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Human Rights and Companies and Human Rights Violations in Prisons. During its official passage at the UN Human Rights Council in May, 2012, to which Conectas participated, most of these issues were raised. However, the difficult part starts now, with the challenges of the implementation of what was raised during the review.



PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Conectas will continue to act within the scope of its historical areas of focus such as Criminal Justice and the Brazilian Prison Systems and Fundamental Rights by using the strategies herein presented such as the Brasilia Project, the strengthening of the Public Defender's Office and the access of regional and United Nations systems. In addition, a few recent developments will also have a deep impact on Conectas' work in the years to come, and will thus gradually become areas of focus or new strategies to help carry out our work more effectively:

- **Development and Human rights:** In a reality like Brazil, where companies have come to play a disproportionate role, often favoring profit above anything else, and sometimes committing human rights violations that go unpunished, the relation between economic development and human rights is likely to become an even greater area of focus in the months and years to come. The organization participated in the UN Working Group on Companies and Human Rights. Conectas also published and disseminated the Ruggie Guidelines (UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) in Portuguese and organized a debate during the 7th GIFE Congress in São Paulo to discuss the issue. In the coming years, Conectas will increasingly focus on the relationship between Development and Human Rights as a source of rights violations.
- **Law of access to information:** in May 2012, the Law of Access to Information entered into effect. Conectas believes that this law strengthens its methods of work and can be extremely important to the success of its projects, particularly with regards to activities related to the prison system and the Brazilian Foreign Policy. In these two areas, the lack of access to quality information and the "culture of opacity" are challenges that are important impediments to the changes towards which Conectas is actively working.

"The law of Access to Information is a new tool at the disposal of human rights organizations. As it is very recent in Brazil, we are currently testing its application and arguing its interpretation, demanding that public bodies take seriously the fact that the logic of transparency is the rule, and secrecy the exception," said Flavia Annenberg, Justice Program, Conectas.



INSTITUTIONAL AREA

OUR VALUE

For Conectas, Idealism is a positive principle deeply embedded in the mentality of those who contribute to its mission. It has given the organization the capacity to stay at the vanguard, to adopt a visionary look of the world. It is a strength that has led us to strive for excellence in everything that we produce, from our accounting to our annual reports, from our activities related to detainees and victims on the ground to advocacy at the international level. Idealism means that in spite of the difficulties, we know we can still make a difference. Conectas' ability to connect is an essential force. It connects organizations with each other, activists with one another, the media with partner organizations, or human rights defenders with decision-makers or international mechanisms. Through its Annual Colloquium, through its Fellowship, the Sur Journal, the Foreign Policy Project and through its Justice Program, the organization has built strong partnerships across the Global South and in Brazil. Conectas could not be Conectas if it wasn't for its ability to engage into mean-

ingful partnerships with others.

For an organization like Conectas, innovation and an ability to constantly reinvent itself are invaluable strengths: innovation as an ability to dare new projects, to test new ideas, to recognize errors and learn from them. We believe innovation is a central feature of the protection of human rights as it forces organizations and activists to consider sometimes century-old problems like torture or violence against women with a new, fresh perspective.

First and foremost, what Conectas seeks, is to positively impact the lives of the victims of human rights violations: the victims of police violence, the incarcerated men and women, the journalists or the human rights activists deprived of freedom of expression or association, the populations displaced in the name of "development", are the ultimate beneficiaries of Conectas' action. Through its different projects, Conectas is looking to establish, maintain or strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights for the victims.

