

Annual Report

2009/2010 Achievements and Impact
Perspectives for 2010/2011



CONECTAS **S** HUMAN RIGHTS

Annual Report

2009/2010 Achievements and Impact
Perspectives for 2010/2011





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GUILHERME LUSTOSA DA CUNHA (*in memoriam*)

This Report is dedicated to our dear friend and board member, Guilherme Lustosa da Cunha, who passed away in June 2010. His life, devoted to human and humanitarian rights, was a great source of inspiration and his advice invaluable for our Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project. We will miss him very much.

ABOUT CONECTAS

Conectas Human Rights is an international non-governmental and not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to promote the realization of human rights and the consolidation of the rule of law, especially in Latin America, Asia and Africa

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Conectas Human Rights is an international non-governmental and not-for-profit organization, founded in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in October 2001.

Its mission is *to promote the realization of human rights and the consolidation of the rule of law, especially in Latin America, Asia and Africa.*

Conectas was accorded consultative status with the ECOSOC-UN in January 2006, and observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in May 2009.

To fulfill its mission, Conectas divides its work into two broad programs that cover both national and international activities and interact with each other.

» Conectas's JUSTICE PROGRAM works to protect vulnerable groups, victims of human rights violations, through strategic litigation, legal advocacy and provision of *pro bono* legal services. This program is composed of four initiatives:

- Artigo 1
- Instituto Pro Bono
- Black Women's Right to Health in Brazil (pilot project ending in 2010)
- A partner's project: Inclusive Business Clinic

» Through its GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM, Conectas conducts research, builds the capacity of local and regional human rights advocates, shares knowledge among and between academics and practitioners, promotes alliances and south-south cooperation, and equips activists to influence their governments' foreign policies on human rights and to interact with regional bodies and with the United Nations' human rights systems. This program is composed of five initiatives:

- International Human Rights Colloquium
- Foreign Policy and Human Rights
- Sur – International Journal on Human Rights
- IBSA Research (ending in 2009)
- Human Rights Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa
- A partner's project: the OSISA-Angola's Fellowship Program



FUNDERS

Conectas would like to thank and acknowledge the support of its main donors in 2009/2010:

- EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- FORD FOUNDATION
- FUNDAÇÃO CARLOS CHAGAS
- MACARTHUR FOUNDATION
- OAK FOUNDATION
- OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE
- OVERBROOK FOUNDATION
- SIGRID RAUSING TRUST
- UNITED NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND
- UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION / BETTER WORLD FUND (UNF/BWF)

We would also like to thank the following partners for their contribution towards Conectas´s activities, in the form of financial and/or in-kind contributions in 2009/2010:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Amnesty International | • Instituto Fonte |
| • Ashoka Social Entrepreneurs | • Instituto Sou da Paz |
| • Brazilian Ministry of Health/UNESCO | • Instituto PAPAI |
| • Centro de Referência para a Mulher | • Koinonia |
| • Differãnce | • Lawyers Collective |
| • Democracy Coalition Project | • Municipality of Sao Paulo - Centro da Juventude Ruth Cardoso |
| • ECOS- Comunicação em Sexualidade | • National Endowment for Democracy |
| • Embassy of the Netherlands in Brasilia | • Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights / OHCHR |
| • Embassy of Switzerland in Brasilia | • Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees / UNHCR |
| • Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul | • Oxfam |
| • Friederich Ebert Foundation – Brazil | • Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo |
| • General Consulate of Canada in Sao Paulo | • Programa de Estudos da Diversidade (Homo)Sexual da Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP) |
| • General Consulate of France in Sao Paulo | • SBDP – Brazilian Society for Public Law |
| • Getulio Vargas Foundation - Law School of Sao Paulo | • SENAC – National Service for Commercial Learning |
| • Grupo Gay da Bahia | • Zenza |
| • IBCCRIM – Brazilian Institute for Criminal Sciences | |
| • International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | |

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

we succeeded in starting 2010
with an optimistic outlook for new
opportunities and promises

DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

With this new Report, we have the pleasure to present our activities for the year 2009 and the first semester of 2010 made possible thanks to your partnership and support.

For us, as for many other not-for-profit organizations, the effects of the economic crisis and the turbulence of the exchange market have generated many uncertainties and reasons for concern regarding the fulfillment of our commitments. However, thanks to the effort of all the members of our staff, we have succeeded not only in overcoming the pessimistic mood that overshadowed the beginning of 2009 and to carry out all obligations by the end of the year, but we also succeeded in starting 2010 with an optimistic outlook for new opportunities and promises.

To achieve these results, more than 100 funding prospects were analyzed and over 30 proposals were submitted to potential donors for new or renewed grants, out of which 20 requests were approved. These exceptional efforts demanded a strengthening of our institutional area. The continued trust and support of our traditional donors (European Commission, Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation, Open Society Institute, Overbrook, United Nations Democracy Fund, United Nations Foundation / Better World Fund), as well as the timely contributions of various entities who supplied funds and in-kind support, were a rewarding response to all our efforts.

We are proud to announce that in February 2009 we received the first large two-year grant from a Brazilian institution, Fundação Carlos Chagas, that allowed us to continue to produce, twice a year, the Sur – International Journal on HR in print and on line, in three languages. Another important conquest was the one-year core grant for our overall activities received for the first time from the Sigris Rausing Trust, and a two-year grant from the MacArthur Foundation to strengthen our collaborative work with African partners.

Both our JUSTICE and GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAMS have benefited from this institutional re-shaping: they are more integrated and have re-defined priorities in order to maximize available resources.

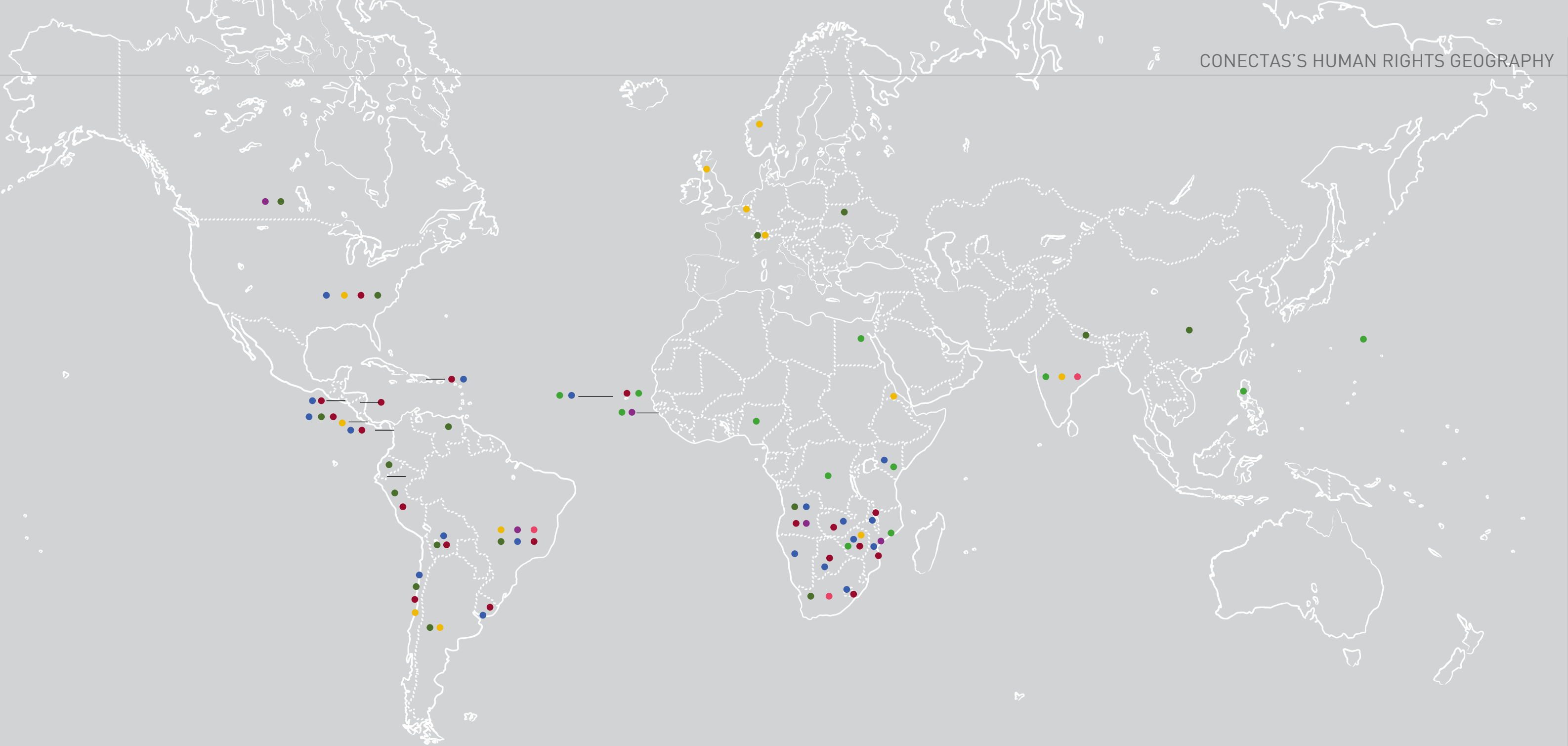
This report covers the eighth year and the first semester of the ninth year of our existence. In 2011 Conectas will celebrate its 10th Anniversary, a decade of innovative development and collective achievements in advancing human rights cross-regionally with your support and understanding.



MALAK POPPOVIC
Executive Director



OSCAR VILHENA
Legal Director



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM

In 2009, the participants of the IX Colloquium were from Angola, Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

The lecturers of the IX Colloquium were from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Switzerland and the United States of America.

FOREIGN POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

From January 2009 to April 2010, the Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project provided support for other NGOs to participate in the Universal Periodic Review of their countries. These partners were from Angola, Bolivia, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Panama, Swaziland, Uruguay, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR LUSOPHONE AFRICA

The 2009 Fellows were from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.

SUR - INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The authors of the articles published in the two issues launched in 2009 were from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Eritrea, India, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

IBSA PROJECT

The three-year collaborative research (2007-2009) assessed the role played by the constitutional courts in the promotion and protection of human rights in India, Brazil and South Africa

JUSTICE PROGRAM: ARTIGO 1, INSTITUTO PRO BONO, BLACK WOMEN'S RIGHT TO HEALTH IN BRAZIL PROJECT

Besides intense action in Brazil, in 2009/2010, the projects of Conectas's Justice Program shared experiences with partner NGOs from Angola, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Hungary, Peru, South Africa and Ukraine.

Over the last several years, countries of the Global South, where human rights problems are arguably the starkest and most pervasive, have seen the greatest expansion in local human rights activities.

Human rights advocates in this part of the world need assistance to strengthen their own in-country work and to develop a more powerful collective voice in the international debates that affect human rights in the Global South.



Voices from the Global South

organizations from the South were able to raise their voice and increase their participation in the international human rights agenda

As the number and type of human rights groups operating around the world has grown in recent times, so has the potential for the human rights movement to dramatically increase its influence. But many factors stand in the way of the movement's ability to become greater than the sum of its parts. This is especially so in the Global South, where there has been the greatest expansion in local human rights activity over the last several years and, understandably, where human rights problems are arguably the starkest and most pervasive. Human rights advocates in this part of the world need assistance to strengthen their own in-country work and to develop a more powerful collective voice in the international debates that affect human rights in the Global South.

There is also a growing awareness that the proper functioning and effectiveness of regional and international human rights mechanisms require a qualified participation of both States and civil society organizations from the Global South, and that the new conjuncture offers NGOs an unprecedented opportunity of monitoring their country's performance. This is the case of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), with a membership composed mainly of Southern countries. Moreover, the HRC comprises, among other mechanisms, a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for all UN member States every four years. The UPR can serve as an "entrance door" for new NGOs to work with the UN, influencing its policy decisions.

Nevertheless, human rights NGOs in Latin America, Asia and Africa continue to face a number of obstacles in expanding their activities to the regional and international spheres, such as the lack of access to information, including language barriers; the lack of resources to attend the UN and regional meetings *in loco* and the lack of familiarity with the methods of work and procedures of international mechanisms.

Conectas's GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM is distinctive in that it was created in the South by a Southern human rights group to increase the individual and collective impact of a new generation of Global South human rights defenders, through education, research and advocacy. Since 2001, our organization has been working with the United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and has developed expertise in sharing experience, working and training other NGOs to work with these systems, besides the innovative collaborative actions through strong partnerships within a broad network of human rights defenders and organizations from Latin America, Asia and Africa.

2009 and 2010 were challenging years for the GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM due to several changes, the continuous mutual reinforcement of its projects and the assessment of the impact of its actions.

The IX International Human Rights Colloquium held in October 2009, was a special event as it gathered participants from all former Colloquia. This moment was joyful and rewarding for Conectas's team since we were able to meet once again with our partners and friends, and to perceive how important their participation in our network has been for their works and lives. To this end, we conducted an evaluation process before and during the event in order to assess the impact of the Colloquium in its nine years of existence.

The participants gave concrete examples of joint projects implemented after their participation in the Colloquium. They also mentioned that this event is different from other human rights courses, because it takes into account the social aspect of human rights work, providing a space for creating new friendships. They further emphasized its uniqueness as a South-South forum and highlighted the efforts made by Conectas to maintain communication with former participants. In other words, during the last nine years, we have managed to develop a real network of partners who trust on our work and are willing to continue working and collaborating with us.

The work carried out through other projects of the GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM also enabled Conectas to raise the voice of the organizations from the Southern Hemisphere in the international human rights agenda. This is the case of the Sur - International Journal on Human Rights that permitted the Global South's voices to be expressed in three languages (Portuguese, English and Spanish) by an international audience, often inaccessible to its activists and scholars. 2009 was an extremely difficult year for the Sur Journal when it had to consider ending the print version, despite the difficulty that some of our 2,061 subscribers, who receive the journal for free, in more than 100 countries, have in accessing to the online version. However, we began 2010 with optimism and new perspectives thanks to a new Brazilian partner, the Fundação Carlos Chagas, which will support the four printed issues to be launched in 2010 and 2011.

Conectas's Human Rights and Foreign Policy Project also carries out activities that aim to empower civil society organizations from the Global South to work with regional and international human rights mechanisms, particularly with the United Nations, and to promote the accountability of Southern governments' foreign policies. Created towards the end of 2005, the project was designed to accompany the work of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and monitor Brazil's role in the international and regional human rights systems, on the one hand; and, on the other, to use its already existing capacity-building and networking activities to share its knowledge with other Southern NGOs and develop collaborative initiatives with them.

Since its creation, this project has undertaken activities at different levels: national, regional and cross regional and international. Conectas shared knowledge, exchanged information with and/or provided support to NGOs from several countries, which underwent the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in 2008/2009 or will be reviewed in 2010/2011. Through its UN ECOSOC consultative status, Conectas helped partner organizations to attend UPR's Working Group sessions and/or to make their voices heard during the adoption of the UPR outcome reports. Moreover, in the last two years, 34 NGOs from 23 countries participated in two Strategic Meetings organized by Conectas that addressed both NGO participation with the UN HRC and their respective country's UPR. Conectas also participated in the organization of several capacity-building courses and workshops in Africa and in Latin America (South Africa in 2008, Kenya, Cape Verde, Angola, Zambia and Panama in 2009, and a one-day e-learning course for NGOs in Bolivia, Nicaragua, and El Salvador in 2010), which have gathered a total of over a hundred NGOs.

Conectas learned from these previous collaborative actions that, in order to be successful in its endeavor, it is important to have a clear and meaningful agenda, based on trust and persistence; a strong network of strategic partners with mutual interests and a capacity for developing innovative ways of working.

The achievements and impact of our actions in 2009 and in the first semester of 2010 presented in the following pages, are the result of partnerships and collective initiatives across regions and continents. Our perspectives for 2010/2011 are also being presented.



Participants of the 2009 Colloquium



Opening session of the 2009 Colloquium

International Human Rights Colloquium

from 2001-2009, the event hosted almost 592 participants from 50 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia

The International Human Rights Colloquium is a capacity-building and peer-learning conference convened in Sao Paulo for a week every year. Its main objective is to strengthen the individual and collective impact of human rights activists in Latin America, Africa and Asia, and to encourage them to take on a growing role in the promotion of human rights.

The program offers a one-of-a-kind forum to help them:

- Transcend the isolation in which many of them work;
- Share comparative experiences and expertise;
- Infuse their activities with information about the latest developments in the field;
- Acquire the skills needed to professionalize their operations;
- Increase their presence and influence within the United Nations system;
- Collaborate on issues and develop alliances, where there exists the potential for altering advocacy agendas.

In the previous nine editions, from 2001 to 2009, the Colloquium hosted 592 participants from 50 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. In addition, 246 academics and researchers have served as presenters and contributors to the Colloquia, enriching the gatherings with a diversity of perspectives and experiences.

Of the 592 Colloquium alumni, a large number continues to work in human rights organizations and many continue in close contact with Conectas by participating in its HR Dialogue network, sharing a common portal (www.conectasur.org) and developing several joint initiatives.

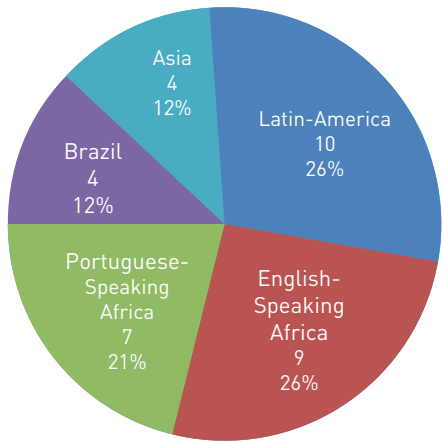
The IX International Human Rights Colloquium: main features

The IX International Human Rights Colloquium “An Appraisal of the Human Rights System from a Southern Perspective: Common Strategies and Proposals for Reform” took place in Sao Paulo, from November 8 to 14, 2009.

The Conference was attended by 34 participants (20 women and 14 men) from 22 different countries. It also hosted 32 speakers, observers, students and volunteers. An interesting feature about the profile of the selected participants is that only former participants had been invited to apply, unlike former years where the majority was newcomers.

PREVIOUS COLLOQUIUM	Nº. of participants at the IX Colloquium
2001	1
2002	2
2003	1
2004	5
2005	5
2006	4
2007	4
2008	8
Fellows from Portuguese- Speaking Africa	4
TOTAL	34

IX COLLOQUIUM’S PARTICIPANTS PER REGION



It was very rewarding to meet again with former participants and to discover that they continue in their commitment to the protection of human rights. The group, as a whole, was especially advanced and followed the Colloquium Program in a collaborative way, participating in all the activities and keeping an environment of respect and tolerance.

The main items on the agenda of this core group of alumni were (i) to learn about the functioning of the UN system, share their experience and develop concrete proposals to improve civil society participation in the international system; and (ii) to participate in an appraisal of former Colloquia and help Conectas design the format and content of upcoming events.

The UN human rights system and civil society participation

Each topic of the main theme “An Appraisal of the Human Rights System from a Southern Perspective: Common Strategies and Proposals for Reform” was discussed in a sequence that allowed for an in-depth learning process starting with basic facts and lectures and continuing throughout the day with interactive activities in the form of case studies and working groups.

Lectures and panels

To introduce the panels on international human rights mechanisms, Conectas’s staff gave an overview of the mechanisms under discussion by presenting basic information regarding the organ’s, composition, methods and working agenda.

The panels that followed were composed of scholars, practitioners and UN officials who shared their knowledge of the functioning of UN organs from a human rights viewpoint and discussed the opportunities for NGOs to influence the debate.

Special emphasis was given to the Human Rights Council mechanisms (UPR and Special Procedures) and the Treaty Bodies. Philippe Dam from Human Rights Watch discussed the resistance of HRC member states to adopting country resolutions. Sandeep Prasad, from Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD - Canada), presented the challenges of including the issue of sexual rights in the UPR process. Mustapha Al-Sayyid, from Cairo University, spoke about the role of Arab countries in the Human Rights Council. Gabriela Kletzel, from Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS - Argentina) spoke about NGO shadow reports submitted to the treaty bodies.

June Ray, from the OHCHR (Civil Society Unit, Geneva), and Katherine Thomasen, from the International Service for Human Rights (Geneva), presented a comprehensive panorama of the functioning of the UN Human Rights System and opportunities for civil society organizations to participate in an effective way.

Two other important topics were introduced: the Security Council and the International Criminal Court, respectively by Joanna Weschler, from Security Council Report (USA), and Camila Maturana, from Corporación Humanas (Chile). Both gave a general view on the functioning of these two international institutions and explained how NGOs can monitor their work.

Additionally, two Special Rapporteurs shared their experience:

- the UN Special Rapporteur for Arbitrary Executions, Philip Alston, who could not attend personally, sent a video where he explained the work of Special Mechanisms
- the UN Special Rapporteur for the Right to Adequate Housing, Raquel Rolnik spoke about her one-year experience as Special Rapporteur and of the challenges to combining field work with UN institutional requirements.