TEN YEARS IN OVERVIEW

Over the course of the past ten years, Conectas' Institutional department has evolved in order to adapt to the changing realities of the world in which the organization operates. Since its creation in 2001, Conectas' scope and depth of action has constantly grown and developed. From an idea formed in the minds of a group of human rights defenders and academics of the Global South, the organization has now become a reference in the field of human rights. To accompany the evolution and growth of its projects, the institutional area has also been transformed over time. Today, Conectas is a 30-people organization, with a representative in Brasilia and a representative in Geneva, and a budget of USD 2.3 Million a year (2011). Conectas' accomplishments, however, do not sum up in these figures. Over the years, Conectas' institutional departments, communication, finance and administration, and institutional development, have been brought closer to the projects in order to be more integrated to the activities of the organization and its decision-making processes, and better positioned to overcome the challenges inherent to Conectas' mission. The institutional structure it has adopted reflects the growing scope and reach of its programs. Concomitantly, the organization has also strengthened its governance processes and institutional policies, thanks in part to the involvement of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee in the day-to-day routine of the organization. Finally, Conectas has multiplied and diversified its sources of funding, and strove to secure core funding and institutional support from its historical funders. Today, it is thankful and proud to count among its funders Brazilian and international foundations, all of which are among the most respected and prestigious institutions in the field of human rights.

“The process of transition, particularly from the founders of an institution, is always an opportunity for strengthening its governance structure. Conectas has taken up this challenge openly and strategically, paving the way for a more sustainable, effective and relevant organization,”

Andre Degenszajn,
Executive Committee, Conectas



A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

After a 7-month transition period, Malak Poppovic and Oscar Vilhena Vieira stood down as co-directors of Conectas at the end of March 2011. The new leadership – Lucia Nader, Juana Kweitel and Marcos Fuchs – have all worked at Conectas for many years. The leadership transition was carried out smoothly under the direction of the Board, with the assistance of an external consultant, to define the roles and responsibilities and design the new organizational chart. The transition was a fruitful period for rethinking the internal processes and structure, in an organization that since its creation, in 2001, has continuously grown in staff, budget and activities. Currently, Oscar Vilhena is serving on the Board and Malak Poppovic is Senior Advisor for Special Projects.

GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

One of the institutional priorities in 2011 was the strengthening of the leadership and of the governance mechanisms of the organization. To this end, in particular, the role of the Board of Directors was strengthened, its members brought closer to the day-to-day work of the organization. The role of the Board's Executive Committee (EC) was also expanded, bringing members of the EC in contact with the three directors on a regular basis.

staff capacity-building was also an important focus of the past year. English classes were provided to staff by the organization, and various staff members took part in specific courses and trainings in Brazil and abroad. In addition, once a month, the institution held forums of internal dialogue, with an outside guest and expert of a specific area, to discuss, debate and test the ideas held by the organization on a specific subject. Among others, these discussions evolved around the issues of the Arab Spring, the concept of the Responsibility to Protect, the Brazilian law of Access to Information, and the consequences of the war against drugs in the national prison system.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2011, Conectas celebrated its 10th anniversary, an important milestone that led us to conduct an assessment of the accomplishments of the past ten years and develop a strategic plan for the next five (2012–

2016). This planning allowed us to build a vision for the organization five years from now, a vision based on the changing reality of the world, and on the ambition of Conectas to impact this new world order, for the better. This vision was born of the values that have moved and motivated the organization, its projects, and its staff, for the past ten years, and will continue to do so.

Another important step taken in 2011 was the beginning of a five-year-strategic plan. The plan started to be developed in October 2011 through various meetings and workshops to which the entire staff of the organization participated. Members of its Board's Executive Committee also participated in certain phases of the process. With the help of an external consultant, the mission, strategic objectives, and content of the organization's programs were reviewed and – for some of them – redefined and/or refocused. This planning, which was concluded in 2012, gave an opportunity to the programs to re-think themselves, and to critically evaluate the different projects that they had been developing for 10 years.

While the five-year plan was initiated in 2011, a tactical three-year plan, and an operational yearly plan were elaborated in 2012, based on the strategic plan.