People from different countries of Global South attend the Colloquium every year

CASE STUDIES AND WORKING GROUPS

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Special Mechanisms

JOSÉ FERRARA (Mexico)
Submitting a case to the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the right to freedom of opinion and expression

LUIS EMMANUEL CUNHA (Brazil)
Monitoring the Implementation of SR Recommendations

RENATA LIRA (Brazil)
How to organize a SR visit

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
UPR

FLORITA TELO (Angola)
Presenting the civil society report to the UPR : the case of Angola

ANDREA DEJTEN (Uruguay)
Monitoring the UPR process in Uruguay

MAURICIO CABALLERO (Colombia)
UPR process of Colombia and LGBT Rights

CARLO CLEOFE (Philippines)
Implementation of UPR Recommendations

TREATY BODIES

BABALOLA MEDAYEDUPIN (Nigeria)
Advocating for the Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture

CHIBOGU OBINWA (Nigeria)
Advocacy Experience Towards the Domestication of CEDAW in Nigeria

MARIA ESTHER MOGOLLON (Peru)
Advocating for the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

WENDY FLORES (Nicaragua)
Presenting Shadow Reports to Treaty Bodies

Case studies and working groups

To illustrate the lectures, some of the participants presented case studies of their experiences with the international system (see table “Case Studies and Working Groups”).

After the case studies, Working Groups were formed to discuss concrete proposals for reforming the international system that constituted the basis for the final document of recommendations drafted by the participants of the Colloquium.

The strategy adopted of combining lectures with peer learning was particularly successful during this encounter. Participants were better prepared for a more horizontal and democratic debate and were eager to jointly produce a statement that may serve as guidelines for their future collaborative activities. Working Groups, divided by language so as to facilitate dialogue without interpreters, identified the main challenges facing the UN human rights system (see box “Main challenges facing the UN human rights system”).

MAIN CHALLENGES FACING THE UN
HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

1. Lack of cooperation by States with the United Nations (UN), often based on the false argument of incompatibility between sovereignty and human rights protection;
2. Lack of implementation of UN recommendations and difficulty in measuring the effectiveness of human rights international bodies and mechanisms;
3. Obstacles to civil society participation in the UN system, which involves a lack of financial resources, language barriers and physical, communication and information accessibility;
4. Insufficient interaction between and among the UN Human Rights System and Regional Systems;
5. Selectivity and politicization within the Human Rights Council (HRC);
6. Non-ratification of core human rights treaties and obstacles to civil society participation in Treaty Bodies;
7. Insufficient treatment of human rights in the agenda of the Security Council, as well as the Security Council’s relationship with other human rights bodies and civil society;
8. Guaranteeing greater effectiveness of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and improving its relationship with the UN human rights system.

Adoption of a final document

After drafting this diagnosis, the Working Groups made concrete recommendations to overcome those challenges. The compilation of these recommendations took the form of a final document signed by all participants addressed to UN organs, governments, NGOs, and civil society at large (see document at http://www.conectas.org/arquivo-publicados/IXHRColloquium_DocFinal_English.pdf).

Unscheduled meetings and
networking opportunities

The Colloquium is an event that generates new alliances and gives Conectas the opportunity to consolidate its collaborative activities with partners. Although not originally planned in the program, spontaneous gatherings take place between scheduled activities and form the basis for the follow-up work, which help develop a more powerful collective voice in the international debate affecting human rights in the Global South. This means that the Colloquium does not end after the one-week event but continues in the form of various collaborative activities carried out by its members. A few examples of the encounters that took place during the IX Colloquium are:

- Latin American and Zimbabwean NGOs met to discuss the strategies to be adopted for the con-

tinuation of the Friends of Zimbabwe Campaign;

- Breakfast with African participants to discuss possibilities of cooperation and a “needs’ assessment” agenda, given that Conectas obtained the Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights in 2009;
- Online forum organized by our partners, freeDimensional (fD) and New Tactics in Human Rights, featuring Art Spaces Hosting Activism and Strengthening Community Engagement (<http://www.newtactics.org/en/blog/new-tactics/art-spaces-hosting-activism-community-engagement>);
- Also through our partner freeDimensional (fD), the artist Lino Hellings, from the Netherlands, creator of P.A.P.A. International (network of artists and correspondents that creates news by taking action) discussed her work with the participants;
- In partnership with Article 19, a parallel session on the right to information for Latin American participants was organized;
- Professor Kathia Martin Chenut, from the Chair of Comparative and International Law at Collège de France, discussed the challenges of the Inter-American System of Human Rights Protection with Latin American participants.



Participants discussing about the human rights system in a working group activity

Evaluation of the Colloquium: format, content and impact

“The Colloquium is an event that remains in permanent transformation. We have introduced changes each year to respond to the participants’ feedback and we have tried to keep pace with the most recent technologies and teaching tools. Our main challenge is to keep up our innovative capacity and to continue being a space for dialogue where participants become partners and have a voice in the decision-making process”, according to Juana Kweitel , Coordinator of Conectas’s GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM.

In all previous years, Conectas has carried out evaluations with the participants of the Colloquium during and after the event, and has taken into account the results in order to introduce changes and improvements in the format and content. These consecutive evaluations showed that the Colloquium had become a recognized space for training and

networking for human rights organizations, especially from the Global South. However, Conectas was eager to receive a more in-depth assessment of its work and impact by beneficiaries of the Program throughout the years, many of whom have become partners. This was particularly important, as one of the shortcomings previously pointed out by participants was the lack of continuity between years and the absence of bridges among different colloquium generations.

The IX Colloquium that brought together former participants from all previous Programs, carried out an overall assessment of the format, content and results of the Colloquium. In the month preceding the meeting, participants were requested to reply to an online questionnaire that asked the question: *Has the Colloquium achieved the following objectives?*

During the open discussions, participants made numerous and positive comments. They talked about the impact of the Colloquium in their lives, giving concrete examples of collaborative projects implemented as a consequence of the event. They mentioned that the Colloquium is different from other courses because it stresses the social aspect of the human rights work, providing space for friendship. They also highlighted the uniqueness of the Colloquium as a South- South forum.

Participants made concrete proposals for future Colloquia. They asked for the incorporation of French as one of the Colloquium’s working languages, recommended the continuation of many of its features, such as the Open Space Forum and the visits to Brazilian NGOs, and stressed the importance of case studies presented by participants. They also strongly recommended that Conectas document the impact of the Colloquium in participants’ lives, as, according to them, “that story needs to be told”.

Participants’ evaluation of the 8th Colloquium: six months later

It should also be pointed out that six months after the event, in May-June 2009, Conectas had

also carried out an assessment of the impact on the activists’ work and organizations, that participated in the 8th Colloquium “60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Challenges for the Global South”, that had taken place in November 2008. Rather than measuring the participants’ satisfaction, this evaluation intended to be a more effective tool for monitoring the success of one of the Colloquium’s main goals, which was to increase the impact of the work developed by those who participate in the Program. Out of the 54 participants of the 8th Colloquium, 49 (90.7%) replied to the questionnaire.

Some comments from the participants who replied to the questionnaire

“After the Colloquium, I applied for a project to raise awareness of the UPR process in China to the British Embassy/Foreign Office. The application was approved. We will launch workshops and conferences to help the NGOs in China to take part in the UPR process”.

Wanhong Zhang (China)

“The activity of the last day consisting of the simulation of a UN Human Rights Council was excellent. [...] I congratulate you for the Colloquium that you organize. I believe this is a very good opportunity to generate networks among human rights activists. Moreover, it is noteworthy to mention the human and professional quality of Conectas’s team”.

Mariela Infante (Chile)

“Thanks to the Colloquium we were able to link our local work to broader activities and the international fight for LGBT rights, such as in the case of the discussion of this theme at the UN”

Renilson Cruz (Brazil)

HAS THE COLLOQUIUM ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES?

ANSWER	N. OF ANSWERS	PERCENTAGE
[Objective 1: The exchange of comparative experiences and expertise]		
Strongly agree	18	78,00%
Agree	5	22,00%
[Objective 2: Information-sharing about the latest developments in the field]		
Strongly agree	13	56,50%
Agree	10	43,50%
[Objective 3: Professional skills acquisition]		
Strongly agree	12	52,00%
Agree	8	36,00%
Disagree	3	12,00%
[Objective 4: Learning how to navigate the United Nations system for advancing human rights protections]		
Strongly agree	12	52,00%
Agree	9	39,00%
Disagree	2	9,00%
[Objective 5: Laying the foundation for future collaborations and alliances]		
Strongly agree	13	56,50%
Agree	10	43,50%



Juana Kweitel, coordinator of Conectas’s GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM: “The Colloquium is an event that remains in permanent transformation”



Participants of the 2009 Colloquium

RESULTS – QUESTIONNAIRE: IMPACT OF THE 8TH COLLOQUIUM

	YES	NO	WITHOUT ANSWER
Did you use the knowledge gained from the Colloquium in a practical way?	85,7%	14,3%	0%
Did the Colloquium enhance your knowledge about the human rights situation in the South?	100%	0%	0%
Did/do you keep in touch with the activists you met during the Colloquium?	97,9%	2,1%	0%
Do you think that the Portal (www.conectasur.org) and the Bulletin Conectasur are useful tools to help you keep in touch with the activists you met during the Colloquium?	77,5%	22,4%	1,1%
What do you think about the Colloquium: is it different from other human rights courses or meetings?	94,8%	2,1%	6,1%
Would you recommend participation in the Colloquium to other activists?	100%	0%	0%

Perspectives for the 10th Colloquium

Theme

The 10th International Human Rights Colloquium on “Regional and International Human Rights Systems: Challenges for Civil Society Participation”, will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from October 9 to 16, 2010.

The three former Colloquia had chosen to discuss, as the central theme, the international HR system and the role of NGOs, with special emphasis on the UN Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review process. After consultations with former participants, members of the HR Dialogue network, the choice of the theme of regional human rights systems was adopted for several reasons:

- the need to understand each of these regional systems as well as to gain comparative knowledge of them;
- these systems are complementary and could strengthen the work and effectiveness of the international human rights system;
- the need to strengthen civil society participation in these mechanisms.

Format

For the IX Colloquium, the reunion of former participants gathered a small group; only 34 participants as opposed to 60 or 70 in former years. During the evaluation process, participants were unanimous in agreeing that this size was ideal because it gave the opportunity for a better exchange of experiences among members of the group. Therefore, we plan to limit the number for the future Colloquia to approximately 40 participants.

To foster the participation of the alumni who applied for the IX Colloquium but were not selected, the 2009 encounter was partially transmitted live and online through an Internet tool (<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/ix-coloquio-colloquium>). With the same purpose, the Colloquium also counted with a blog and Twitter posts. We plan to use 2010 and 2011 the lectures recorded in other training activities.

As mentioned above, the presentation of case studies by participants was introduced for the first time in the IX Colloquium. Participants recommended continuing this new feature in future Colloquia because it bridged the division between speakers and participants.

Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa

The 2009 fellows were well prepared and motivated young activists, eager to make use of all the opportunities

The Human Rights Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique) is part of the Open Society's Justice Initiative Fellows Program, which provides educational and work opportunities for young lawyers and human rights activists, and supports capacity-building for leading human rights NGOs. The program offers fellows the tools to bring human rights theory and practice together, the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the field, important firsthand experience abroad and a network of individuals who share a commitment to justice.

The Human Rights Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa is a two-year program. Fellows stay in Brazil for a ten-month period, taking a five-month non-degree course of study at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo (PUC-SP), complemented by various other courses, and a five-month internship with Brazilian non-governmental organizations that deal with the topic they work with in their home country. Conectas is responsible for organizing their program and their stay in Brazil. After that, back in their countries of origin, they have to implement an one-year human rights project in their NGO, which they plan and develop during the Brazilian phase of the Fellowship.

From 2004 to 2009, thirty activists from Angola, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique took part in the program in Brazil.

Overview of the 2009 Fellowship Program

Six fellows were selected for this 6th edition of the Program: two from Angola (Paulo dos Santos Lucas and Simão Hossi), two from Mozambique (Dário de Sousa and Salvador Nkamate), one from Guinea Bissau (Bacar Queta) and one from Cape Verde (Margareth da Luz). One of them, Paulo dos Santos Lucas, who left at the end of the first semester for Angola, was not able to attend the second phase of the Program.

As in previous years, all fellows attended non-degree university courses at the Pontifical Catholic University in Sao Paulo, during the first months of their stay, and were able to dedicate the latter half of the Fellowship to internships with various NGOs and to courses that helped them in preparation of the project to be implemented upon their return home.

The 2009 fellows were well prepared and motivated young activists who were eager to make use of all the opportunities that the stay in Brazil offered to them. During their stay, they worked in close collaboration with Conectas in various activities, especially in relation to their countries’ Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with the Human Rights Council.

Because of its extensive network of partners, Conectas was able to obtain valuable opportunities for academic learning and practical training, either free of charge or for reduced costs, for all the fellows during their stay in Brazil. The most important were:

- Fellows attended classes in 2009 at the PUC/SP University free of charge;
- The public relations agency *Differância* (www.diferance.com.br) offered a cultural training seminar free of charge to facilitate the cultural adaptation to Sao Paulo;
- The following institutions gave partial or total scholarships for their courses: Brazilian Society for Public Law (SBDP / www.sbdp.org.br); Brazilian Institute of Criminology Science (IBCCRIM / www.ibccrim.org.br) and National Service for Commercial Learning (SENAC / www.senac.br).
- The fellows visited six organizations collectively and made 26 individual visits to other NGOs, and on each occasion special meetings were organized for them;

- Seven NGOs accepted the fellows as interns (five in Sao Paulo, one in Recife and one in Bahia);
- The fellows were given access to the labs and library of the FGV Law School.

The overall assessment of the 2009 Fellowship Program was extremely positive. Both, Conectas and the fellows,

benefited immensely from information and knowledge sharing from their respective realities, cultures, human rights activities and plans for the future.

The table “2009 Fellows” presents the information about the internship completed by each fellow and the focus of the projects they will implement in their country of origin in 2010.

‘My two internships were extraordinary. In both, worked with innovative views on gender and human rights and I was totally integrated in the organizations’ daily life. In addition, I was able to be involved in all activities organized during my internship period. That experience provided me knowledge to improve the methodologies I use with the different publics that I work with’. Margareth da Luz – 2009 Fellow from Cape Verde

“Margareth’s internship with us was really productive for both the fellow and Instituto PAPAI, since she was able to follow all of the ongoing activities [...] She showed interest in understanding our political views, methodology and theory, and I can tell you that her presence motivated us a lot. Understanding more about the reality of an African country, as Cape Verde, also made us think about other partnership possibilities and bi-lateral exchanges.” Ana Roberta Oliveira - Instituto PAPAI, Recife - Brazil

2009 FELLOWS

Fellow	NGO	Internships in Brazil	Fellows’ Human Rights Projects
Simão Hossi (Angola)	AAM (Acção Angolana para a Mulher)	Centro de Referência para a Mulher (Sao Paulo) and Conectas – Black Women’s Right to Health in Brazil –(Sao Paulo)	To provide capacity-building courses for women regarding their rights, aimed at strengthening women’s leadership in Angola
Paulo Lucas (Angola)	AHARPE (Acção Humanitária, Assistência e Reintegração dos Presos e Exilados)	<i>Not included in this phase of the Program</i>	<i>Not included in this phase of the Program</i>
Margareth da Luz (Cape Verde)	AMJ (Associação Caboverdiana de Mulheres Juristas)	Instituto PAPAI (Recife, Pernambuco State) and ECOS (Comunicação em Sexualidade – Sao Paulo)	To give legal and psychological assistance to women victims of violence, broadening the discussion of gender through campaigns directed at men and women in Cape Verde
Bacar Queta (Guinea-Bissau)	FALCOLSIDA (Fórum Associações Comunitárias de Luta Contra SIDA)	Koinonia (Sao Paulo)	To combat discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in Guinea-Bissau
Dário de Sousa (Mozambique)	LAMBDA (Associação Moçambicana para a Defesa das Minorias Sexuais)	Grupo Gay da Bahia (Salvador, Bahia State), Programa de Estudos da Diversidade (Homo) Sexual da USP (Sao Paulo) and Conectas - Justice Program - Working Group on Intellectual Property (GTPI) (Sao Paulo)	To develop strategies to promote and protect the rights of the LGBT community in Mozambique
Salvador Nkamate (Mozambique)	Liga Moçambicana de Direitos Humanos	Instituto Sou da Paz - Arms Control Project (Sao Paulo); and Conectas - Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project (Sao Paulo)	To prepare the Mozambican shadow-report about the human rights situation, to be used in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council

Plans for 2010

For the 2010 Fellowship Program, the length of the Brazilian stay has been reduced from ten to five months at the request of the participants. Conectas rescheduled the Program activities in order to ensure the fulfillment of all the planned activities within a shorter period of time. In 2010, Fellows will attend

courses at the University, at the same time as they complete their internship with an NGO. The complementary activities, which include an in-house course prepared by Conectas, and the visits to NGOs in Sao Paulo, will be concentrated within a three-week preparatory period upon their arrival in Brazil.



From left to right: 2009 Fellows and Conectas staff: Salvador, Juana (and baby Francisco), Dario, Mila, Simão, Margareth and Bacar

Southern Perspectives and Multilateral Context: Foreign Policy and Human Rights

this project aims at strengthening international human rights protection by sharing its experiences and empowering civil society organizations

The Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project was created in 2005 in order to strengthen international human rights protection, based on two findings:

- 1) Nowadays, some countries of the Global South, among them, Brazil, are strategic actors on the international stage and their foreign policies must be more respectful of human rights, transparent, and participatory, especially in multilateral spheres such as the United Nations (UN);
- 2) NGOs of the Global South can make better use of regional and international human rights systems to improve the rights situation in their countries.

Therefore, the project aims to strengthening international human rights protection by sharing its experiences and empowering civil society organizations from the Global South to work with international and regional human rights mechanisms, particularly with the United Nations. It also seeks to increase the accountability of Brazil and other governments' foreign policies on human rights.

To achieve these objectives, Conectas has adopted various strategies:

- **Makes Brazil accountable at home for its foreign policy on human rights and equips other NGOs to do so.** Through innovative mechanisms of accountability, Conectas monitors Brazilian foreign policy related to human rights and equips other Southern NGOs to do the same, by sharing best practices and providing information.
- **Builds capacity and offers technical support to other NGOs.** Through capacity-building courses and ongoing technical support to Southern NGOs. Conectas fosters their engagement with the international and regional human rights systems.
- **Develops advocacy activities and campaigns.** Working closely with partner organizations worldwide, Conectas promotes advocacy activities and campaigns on specific human rights themes or countries.



Room of the Human Rights Council at the UN headquarters, in Geneva (Switzerland)

Highlights January 2009 – April 2010

Brazil's international commitments to human rights and the accountability of its foreign policy

As a member of the UN and the Organization of American States (OAS), Brazil has adhered to declarations, treaties and conventions on human rights, and thus assumed human rights commitments that must be implemented at the national level. Brazil is also responsible to ensure that multilateral organizations reach their objectives, including the international defense of human rights.

In turn, Brazilian civil society may use the UN, and the OAS human rights mechanisms to denounce systematic violations and situations disrespecting human rights; to accompany and monitor the position of the Brazilian government, with respect to human rights issues and situations in other countries – such as, for example, Brazilian votes in the UN Human Rights Council, of which the country is currently a member.

In 2009/2010, Conectas developed the following initiatives:

Violations in the Brazilian prison system are exposed at the UN

Even though Brazil is a party to several regional and international human rights treaties, there are still innumerable gross and systematic human rights violations in the country. One of the most serious examples is the practice of torture and the inhuman situation to which persons deprived of liberty are submitted. To curb violence and violations the prison system, strategies combining legal and non-legal, national and international activities were adopted.

To complement the national strategy, Conectas brought to the attention of the international community the dire prison situation in the state of Espírito Santo, by organizing a side event during the 13th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on March 15, 2010 (read more under the JUSTICE PROGRAM section). The event entitled “Human Rights in Brazil: violations in the prison system – the case of Espírito Santo”, conceived in partnership with the Human Rights of Espírito Santo State and Global Justice, gathered more than 100 representatives from delegations, UN officials and

members of several NGOs from different countries.

“Our intention was to call the attention of the UN and the international community to persistent violations in the Espírito Santo prison system, which, beyond overpopulation, is notorious for cases of death followed by dismemberment and the practice of imprisoning persons in metal containers without any sort of facility where thirty men may end up sharing a small space, where the temperature exceeds 50°C during the summer. Serious violations such as these are inadmissible in a democratic nation”, affirms Oscar Vilhena Vieira, Legal Director of Conectas, who moderated the event.

As this was the first time that human rights violations in Brazil were discussed at a side event during the session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Brazilian Government found it important to send representatives from the Executive and Judiciary Branches to take part in the debate in Geneva with the organizers and human rights defenders. The side event was given intensive media coverage and was the

point of departure for a dialogue between Brazilian authorities and civil society organizations to seek solutions for Espírito Santo detention system. Shortly after the event, a decision of the Supreme Court of Justice conceded *habeas corpus* in favor of pre-trial inmates held in metal containers.

Before the side event, Conectas had already sent urgent appeals to UN special rapporteurs regarding the prison system in Espírito Santo and has continued to do so after it, especially regarding the protection of local human rights advocates whose vulnerability increased after having spoken publicly at the UN. In this respect, it is worth mentioning the discussion held prior to the event with Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on Extra-judicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions, as well as with Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on Torture.