“ *The strategic planning process was a very unique time, both for the organization as a whole, and for each individual staff member. It brought us all together in a moment of deep reflection about our work, its meaning for us and for the world in which we operate. Coming out of this process, I think we all feel like we're not only contributing to Conectas' mission, but really, we are designing it as well, and that is an incredibly powerful motivation,*”

Muriel Asseraf, **Institutional Development**, Conectas



PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Conectas' institutional department will continue to employ its efforts to assist and second the work of Conectas' projects and programs; additionally, the institutional area will be enhanced to implement the following changes:

Contribute to the engagement of Brazilian society in the realization of human rights at home and abroad: Having come out a couple of decades ago of an era of dictatorship, Brazilian society is not keen on political activism. Yet, human rights organizations like Conectas need the support of society at large to impact change at all levels. Brazilian society needs to hold Brazil accountable for the human rights violations it commits at home and abroad.

Upgrade our Communications' Strategies: Contacts with the press will be strengthened and multiplied in order to disseminate Conectas' voice and opinion in mainstream media through interviews and op-eds; the website will become a strategic tool to define Conectas' positions on a variety of issues, thanks to the production of articles, videos, and audio content; Conectas social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter will be reinvigorated thanks to the development of shorter items and visual content. Public events will be organized to foster a critical debate on issues related to the Human Rights agenda, and attract media and public attention.

Concomitantly, Conectas will plant the seeds for a campaign of fundraising within Brazil. Today, out of the 23 donors who finance the organization, only two are Brazilian foundations. To achieve sustainability in the long term, the organization needs to be able to rely on domestic donations.

ASSOCIAÇÃO DIREITOS HUMANOS EM REDE

BOARD MEMBERS

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Coordinator, Brazilian Network for Human Rights Education

ANAMARIA SCHINDLER★
Ashoka Social Entrepreneurs

ANDRÉ RAICHELIS DEGENSZAJN★
Knowledge Manager, Group of Institutes, Foundations and Enterprises (GIFE)

CLAUDE GRINFEDER
Member of the Board, Marjan Ind. Farmacêutica

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Lawyer and ex-Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (OHCHR)

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★ *Members of the Executive Committee.*

DONORS

Conectas is grateful to its current main donors

European Commission
Ford Foundation
Fundação Carlos Chagas
Investimento Social Família A. Jacob e Betty Lafer
OAK Foundation
Open Society Foundations
The Sigrid Rausing Trust

We also thank the support, in 2011, of:

Australian Embassy in Brazil
Channel Foundation
Democracy Coalition Project
French Embassy in Brazil
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Brazil
Ei Viu! Design e Comunicação
Irish Embassy in Brazil
MacArthur Foundation
Overbrook Foundation
Peixoto e Cury Advogados
Swiss Embassy in Brazil
The Talheimer Foundation
The Swedish Foundation for Human Rights

ASSOCIAÇÃO DIREITOS HUMANOS EM REDE
CNPJ No. 04.706.954/0001-75
Financial Statements as of December 31, 2011 and 2010

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Convenience translation into English from the Independent Auditors' Report issued on the financial statements prepared under accounting practices adopted in Brazil and in Brazilian currency.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Counselors and Management of Associação Direitos Humanos em Rede

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Associação Direitos Humanos em Rede as of December 31, 2011 and the related statements of income, changes in corporate assets, and statement of cash flow for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies adopted in Brazil and the internal controls established by the company as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Brazilian and International Standards on Auditing. These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements taken as a whole.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Counselors and Management of Associação Direitos Humanos em Rede

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements above mentioned, present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Associação Direitos Humanos em Rede as of December 31, 2011, and the results of its operations, the statements of cash flow for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting practices adopted in Brazil.

São Paulo, April 30, 2012.

BAKER TILLY BRASIL
AUDITORES INDEPENDENTES S/S
CRC-2SP016754/O-1

MAURO AKIO SAKANO
ACCOUNTANT
CRC-1SP143589/O-9

EXHIBIT I - BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31

EXHIBIT I - BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31 (In Brazilian reais)

ASSETS	Note	2011	2010	LIABILITIES	Note	2011	2010
CURRENT ASSETS				CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	671.652	627.874	Accounts payable		5.491	-
Other receivables		24.884	53.539	Payroll-related obligations		9.746	11.783
		696.536	681.413	Taxes payable		79	48
NONCURRENT ASSETS				Other obligations		38.863	-
Fixed assets	5	57.059	49.154	Anticipated donations	6 and 8	425.381	-
TOTAL ASSETS		753.595	730.567			479.560	11.831
				NONCURRENT LIABILITIES			
				CORPORATE ASSETS	7		
				Corporate assets		718.736	404.981
				Surplus (deficit) for the year		(444.701)	313.755
						274.035	718.736
				TOTAL LIABILITIES		753.595	730.567

EXHIBIT II - STATEMENT OF SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

EXHIBIT II - STATEMENT OF SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31 (In Brazilian reais)

	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Domestic donations	193.468	207.728
Foreign donations	1.423.381	2.345.047
REVENUE FROM DONATIONS	1.616.849	2.552.775
EXPENSES		
Administrative	(2.132.513)	(2.284.836)
Tax expenses	(44.767)	(34.998)
Recovery expenses	28.602	-
Other expenses	(11.726)	-
EXPENSES FROM THE ACTIVITIES	(2.160.404)	(2.319.834)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE FINANCIAL RESULTS	(543.555)	2 32.941
Financial results	98.854	80.814
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(444.701)	3 13.755

EXHIBIT III - STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CORPORATE ASSETS

EXHIBIT III - STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CORPORATE ASSETS (In Brazilian reais)

	Corporate assets	Accumulated surplus (deficit)	Total
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009	384.797	20.184	404.981
Transference of funds to corporate assets	20.184	(20.184)	-
Surplus for the year	-	313.755	313.755
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010	404.981	313.755	718.736
Transference of funds to corporate assets	313.755	(313.755)	-
Deficit for the year	-	(444.701)	(444.701)
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011	718.736	(444.701)	274.035

EXHIBIT IV - STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

EXHIBIT IV - STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31 (In Brazilian reais)

OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2011	2010
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(444.701)	313.755
Adjusted by: Depreciation	13.263	13.563
	(431.438)	327.318
CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Other receivables	28.655	83.975
Accounts payable	5.491	(4.200)
Payroll-related obligations	(2.037)	(9.751)
Taxes payable	31	(23)
Other obligations	38.863	(41.097)
Anticipated donations	425.381	-
Net cash provided in operating activities	64.946	356.222
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(21.168)	(18.915)
Net funds used in investments (21.168) (18.915)		
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	43.778	337.307
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	627.874	290.567
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	671.652	627.874
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	43.778	337.307

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010 (In Brazilian reais)

1. OPERATIONS

The Institution is governed by Law 9.790/99 and is engaged in promoting, supporting, monitoring and evaluating human rights projects, both in Brazil and abroad.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting practices adopted in Brazil, based on corporate legislation Law 6.404/76, which incorporated the changes introduced by Law 11.638/07 and Law 11.941/09, complemented by the technical pronouncements issued by Accounting Pronouncements Committee (CPC), having adopted the Technical pronouncement for Small and Medium-sized entities CPC- PME – accounting policies for Small and Medium-sized entities, approved by resolutions of the Federal Accounting Council (CFC).

The preparation of the financial statements requires the management to use estimates for certain assets, liabilities and transactions. Significant items subject to these estimates and assumptions include the selection of the useful life of the fixed assets and their recoverability in operations, the evaluation of financial assets both at fair value and adjustment to present value, as well as the analysis of other risks to determine other provisions, including the provision for contingencies and other similar ones. The settlement of the transactions involving those estimates can result

in amounts different from the estimated ones, due to inherent imprecision of the determination process.

3. MAIN ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

The main accounting policies adopted in preparing the financial statements are the following:

(a) Translation of foreign currency

The functional currency of the Company is the Brazilian Real, the same currency used in the preparation and presentation.