A dossier on the situation was also presented to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, in a meeting during her visit to Brazil in November 2009.

Brazil's commitments to human rights in its bilateral, regional and international relations

The Federal Constitution of Brazil establishes that the international relations of the country must be governed by the prevalence of human rights (art. 4, II). For this principle to be applied effectively, Conectas seeks to increase the participation of civil society and democratic control of the Brazilian foreign policy.

• Analysis of Brazil's position as a member of the UN Human Rights Council

In 2009/2010, Conectas closely followed Brazil's position and voting as one of the 47 member states of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). For instance, Conectas took the opportunity of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's visit to the 10th session of the UN HRC (in March 2009), to issue a written statement asking for a reappraisal of Brazil's foreign policy, especially in relation



Oscar Vilhena [center] exposes the situation of human rights violations in the Espírito Santo state, Brazil, during the side-event at the UN in Geneva



Oscar Vilhena Vieira, director of Conectas, about the side-event at the UN: “Our intention was to call the attention of the UN and the international community to violations in the prison system in Espírito Santo state”

to ambiguous positions taken in cases of severe and persistent human rights violations in countries, such as Sri Lanka, Sudan, and North Korea.

“Brazil adopted ambiguous positions in regards to the defense of human rights in specific countries such as, for example, abstaining from voting in 2009, on a resolution that would renew the mandate of the special rapporteur for North Korea, a case which incontrovertibly deserves to be accompanied by the international community” says Lucia Nader, International Relations coordinator of Conectas.

Moreover, to contest Brazil’s position in the HRC in 2009, Conectas made a formal demand to the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen’s Rights (*Procurador Regional dos Direitos do Cidadão - Ministério Público Federal*) requesting him to exam whether Brazil’s abstention, in the 10th session of the UN HRC, from voting to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in North Korea could be considered as infringing the prevalence of human rights as stated by

the Brazilian Constitution. In response to the Federal Prosecutor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that the reason for Brazil’s abstention was to open a “window of opportunity” for North Korea to cooperate with the international system of human rights protection. However, as North Korea subsequently rejected all of the 167 recommendations made when it underwent the Universal Periodic Review, Brazil reexamined its position and voted in favor of the renewal of the Special Rapporteur’s mandate.

• Brazil and human rights in Myanmar, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Iran

In 2009/2010, Conectas also developed lobbying activities either requesting action or a change of behavior, on issues such as political prisoners in Burma, electoral processes in Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique and the visit of the President of Iran to Brazil. In this latter case, with the support of other Brazilian NGOs, Conectas asked the government for due consideration to be given to the human rights agenda during the visit of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and for Brazil to reconsider its historical abstentions at the UN General Assembly regarding a resolution condemning human rights abuses in Iran.



Lucia Nader, International Relations coordinator of conectas: “Brazil adopted ambiguous positions in regard to the defense of human rights in specific countries”

• Brazilian Committee on Human Rights and Foreign Policy

In 2006, Conectas fostered the creation of the Brazilian Committee on Human Rights and Foreign Policy (www.dhpoliticaexterna.org.br). The Committee is a coalition composed by NGOs and state entities, such as the Congress’ Human Rights Commission, whose mission is to contribute to the respect of human rights in Brazilian foreign policy. In its two initial years, Conectas was elected to the executive secretariat of the coalition, and in 2010, it was re-elected as co-executive secretary.

Among other activities in 2009/2010 the Committee collaborated actively in the National Human Rights Conference to ensure that the human rights principles that guide Brazilian foreign policy were included in the 3rd Brazilian Human Rights National Program (PNDH 3), launched in December 2009.

• Publications

In 2009/2010 Conectas’s Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project produced and published a Yearbook and an article.

The second edition of the Yearbook 2008/09 “Human Rights: Brazil at the UN” was launched in 2009, during a seminar organized with the International Relations Institute of the University of Sao Paulo (IRI-USP). The publication compiles and analyzes the Brazilian votes and positions at the UN human rights system in 2008, with a special chapter on Brazil’s UPR mechanism with the UN Human Rights Council. The Yearbook is the only publication of its kind in Portuguese, providing information to human rights defenders, academics and government officials. The publication is available at www.conectas.org/anuario2008_2009.

According to Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, former Independent Expert of the UN General Secretariat for violence against children and adjunct Professor of international relations at the Watson Institute, Brown University, USA: “Conectas’s foreign policy project develops the best evaluation available, from the independent perspective of civil society, of Brazil’s actions in international relations. Its year-

book, “Human Rights: Brazil at the UN” on Brazil’s foreign policy of human rights in the UN human rights system has become an indispensable tool for scholars and activists”.

Three Conectas’s staff members, Camila Asano, Lucia Nader and Oscar Vilhena Vieira, co-authored an article entitled “Brazil at the UN Human Rights Council: the need to overcome ambiguities”. It was published in the main Brazilian academic journal on foreign policy (*Revista Política Externa*). The article was written as a counterpoint to an article by the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Celso Amorim, in the same edition, and reflects Conectas’s views on Brazilian policies as a member of the UN Human Rights Council, asking for more transparency and compliance with human rights standards.



Yearbook “Human Rights: Brazil at the UN”

Horizontal cooperation and sharing of best practices

Southern views on the UN human rights system

The theme of IX International Human Rights Colloquium “An Appraisal of the Human Rights System from a Southern Perspective: Common Strategies and Proposals for Reform” was linked to the activities of the Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project. Most of the participants came from countries that would be submitted to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2010 and 2011. The activities of the Colloquium allowed them to learn and exchange experiences about the new UPR mechanism and to carry out joint activities after the event.

UPR as a gateway to the UN system

Conectas shared knowledge, exchanged information and/or provided support to NGOs from several countries that underwent the UPR mechanism in 2008/2009 or will be reviewed in 2010/2011. In particular, in the last two years, Conectas worked together with organizations from Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Swaziland, Uruguay, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“The most important outcome of the UPR is that my government now respect us, the civil society from Lesotho, as we were together at the UN”, according to Sofonea Shale, who participated in AWOMI/Conectas training course in Zambia and attended the review of his country at the UN headquarters in Geneva.

In 2009, in addition to the International Human Rights Colloquium, Conectas organized and/or lectured in courses on the new Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism that involved 14 countries from Africa and Latin America. As a new mechanism, the UPR is been perceived by Southern organizations as a gateway to the UN system and as a way to pressure their governments when they are under the “UN spotlight”.

To cite two examples, in partnership with the African Women Millennium Initiative on Poverty (AWOMI), Conectas organized in Zambia the “I Strategic Meeting on Southern African Civil Society Participation in the UN Human Rights Council: How to work with Universal Periodic Review”, in September 2009. The meeting gathered organizations from 7 countries, Namibia, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Conectas was also invited as resource organization to contribute to training courses in Angola, Cape Verde, Kenya and Panama.

Furthermore, in January 2010, Conectas explored new technology tools by offering an e-learning course for NGOs in Bolivia, Nicaragua and El Salvador on how to advocate and lobby in the next phases of these countries’ UPR.

It is important to stress that Conectas keeps in touch with participants after the courses to provide them with further information and technical assistance as needed – for instance, to help them attend UPR working groups in Geneva or make their voices heard by delivering oral statements on behalf of partner NGOs which were not able to be in Geneva during the adoption of the UPR reports of their countries. In 2009, this was the case of Cape Verde, Nigeria and Uruguay.

Given that UPR is a process among peers, the States themselves draft the recommendations in the Human Rights Council for the country under scrutiny. A challenge for the NGOs of the Global South during UPR is precisely the advocacy work with States to ensure that good recommendations are made during the review. In 2009/2010, partner organizations replicated an advocacy methodology developed by Conectas. It includes the drafting of an Advocacy Charter distributed to delegations in Geneva and to embassies in the capitals of their countries, containing suggestions for questions and recommendations to be made to the State under review. The format of the Charter allows for easy

handling, turning into reference material for delegations as they prepare for their participation in the UPR of other countries.

In addition to this methodology, Conectas continues using, and continuously updating, the “Roadmap

for Civil Society Participation in UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR)”, developed in 2008 by Conectas in partnership with the International Service for Human Rights.



Pressing human rights issues and country situations

Partnerships to advocate for human rights at the international level

In 2009, Conectas attended all three regular sessions of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva. Conectas mobilized efforts during these sessions to influence the conduct of the UN HRC on the human rights situation in specific countries, particularly Burma, Zimbabwe, Honduras and Sudan, and also

on thematic issues such as summary and extrajudicial executions, right to health, and indigenous peoples.

This was done mainly in partnership with other NGOs and through the organization of side events, oral statements, and meeting with UN officials and states’ representatives. Conectas also facilitated the attendance of partners to the HRC’s sessions, such as NGOs from Chile, Mexico, and Zimbabwe in 2009.

In the case of Zimbabwe, this was part of the “Friends of Zimbabwe” campaign initiated in 2007. In 2009, a letter was sent signed by 24 organizations from 15 countries (14 from the South) to the government of Zimbabwe regretting that the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Mr. Manfred Nowak, was prohibited from entering the country.

Regional Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health

In March 2009, together with ABIA (the Brazilian Interdisciplinary Association on AIDS) and SPW (Sexuality Policy Watch), Conectas organized the “South American Consultation on the Right to Health”, a meeting that brought together the UN Special Rapporteur

on the Right to Health, Anand Grover, with over 40 representatives of civil society organizations from Latin-American countries, namely Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss, with the Special Rapporteur, the main priorities for the region. The topics raised were women’s health, sexual and reproductive rights, and new strategies to ensure access to medicines, particularly for the treatment of HIV / AIDS and other infectious diseases. Special emphasis was put on the situation of indigenous people in Latin America and on the impact of racial discrimination on the access to health services of afro-descendants. The issue of the right to health in the context of armed conflict in Colombia was also discussed.

Challenges and Lessons Learned: too early to assess impact of the UPR mechanism

As described above, in 2009/2010, Conectas made efforts to engage Southern organizations with their countries’ Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. However, given that the UPR is still in its first cycle (2008-2011), it is too early for a fair assessment of its impact. So far, it is being considered as an important innovative mechanism that counts with the political support of several States. Undoubtedly, the UPR needs adjustments that will probably be discussed during the current review of the HRC to be concluded in 2011. There are at least three main challenges to be considered:

- how to prevent the UPR from weakening other HRC mechanisms, such as Special Rapporteurs and resolutions on specific country situations;
- how to concretely follow up on the recommendations made to all States;
- how to make sure that the UPR becomes a serious mechanism when the first cycle is over, so as not to turn it into a “Universal Public Relations” mechanism, as some fear.

However, from the experience gained by Conectas in its training courses and technical support activities, we realized, up to now, that NGOs that had not worked with the UN showed interest in the UPR and, consequently, it became a “gateway” to the UN human rights system and that the UPR creates an interesting momentum at the national level of opening the doors for NGOs to put forward some of their demands.