(b) Financial assets and liabilities

The association has non-derivative financial instruments such cash and cash equivalents, other receivables and accounts payable.

The association has not executed transactions involving financial instruments to manage their exposure to market, currency and interest rates risks. Besides, no transactions were executed involving financial instruments with speculative purposes.

In compliance with the Technical Pronouncement CPC - PME, the company made an assessment of its financial instruments:

- Cash and cash equivalents: are classified as held to maturity. They are valued at cost plus income earned to the balance sheet date, if applicable.

Financial assets are recognized at fair value through profit and loss when they are held for trading or those designated at fair value through profit and loss when acquired.

The association as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 did not have balances of financial assets held for trading or designated at fair value through profit and loss.

Financial assets, except those recognized at fair value through profit or loss are measured by indicators of impairment at the balance sheet date. They are considered impaired when there is evidence that as a result of one or more events occurring after their initial recognition, the estimated future cash flows of investment have been impacted.

(c) Short-term financial investments

The Short-term financial investments they are recorded at cost, plus yield earned through the balance sheet date, according to the rates agreed with financial institutions, not exceeding market values.

(d) Other assets

The other assets they are presented at the lower between cost, including yield and monetary variation incurred, and realizable amounts.

(e) Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided for as operating expenses, over the estimated useful

lives using the straight-line method at the rates described in Note 5. Property, plant and equipment is tested for impairment whenever there is any objective evidence or indication that these assets may be impaired as defined by the Technical Pronouncement – CPC 01, approved by CVM Resolution n. 527 of November 1st, 2007.

(f) Current liabilities

The current liabilities they are demonstrated at known or estimated values, plus corresponding charges and the monetary variations incurred established in contract or legally provided, where applicable.

(g) Determination of surplus (deficit)

Surplus (deficit) is determined under the accrual basis of accounting. To de year of 2011, the criteria of recognition of donations was changed to specific allocation for social projects of the Association, which were recorded in current liabilities on “Anticipated Donations” and are recognized as revenue over the period that the allocations are carried out (spend / obligations) specified in these donations.

4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

They are represented mainly by funds in domestic currency, deposited with financial institutions operating in Brazil, as follows:

	2011	2010
Cash	-	22
Cash in banks	110.000	13.215
Short-term financial investment	561.652	614.637
	671.652	627.874

5. FIXED ASSETS

		2011			2010
	Annual depreciation rates (%)	Costs	Depreciation	Residual	Residual
Furniture and Fixtures	10	41.722	(17.310)	24.412	20.946
IT Equipment	20	115.952	(91.655)	24.297	21.290
Softwares	20	7.240	(4.083)	3.157	1.034
Telecommunications Equipment	20	6.905	(1.712)	5.193	5.884
		171.819	(114.760)	57.059	49.154

6. ANTICIPATED DONATIONS

The Association received donations for the purpose of maintenance and programming of the social projects under their responsibility. Of the total funds received in 2011 in the amounting of R\$ 2.042.230, R\$ 1.616.849 were applied this year and R\$ 425.381 will be invested in 2012 in the continuity of projects.

7. CORPORATE ASSETS

Corporate assets is presented at adjusted amounts and comprises initial equity plus the amount of surplus less losses incurred.

8. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

As described in Note 3 (g) and 6, the donations received in 2011 amounting to R\$425,381, which will be used only on projects from 2012 were recorded as donations to meet the accrual basis of accounting. Thus, if these donations were used at the time of receipt, the system of recognition of revenue per cash basis, the deficit would be R\$19,320.

SUR – REDE UNIVERSITÁRIA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS
Financial Statements as of December 31, 2011 and 2010

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Independent auditors' report
Exhibit I - Balance sheets
Exhibit II - Statement of surplus (deficit) for the period
Exhibit III - Statement of changes in corporate assets
Exhibit IV - Statement of cash flows
Notes to the financial statements

Convenience translation into English from the Independent Auditors' Report issued on the financial statements prepared under accounting practices adopted in Brazil and in Brazilian currency.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Counselors and Management of SUR – Rede Universitária de Direitos Humanos

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of SUR – Rede Universitária de Direitos Humanos as of December 31, 2011 and the related statements of income, changes in corporate assets, and statement of cash flow for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies adopted in Brazil and the internal controls established by the company as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Brazilian and International Standards on Auditing. These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements taken as a whole.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Counselors and Management of SUR – Rede Universitária de Direitos Humanos

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements above mentioned, present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SUR – Rede Universitária de Direitos Humanos as of December 31, 2011, and the results of its operations, the statements of cash flow for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting practices adopted in Brazil.

São Paulo, April 30, 2012.

BAKER TILLY BRASIL
AUDITORES INDEPENDENTES S/S
CRC-2SP016754/O-1

MAURO AKIO SAKANO
ACCOUNTANT
CRC-1SP143589/O-9

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

EXHIBIT I - BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31

EXHIBIT I - BALANCE SHEETS AS OF DECEMBER 31 (In Brazilian reais)

ASSETS	Note	2011	2010	LIABILITIES	Note	2011	2010
CURRENT ASSETS				CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	232.209	247.320	Social obligations		-	331
Other receivables		44.818	447	Tax obligations		-	220
		277.027	247.767	Anticipated donations	6 and 8	76.495	-
NONCURRENT ASSETS						76.495	511
Fixed assets	5	2.013	509	NONCURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL ASSETS		279.040	248.276	CORPORATE ASSETS	7		
				Corporate assets		247.725	116.419
				Surplus (deficit) for the year		(45.180)	131.306
						202.545	247.725
				TOTAL LIABILITIES		279.040	248.276

EXHIBIT II - STATEMENT OF SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

EXHIBIT II - STATEMENT OF SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31 (In Brazilian reais)

	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Domestic donations	213.546	191.093
Foreign donations	245.008	388.891
REVENUE FROM DONATIONS	458.554	579.984
Administrative	(517.260)	(465.372)
Tax expenses	(8.886)	(9.267)
EXPENSES FROM THE ACTIVITIES	(526.146)	(474.639)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE FINANCIAL RESULTS	(67.592)	105.345
Financial results	22.412	25.961
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(45.180)	131.306

EXHIBIT III - STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CORPORATE ASSETS

EXHIBIT III - STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CORPORATE ASSETS (In Brazilian reais)

	Corporate assets	Accumulated surplus (deficit)	Total
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009	3 98.874	(282.455)	116.419
Transference of funds to corporate assets	(282.455)	282.455	-
Surplus for the year	-	131.306	131.306
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010	116.419	131.306	247.725
Transference of funds to corporate assets	131.306	(131.306)	-
Deficit for the year	-	(45.180)	(45.180)
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011	247.725	(45.180)	202.545

EXHIBIT IV - STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

EXHIBIT IV - STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31 (In Brazilian reais)

OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2011	2010
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(45.180)	131.306
Adjusted by: Depreciation	295	130
	(44.885)	131.436
CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Other accounts receivables	(44.371)	41.098
Payroll-related obligations	(331)	331
Taxes payable	(220)	(5)
Anticipated donations	7 6.495	-
Net cash provided (used) in operating activities	(13.312)	172.860
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1.799)	-
Net funds used in investments	(1.799)	-
INCREASE (DECREASE) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(15.111)	172.860
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	247.320	74.460
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	232.209	247.320
INCREASE (DECREASE) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(15.111)	172.860

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010 (In Brazilian reais)

1. THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS ENTITIES

Civil non profit association, ruled by Law 9.790/99, based on Article 3rd , X, for promoting, ethics, peace, human rights, democracy and other universal values, with the aim of (i) collaborating with the United Nations for Human Rights enforcement, through programs that allow exchange of experiences among universities and academic people in the South hemisphere and United Nations agencies; (ii) strengthening the teaching and training in Human Rights, through experiences exchange among the South hemisphere university programs; (iii) promoting and developing research among South hemisphere universities and (iv) developing and supporting solidary law practice in the South hemisphere.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting practices adopted in Brazil, based on corporate legislation Law 6.404/76, which incorporated the changes introduced by Law 11.638/07 and Law 11.941/09, complemented by the technical pronouncements issued by Accounting Pronouncements Committee (CPC), having adopted the Technical pronouncement for Small and Medium-sized entities CPC- PME – accounting policies for Small and Medium-sized entities, approved by resolutions of the Federal Accounting Council (CFC).

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Financial assets, except those recognized at fair value through profit or loss are measured by indicators of impairment at the balance sheet date. They are considered impaired when there is evidence that as a result of one or more events occurring after their initial recognition, the estimated future cash flows of investment have been impacted.

(c) Short-term financial investments

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To de year of 2011, the criteria of recognition of donations was changed to specific allocation for social projects of the Association, which were recorded in current liabilities on “Anticipated Donations” and are recognized as revenue over the period that the allocations are carried out (spend / obligations) specified in these donations.

4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

They are represented mainly by funds in domestic currency, deposited with financial institutions operating in Brazil, as follows:

	2011	2010
Cash	-	6
Cash in banks	24.249	89
Short-term financial investment	207.960	247.225
	232.209	247.320

The financial investment is in Bank Deposit Certificates (CDBs)

5. FIXED ASSETS

		2011			2010
	Annual depreciation rates (%)	Costs	Depreciation	Residual	Residual
Furniture	10	2.552	(723)	1.829	270
Fixtures	10	551	(367)	184	239
IT Equipment	20	9.635	(9.635)	-	-
		12.738	(10.725)	2.013	509

6. ANTICIPATED DONATIONS

The Association received donations for the purpose of maintenance and programming of the social projects under their responsibility. Of the total funds received in 2011 in the amounting of R\$ 535.050, R\$ 458.554 were applied this year and R\$ 76.496 will be invested in 2012 in the continuity of projects.

7. CORPORATE ASSETS

The corporate assets is presented at adjusted amounts and comprises initial equity plus the amount of surplus less losses incurred.

8. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

As described in Note 3 (g) and 6, the donations received in 2011 amounting to R\$76,496, which will be used only on projects from 2012 were recorded as donations to meet the accrual basis of accounting. Thus, if these donations were used at the time of receipt, the system of recognition of revenue per cash basis, the surplus would be R\$31,315.

DIRECTORS

Lucia Nader – Executive Director
Juana Kweitel – Director of Programs
Marcos Roberto Fuchs – Associate Director

INSTITUTIONAL

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE

Fernanda Mito – Manager
Jéssica Calinsque – Administrative Assistant
Celso Gottsfritz – IT Consultant
Gisele Maria dos Santos – Administrative and Financial Assistant
Josefa Maria dos Santos – Administrative and Financial Assistant

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Marta Ferreira – Consultant

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Mara Arizaga – Representative in Geneva

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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM

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FOREIGN POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Camila Asano – Foreign Policy and Human Rights Coordinator
Fabiana Leibl – Project Assistant
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Fernando Sciré – Consultant