Perspectives for 2010-2011: challenges and sustainability

In 2009/2010, the activities of the project increased significantly, which meant more travels to attend the UN HRC and to give courses and at the same time more pressure to respond to internal demands in the form of publications and national activities. The challenge of the Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project is to continue the expansion without putting in risk its sustainability

In 2010/2011, activities in the three lines of action of the project will be continued and expanded: accountability of Brazilian foreign policy, capacity-building and technical support and advocacy for specific human rights issues or countries.

This means that the project will continue:

- to provide capacity-building courses and technical support for Southern NGOs working with the international system, especially with the HRC and the UPR.

- to support and accompany partner NGOs in attending the HCR sessions in Geneva, including the UPR working groups.

- to accompany the debates of the HRC 2011 Review Process.

Furthermore, some new developments are foreseen to take place in 2010/2011:

- To develop work and foster the engagement of other Brazilian NGOs with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Conectas will focus its activities on raising awareness in Brazil about the rights of people with disabilities, stressing particularly the importance of applying nationally the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and to develop capacity-building activities with Brazilian NGOs, Disabled Person’s Organizations (DPOs) and academics of Persons with Disabilities, among other activities.

The main task to be carried out by Conectas will be to collaborate in the drafting a shadow report to UN on the rights of people with disabilities in Brazil. and to support the attendance of NGOs and DPOs that will monitor Brazil’s reporting process at the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- To establish a new joint permanent presence in Geneva

Conectas, in partnership with two important Latin American partners, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS - Argentina) and Corporación Humanas (Chile), has established a more permanent presence in Geneva, by hiring a part-time representative starting in June 2010. This was done to facilitate and strengthen the participation of Latin American organizations in the HRC and UN human rights system in general. After assessing the achievement of this pilot experience, the three partners intend to have an office and a full time presence, funds permitting.

- To strengthen its work with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

In May 2009, Conectas was accorded Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our collaborative work with African NGOs. This is made possible through a project recently approved by the MacArthur Foundation whose main objectives are to empower civil society organizations in Africa to make use of regional and international mechanisms of human rights protection and strengthening cross-regional cooperation in the Global South. “The decision to expand our participation in the African system arose from the demands of our partners in Africa, especially in Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as from a strategic evaluation of its importance in protecting human rights in the continent and strengthening the international system itself”, according to Camila Asano, project officer of the Foreign Policy and Human Rights Project.

Sur – International Journal on Human Rights

the publication is distributed free of charge
to 2,061 subscribers in more than 100 countries



Founded in 2004, the Sur Journal aims at disseminating a Global South perspective on human rights

The Sur – International Journal on Human Rights’ mission is to strengthen the international communication channels among scholars and human rights activists, adding a new perspective from the Southern Hemisphere’s points of view. Since its foundation in 2004, 11 issues have been published with a total of more than 80 articles.

The Journal is the only publication of its kind published in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish and English. It is published twice a year online (www.surjournal.org) and in print. Its present print run is of 2,700 copies per issue.

Sur - International Journal is distributed free of charge to 2,061 subscribers in more than 100 countries, of which 70% are in the Southern Hemisphere. All issues of the Journal, since the beginning, have been peer-reviewed by a body of international experts.

Overview of the Sur Journal in 2009

Main challenges

The biggest obstacle the Journal had to overcome during the year 2009 was financial due to the international crisis that affected our donors. In the Journal’s budget, paper, printing and distribution are the costliest items so that, even though the preference for the printed issues revealed by a survey of our readers, (76% preferred the printed edition, in spite of the fact that 80% of the sample had access to the Internet), we were seriously considering limiting the Journal to its online publication. Fortunately, a new partnership with Fundação Carlos Chagas, a Sao Paulo research and statistical evaluation institution, guaranteeing financing together with funds donated by the Ford Foundation, covers the costs of the next two years, thus permitting the continuation of the publication for the four upcoming issues of Sur Journal (N° 12 to 15), both online and in printed form in three languages.

Another consequence of the financial restrictions was the necessity to diminish the Journal’s staff. The formal requirements made by some databases (e.g. SCIELO), which mainly require changes in footnote formatting, increased the workload. Both factors resulted in a delay in the completion of N° 10 that was finally released in December instead of in June 2009. As a consequence, N° 11, which was supposed to be released in May 2010, has also been delayed.

Main activities

- Accreditation

Recognition and accreditation obtained from national and international institutions represent a substantial increase in readership, in addition to guaranteeing authors’ academic prestige, which gains importance considering that we are unable to remunerate our contributors.

Our international accreditation has recently been increased by the acceptance of the Journal by the Social Science Research Network – SSRN (www.ssrn.com). This is in addition to the pre-existing accreditations:

- DOAJ – Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://www.doaj.org/>)
- Open Gate (<http://www.opengate.org/>)
- SCIELO (www.scielo.br)
- IBSS – International Bibliography of the Social Sciences

Incorporation was also requested to ISI Thompson, one of the most important indexes for Anglo-Saxon researchers.

Moreover, the Brazilian QUALIS academic system gave the Journal the highest grade in the country category, classifying it as one of the best law journals. It also obtained the highest grade for an academic journal in Colombia.

- Surveys

The Sur Journal conducted two surveys in order to evaluate its quality. The main goals were to have a clearer profile of the Journal’s subscribers as well as to rethink its distribution policies.

In 2007, an online evaluation of the Journal revealed that 66% of the readers considered the Journal to be excellent and 34% judged it to be good (none judged it poor or very poor).

In the process of redesigning the Journal’s website and also to improve its distribution, we have conducted, in 2009, a new survey about the use of the internet by readers. The results show that while readers have frequent access to the internet (80% of the readers), most of them prefer the Sur Journal in print rather than online (76% of the readers). It also showed that most of the copies that are distributed

are used by more than one reader (65% of the subscribers are either organizations or public libraries).

- Issues produced in 2009

Two issues were produced during the year:

Nº.10, with a dossier on “Human Rights of People on the Move, especially Migrants and Refugees”, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)”



Sur Journal number 10: a dossier on “Human Rights of People on the Move, especially Migrants and Refugees”, in partnership with the UNHCR.

The papers on the main theme are:

- › Katharine Derderian and Liesbeth Shockaert – “Responding to ‘mixed’ migration flows: A humanitarian perspective”;
- › Juan Carlos Murillo – “The legitimate security interests of the State and international refugee protection”;

- › Manuela Trindade Viana – “International cooperation and internal displacement in Colombia: facing the challenges of the largest humanitarian crisis in South America”;
- › Joseph Amon and Katherine Todrys – “Access to antiretroviral treatment for migrant populations in the Global South”;
- › Pablo Cesariani Cernadas – “European migration control in the African Territory: the omission of the extraterritorial character of human rights obligations”.

Other articles:

- › Anuj Bhuwania - “Very wicked children: Indian Torture and the Madras Torture Commission Report of 1855”;
- › Daniela De Vito, Aisha Gill and Damien Short – “Rape characterized as genocide”;
- › Christian Curtis – “Notes on the implementation by Latin American courts of the ILO Convention 169 on indigenous peoples”;
- › Benyam D. Mezmur – “Intercountry adoption as a measure of last resort in Africa: Advancing the rights of a child rather than a right to a child”.

Nº. 11 in partnership with ESCR-Net focusing on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The papers on the main theme are:

- › Aldo Caliarì – “Trade, Investment, Finance and Human Rights: Assessment and Strategy Paper”;
- › Ann Blyberg – “The Case of the Mislaid Allocation: Economic and Social Rights and Budget Work”;
- › Malcom Langford – “Domestic Adjudication and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: A Socio-Legal Survey;
- › Patricia Feeney – “Business and Human Rights: The Struggle for Accountability in the United Nations and the future direction of the advocacy agenda”.

Other articles:

- › Julieta Lemaitre Ripoll – “Love in the Time of Cholera: LGBT Rights in Colombia”;
- › Victor Abramovich – “From Gross Human Rights Violations to Structural Abuses: New Approaches and Traditional Tensions in the Inter-American Human Rights System”;
- › Débora Diniz, Livia Barbosa and Wederson Rufino dos Santos – “Disability, Human Rights and Justice”;
- › Viviana Monsalve and Javier Román – “Tensions within the Concept of Human Dignity: Context and Application of the International Human Rights Law”.

• Partnerships

It is worth pointing out that partnerships with prestigious international institutions in the production of recent issues of the Journal were extremely beneficial. They opened up new and specialized audiences

for the dissemination of the Journal, and aided its financial sustainability.

- › International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), issue N° 7;
- › Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de Aids (ABIA, Brazil) and OXFAM Brazil, issue N° 8;
- › International Service for Human Rights (Geneva), issue N° 9;
- › United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), issue N° 10;
- › ESCR-Net, issue N° 11;
- › Amnesty International, issue N° 12;
- › Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), issues N° 11 and 12 (articles on sexual rights and religious freedom);
- › Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Argentina (CELS) and University of Pretoria, South Africa, issue N° 13.

Through partnerships, we are also broadening the scope of languages of the Journal. Our partner in Egypt, Prof. Mustapha al Sayyed, of Cairo University, is at the moment finalizing the first edition of the Sur Journal in Arabic. Moreover Amnesty International, our partner for issue N° 12, is considering producing a French edition of this issue. Finally, there are also ongoing conversations to produce a Chinese version of the Sur Journal with Wuhan University.

Challenges for 2010/2011

Website

The programming and tools of the Journal’s website are obsolete and must be renewed, mainly because it is difficult to update its database and structure and it is also hard to access the site from search engines, such as Google. Besides, it is impossible to add further search mechanisms in the current structure.

The above limitations are incompatible with the demands of today’s web users to have at least the possibility of researching articles by author and by subject. All these changes will, cumulatively, demand a complete restructuring of the site in its present form.

Distribution improvement

In 2010, we plan to improve the distribution list of the printed versions of the Journal. The initial subscription policy allowed any interested person to subscribe. Considering the cost restrictions, we plan to give priority to human rights activists and scholars from the South and to public and university libraries.

We will also make sure that all former participants of the Colloquium and Fellows (from our Fellowship Program for Portuguese Speaking-Africa) receive the Journal. Furthermore, we will analyze the present list of subscribers divided by country to verify if all our partners receive it, including key human rights professors and professionals.

Two new issues of the Journal

During 2010, we will release two new issues of the Sur Journal:

- N°. 12 - Millenium Development Goals and Human Rights & Corporate Accountability and Human Rights (in partnership with Amnesty International)
- N°. 13 - Regional and International Human Rights Systems: functioning, interrelation and participation

of civil society (in partnership with the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales –CELS, Argentina and the University of Pretoria, South Africa)

Coaching young authors

As has already been pointed out, the end of the financial difficulties that had so many negative consequences, broadened horizons for the next two years of our activities. Development plans have become feasible again.

The most interesting one is a partnership bringing together Fundação Carlos Chagas and Conectas, with the purpose of establishing a coaching program for Southern young authors. The idea came up because for each number of the Journal we receive about 90 submissions out of which we can only choose 9 for publication. Many of the articles we refuse, if improved, would merit publication. The fact is that, due to shortcomings of the educational system in Southern countries in general, many authors in the making do not have enough experience in writing an academic paper. However, some have good ideas, oftentimes original ideas and, most important, specifically Southern ideas that usually have no access to the developed countries’ academic press. The coaching program intends to bring these upcoming intellectuals under the wing of some of our international reviewers who would help them improve their papers, introducing them to the rigors of academic writing. The improved papers would then be accepted for publication. This pedagogic role would perfectly complement the Journal’s mission of “giving the South a voice”.



The justiciability of human rights - a comparative analysis: India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)

the research brings comparative results between the constitutional courts in three countries

The IBSA Project is a three-year collaborative research project on constitutions and Apex courts from Brazil, India, and South Africa (2007-2009). The comparative research was carried out with two main objectives. The first was to assess the role played by the constitutional courts in Brazil, India, and South Africa in the promotion and protection of human rights. Findings were deduced from the work of legal scholars, as well as from court-related interventions of civil society and public interest law organizations. The second objective was to provide legal professionals and fundamental rights' centers, with a comparative array of legal decisions and strategies so that lessons can be learned and shared, with the ultimate goal of improving the practice of human rights protection.



Frans Viljoen, Director of the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, South Africa

Activities carried out during 2009/2010

This three-year collaborative research initiative on constitutions and Apex courts carried out in India, Brazil and South Africa, known as the IBSA Project, resulted in 20 academic papers on human rights and constitutional issues that will be compiled into an academic publication in 2010. Although the research teams had to overcome important challenges and difficulties during this process, such as language barriers, time differences, physical distance between the countries under analysis and between their researchers, it can be said that the findings presented at the closing seminar in Sao Paulo in March 2010 exceeded all expectations, as they combined creative thinking and innovative research in this area.

The first part of the research, carried out in 2007, was dedicated to the development of three articles describing the background of the Constitutional Courts, as well as to the analysis of the jurisprudence of each IBSA Constitutional Court. The researchers organized a first conference in Oxford, in May 2007, to discuss the preliminary findings and identify the

topics for further comparative research. The second part of the research, carried out in 2008, was dedicated to researching the chosen topics. Then, the research teams discussed the findings at two conferences, one in New Delhi (April, 2008) and the other in Pretoria (December, 2008).

Finally, the last part of the research took place in 2009 and focused on discussing and revising the papers, through intensive communication between the various teams. For each research topic, a leading author was indicated as the focal point during the writing process. Each of the papers sought to cover the following dimensions: social context; normative and institutional frameworks; political and legal litigation strategies; court reasoning; and, finally, the impact of the court decision in terms of human rights.

The papers are available online at <http://www.conectas.org/IBSA/ibsa.htm>

Closing Seminar

The research coordinators, Prof. Frans Viljoen (South Africa) and Prof. Oscar Vilhena Vieira (Brazil), organized a final seminar, “The Justiciability of Human Rights – results of a comparative analysis on the Constitutional Courts of India, Brazil and South Africa” to discuss the outcome of the IBSA research. The event took place at the Law School of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV), in Sao Paulo on March 12, 2010.

The seminar offered the opportunity for the two research teams to jointly present the main conclusions of the IBSA research to law students

and professors from the FGV Law School as well as to human rights organizations.

Several topics included in the research were discussed in depth, such as the role of the constitutional courts in the promotion and protection of human rights, the constitutional framework of Brazil, India and South Africa, the relationship between religion and human rights, constitutional standards for the domestication of international human rights law, rights of sexual minorities, right to health and the ‘judicialization’ of public policies.



Thiago Amparo, program officer of the GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM, presenting the results of the research in the closing seminar of the project

Speakers at the seminar “The Justiciability of Human Rights – results of a comparative analysis on the Constitutional Courts of Brazil, India and South Africa” – March 12, 2010 – Sao Paulo	
Frans Viljoen	Director of the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, South Africa
Oscar Vilhena Vieira	Professor and Coordinator of the Master’s Degree Program at the FGV Law School and Director of Conectas Human Rights
Eloisa Machado	Member of the Board of the Pro Bono Institute and Coordinator of Conectas’s Justice Program between 2003-2009
Juana Kweitel	Coordinator of the Global South Program, Conectas Human Rights
Thiago Amparo	Researcher, Conectas Human Rights
Octavio Luiz Motta Ferraz	Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom

Publication of the IBSA Research

The event also gave research coordinators the opportunity to discuss the final steps towards an academic publication, containing the compilation of the main papers of the research. The book will constitute a potentially insightful and unique three-way dialogue that will provide a comprehensive

comparison of the constitutions and Apex courts of the three countries, Brazil, India, and South Africa, on several human rights and constitutional issues. Discussions are underway with several publishing houses, including Oxford University Press. The book is expected to be launched in 2011.

OSISA-Angola's Fellowship Program

the Program administers the exchange of activists and students from Angola and Mozambique in Brazilian NGOs

The main objective of the Angola-Mozambique-Brazil Exchange Program is to construct and strengthen a network of civil society organizations, activists, and scholars acting in the field of human rights in the three countries.

The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA - www.osisa.org) is the primary source of funding for this Program, which was implemented in Brazil by OSISA's Program Officer, Fernanda Castro Fernandes. Conectas hosted and gave administrative support to the Program.

In order to reach its objective, the Program carries out, principally, the exchange of activists and students from Angola and Mozambique in Brazilian non-governmental organizations and universities and training courses with Brazilian professionals, professors, and activists in the two African countries.

In 2009, the Exchange Program between Angola, Mozambique and Brazil brought 21 persons to Brazil to participate in training courses at Global Justice (an NGO based in Rio de Janeiro), in the V Annual Gathering of ANDHEP (Associação Nacional de Direitos Humanos – Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação) and in the VI CONFINTEA (Conferência Internacional de Educação de Adultos), in addition to visits and work meetings with other Brazilian NGOs and universities.

Inversely, four lecturers and five professionals were sent to Angola to carry out training courses on the Universal and African Systems of Human Rights Protection and Community Journalism.

Standing out in the year 2009 were the signing of the academic agreement between the Federal University of Paraíba and the Universidade Lusíada de Angola, which will allow the strengthening of the academic bond between Brazil and Angola in the field of human rights, and the training of Angolan activists in order to develop a parallel civil society report for Universal Periodic Review to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in 2010.

JUSTICE PROGRAM

Presently, more than 6,000 adolescents are detained in the juvenile justice system in São Paulo, and the Brazilian prison system houses more than 470,000 prisoners.

From the very beginning of its work with the prison system, Conectas has established the goal of “destabilizing policies that violate fundamental rights”.



Defending rights and access to Justice

Conectas assumed the responsibility of curbing abusive practices in the Brazilian prison system

Following years of intense work with the Fundação Casa, whose impact brought about positive changes in the juvenile justice system, Conectas assumed the responsibility of curbing abusive practices in the Brazilian prison system. Evidently, this is a much greater challenge, which should be faced through focused and objective actions and strategies. In order to understand the magnitude of the problem, more than 6,000 adolescents are detained in the juvenile justice system in São Paulo, and the Brazilian prison system today has more than 470,000 prisoners, of whom, nearly 191,000 are in São Paulo. As documented by numerous national and international reports, the Brazilian prison system has been the venue for systematic rights violations. From the very beginning of its work with the prison system, Conectas has established the goal of “destabilizing policies that violate fundamental rights”. Therefore, it was necessary first to identify regions where the problems were most serious in order to determine strategies for action.

Although Conectas had planned to focus its efforts in São Paulo, the prison situation in the state of Espírito Santo was so dramatic that it has been established as an imperative to be faced by Conectas. There were hundreds of prisoners in containers without even minimum hygiene and health conditions, systematic torture, cases of extreme violence (part of dismembered prisoners found in garbage disposals), as well as a total lack of judicial control over the prison system. In order to address this situation, Conectas reformulated its program of strategic litigation. Given the seriousness of the problem, Conectas established partnerships with local and national actors of greater political power permitting more effective results, as well as multiple networked partnerships such as the Criminal Justice Group created by the Open Society Institute-Criminal Fund. The ten organizations composing this network have the objective of reducing the growth in the number of temporary prisoners in the country, in addition to combating serious rights violations that occur in the prison units of the country.

In this connection, the important role that has been performed by the Director of the Pro Bono Institute, Marcos Fuchs, carrying out monthly visits to the prison system in the State of São Paulo, should be highlighted as he was appointed member of the Community Council, responsible for monitoring complaints and claims of prisoner's rights in São Paulo, in 2009. Conectas's initiative, aimed at curbing abuses in the prison system, has been and will certainly continue to be the greatest challenge faced by the Justice Program in 2009/2010 and the coming years.

Moreover, it was necessary to link more closely this initiative with the GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM so as to better utilize the regional and international human rights protection systems, which was done in several emblematic cases taken up before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the UN Human Rights mechanisms.

It should also be noted that Conectas promoted changes in its actions together with the Federal Supreme Court (STF). It continues being the sole civil society organization that participated in all of its public audiences held until today. Nevertheless, it has introduced changes in its strategy. Rather than assuming the responsibility for drafting *amicus curiae* on the most varied issues relating to fundamental rights, as in previous

years, Conectas sought to encourage other organizations directly interested in the issue to manage their own *amici* thus increasing the legitimacy of the social actors with the Supreme Court.

Beyond this important work before the STF, Conectas was also involved in three initiatives with strategic partners during this period, so as to respond to the innumerable demands for acting within the field of economic, social and cultural rights.

- in the field of the relationship between the business world and human rights Conectas, since 2005, has been acting as the legal arm of the Working Group on Intellectual Property of the Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (GTPI/REBRIP);
- after three years of the women's "empowerment" project, on the right to health of black women, coordinated by Conectas in partnership with Geledés – Black Women's Institute, the community took over the initiative and continues maintaining a gathering space for women;
- also within the field of human rights and companies, Conectas has been collaborating with the Inclusive Business Clinic of the FGV Law School on the social rights protection project of recyclable materials collectors.

In this section, the main fields of action of the JUSTICE PROGRAM in 2009 and in the first semester of 2010, as well as the perspectives for the future.