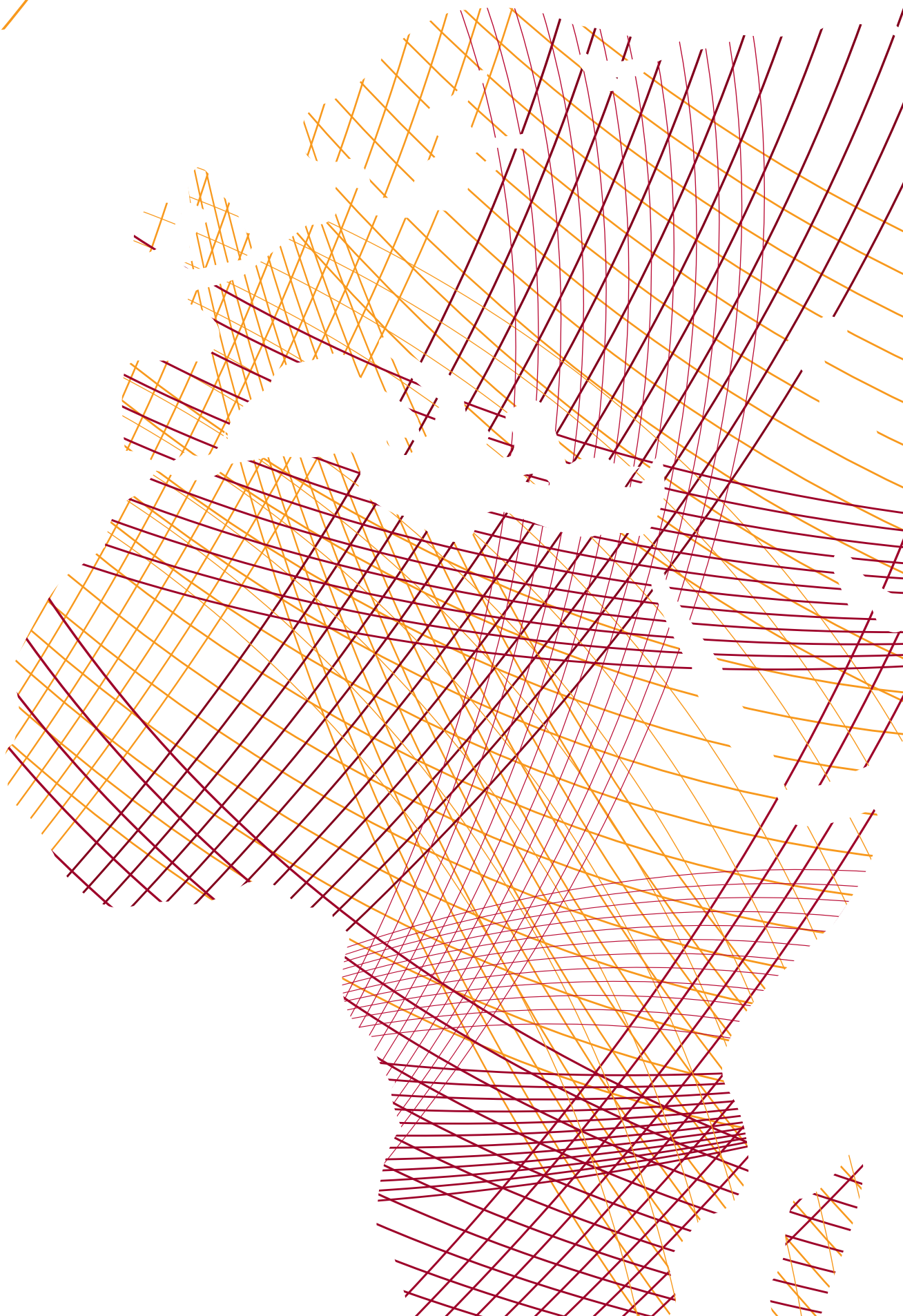
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Pedro Paulo Poppovic – Editor
Oscar V. Vieira – Editor pro bono
Laura Traiber Waisbich – Editorial Assistant
Luz Gonzalez – Intern

JUSTICE PROGRAM

Rafael Custodio – Coordinator
Falvia Annenberg – Lawyer
Vivian Calderoni – Lawyer
Sheila Carvalho – Intern
Eloisa Machado – Consultant

**We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Alexandre Lopes, Guilherme Zocchio, Natalia Suzuki, Renata Preturlan, Muriel Soares, Tatiana Silva, Thiago Amparo, who no longer work at Conectas, but without whom the accomplishments related in this report would not have been possible.
Completed in October, 2012*





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