Women attending the training course of the Black Women's Right to Health Project



Participants of the Black Women's Right Project and members of Conectas team

Actions aimed at curbing violence in the Brazilian prison systems

the program seeks to establish the accountability of state actors that fail to comply with their obligations

In order to face the challenge of curbing violence in the Brazilian prison system, Conectas uses strategic litigation in its most diverse forms, with the support multiple partners and with immediate and long-term objectives. One main objective is ensuring the rule of law. In other terms, the program seeks to establish the accountability of state actors that fail to comply with their obligations in accordance with what is established in the country's constitution, in specific laws or even in international conventions. Another aspect is that litigation may serve to “destabilize practices of violations”. This is a long term process whose results are not always foreseeable; but the tendency is for the practice of violation to correct itself, especially due to the political cost brought about by litigation.

Summing up, strategic litigation consists of multiple convergent actions:

- establishing strategic partnerships with local and international organizations, as well as opening dialogue with state institutions that monitor the guaranteeing of rights;
- regular visits and monitoring of detention conditions in prison units;
- legal actions requiring indemnification for victims and also emblematic cases demanding the alteration of institutional practices violating human rights;
- presenting cases before international human rights organs, especially the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OAS);
- utilizing the special mechanisms of the UN to call international attention to human rights violations in Brazil; and
- using the media to inform public opinion on human rights issues.



Casa de Custódia de Viana is one of detention units of the Espírito Santo prison system where several human rights violations and abuses took place

The defense of adolescents deprived of liberty

Conectas's litigation project has worked, since 2003, for the defense of juvenile inmates held in the prison units of the Fundação Casa (former Febem), in the State of Sao Paulo, in partnership with diverse human rights organizations and state institutions. In many units, there has been an improvement in the living conditions of the incarcerated adolescents, nevertheless Conectas continues accompanying pending cases and monitoring the situation through regular visits.

Following a legal battle lasting nearly three years, the Court of Justice of Sao Paulo recognized the right of civil society organizations to visit the juvenile detention units that had been suspended. In 2009, Conectas participated in rearticulating the network of human rights organizations that make *in loco* monitoring visits to the units of the Fundação Casa. The choice for the visits gives priority to the units where families who visit their incarcerated children have reported violations. Following each visit, a report is sent to the institutional bodies that are obligated to investigate possible human rights violations and to take proper corrective measures. In the beginning of 2010, the results of those visits received wide media coverage, including in one of Brazil's major newspapers, *Estado de São Paulo*.

In the last six years, Conectas's JUSTICE PROGRAM has filed several lawsuits on behalf of adolescent inmates, aimed at ensuring redress for victims of abuse, penalties for the perpetrators and changes in institutional practices, many of which are still pending given the slow pace of the judicial system. However, Conectas's small team of in-house lawyers

is diligently following up on all cases.

A paradigmatic case that deserves attention is the situation of adolescents detained in the Tupi Paulista unit, in which Conectas first turned to the state justice system in 2005 and, given the lack of impartiality in the adolescents' sentencing, decided to request the federalization of the case. It is worth mentioning that the "federalization" adopted in Brazil by Constitutional Amendment nº 45/2004 serves as a second opportunity for Brazil's Judiciary to correct human rights violations and to avoid international sanctions. Only the Attorney General of the Republic has the discretionary authority to request this measure.

Conectas accompanied the procedures that were put in place in 2005 to investigate reports of torture and mistreatment of 70 adolescents detained in the Fundação Casa, during the transfer of prison units from the Tatuapé Complex, in the city of Sao Paulo, to the Tupi Paulista Compact Penitentiary, in the interior of the State. At the end of the investigation process, the Public Prosecutor, concluded, surprisingly, that in addition to not having been tortured, the adolescents themselves were responsible for their injuries, thus accusing them of the crime of false reporting. As a result, Conectas sent a petition to the Regional Prosecutor for the Rights of Citizens in Sao Paulo (Federal Prosecutor's Office) asking him to obtain the necessary information from local authorities and to request the Attorney General of the Republic for the transfer of this case to the federal justice system.

Action aimed at curbing abusive practices in adult prison units

The rapidly growing numbers of incarcerations throughout Brazil has failed to produce the results expected by the Government in terms of crime prevention and has, in many cases, resulted in an increase of human rights violations, especially related to insalubrious detention conditions, overpopulation and, most importantly, the use of violence to control prisoners.

Survey of the Prison System

In 2009, so as to better focus its actions on reducing systematic human rights violations in prison units in Brazil, Conectas developed a study based on data and interviews in order to arrive at a diagnosis of the main problems. The survey of the prison system served as a basis for designing Conectas's legal and non-legal strategies for the next two years. Its databases and information are constantly being updated.

Conectas gathered information from various sources: (i) It held interviews and meetings with specialists and government authorities, such as the President of the National Council for Criminal and Penitentiary Policy, a Federal Prosecutor, a member of the Ombudsman's Office, as well as with NGOs working with the Brazilian Prison System; (ii) it collected data from government websites and reports; and (iii) it visited, in partnership with the Pro Bono Institute and other NGOs, several detention units in the States of Sao Paulo and Espírito Santo.

The survey provides information regarding the profile of detainees and general detention conditions in Brazil, with a special focus on the states of Sao Paulo, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia and Rio Grande do Sul. Some of its main features are:

- The number of prisoners in the country grew at an alarming rate over the past 10 years. According to a census carried out by the national detention department of the Ministry of Justice, between 2000 and 2009, the number of prisoners

in Brazil increased by close to 102%, rising from 232,755 to 469,807, and the prison capacity was exceeded by over 170,000 prisoners.

- Most prisoners are young men from 18 to 24 years of age.
- Over 60% of inmates in Brazil are from the Southeast region, which includes the States of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo, among the richest and most populated states in the country.
- Nearly 44% of the prison population in the country is composed of pretrial detainees, who are illegally detained awaiting trials beyond the maximum three-month period determined by law.
- An insufficient supply of public defenders (for instance, in Sao Paulo there is one public defender for every 72,365 potential beneficiaries (defined as persons older than 10 years of age and with an income of less than three minimum wages per month)
- The toughening of penalties for some offenses.

The main conclusions of this survey have guided Conectas's activities in 2009, whose original plan was to concentrate essentially on the state of São Paulo. However, as the dramatic situation in Espírito Santo state needed immediate and urgent action, Conectas included among its priorities for 2009/2010 to curb abusive practices in this detention system.

The case of the Espírito Santo prison system

The prison system in the State of Espírito Santo has been the stage of executions, deaths, dismemberments, torture, abuses, mistreatment, overpopulation and confinement in metal cells/containers, to cite some of the most flagrant human rights violations caused by the lack of control of the administrative and legal authorities over the situation. Those conditions

have been reported since the 90's by governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Since August 2009, Conectas has acted in partnership with several organizations, such as the Human Rights State Council and the Serra Human Rights Center of Espírito Santo, and also Justiça Global (organization based in Rio de Janeiro), to report on serious violations occurring within the prison system of that state.

In November 2009, the first visits by the Conectas team, accompanying its partners, were made in the unit for adolescents, UNIS, and in the Vila Velha Police Station (DPJ da Vila Velha), a detention center within a police station generally used for temporary prisoners. The findings of both visits confirmed that the situation of juvenile and adult inmates remained inhuman: torture and mistreatment, poor or non-existent access

to justice, inadequate sanitary conditions and lack of educational opportunities. For example, the Vila Velha Police Station had 265 men whilst its total detention capacity is for only 36, an overpopulation of almost 8 times its capacity. Additionally, some inmates were feet-cuffed, lying in the hallways of the detention unit and without access to health care.

It is interesting to highlight that diverse Councils and entities that visited the Espírito Santo prison system in 2009, also reported the seriousness of the rights violations and presented a petition for federal intervention in the state. Conectas joined these institutions in their petition to the Attorney General of the Republic. Conectas also sent letters to the President of the Republic and to the Minister of Human Rights, requesting urgent and immediate actions to put an end to the violations in Espírito Santo.

Furthermore, in November 2009, Conectas and partners met with the Federal Attorney General to present a dossier showing pictures of dismemberment and torture, requesting, once again, that he file a petition for federal intervention with the Brazilian Supreme Court. Also in November, Conectas, and partner organizations, presented to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights a full dossier on the serious situation of the prison system in Espírito Santo during her visit to Brazil.

The monitoring of the prison system through visits continued in 2010: (i) On February 4th, 2010, the same organizations visited the Vila Velha Police Station again, where, although the inmate population had slightly decreased to 235, the ratio of overpopulation was still 6 to 1. The organizations also visited the Cariacica provisional detention unit, where 500 men were imprisoned in metal containers. Inmates complained of ill treatment and a lack of access to professional or educational activities, as well as to medical care. (ii) On April 6, 2010, partners made a new visit to the Vila Velha police station, where the number of inmates had been reduced to 157 prisoners (out of which 31 already condemned should have been transferred to a penitentiary), an overpopulation still four times higher than the facility's capacity.

Side event at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

Given the lack of response from national authorities, a side event entitled "Human rights in Brazil: Violations in the prison system – the case of Espírito Santo," was organized during the 13th session of the Human Rights Council, at the United Nations in Geneva, on March 15, 2010 (see above under the section of the "Southern perspectives and multilateral sphere"). Conectas, together with the Espírito Santo Human Rights State Council and Global Justice, exposed the serious and systematic human rights violations in the state's prison system, presenting alarming data and photos to an audience of more than 100 representatives of diplomatic delegations, the UN itself and NGOs from several countries.

As an article by a well-known Brazilian journalist, Elio Gaspari, under the title "The dungeons of Hartung will appear at the UN" (*"As Masmorras de Hartung aparecerão na ONU"*) in the newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*, on March 7, 2010 had given already broad publicity to the fact that the Espírito Santo prison system would be discussed at the UN, the Brazilian State and federal authorities sent several high level officials to the event to expose their views namely: the Espírito Santo state Justice Secretary, Ângelo Roncalli, the Director of Prison Policy of the Ministry of Justice, André Almeida e Cunha, and the then judge of the National Justice Council, Erivaldo Ribeiro dos Santos. A representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also participated as a speaker in the event. The event gave international visibility to the case and received extensive national and international media coverage.

Shortly after the event, the Brazilian Superior Court of Justice issued a decision determining that pre-trial detainees held in metal cargo containers in Espírito Santo should be removed from them immediately. This very important development, directly linked to Conectas's work, will benefit hundreds of detainees living in sub-human conditions and will hopefully be the first of many other measures taken by authorities to reform the prison system.

Public hearing and petition before the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights

In order to complement its strategy for reporting serious human rights violations in Espírito Santo, the organizations also included actions within the Inter-American sphere of human rights protection:

- i) a thematic hearing on the Brazilian prison system, and ii) a request for precautionary measures regarding the Department of Judicial Police of Vila Velha.
- i) The organizations participated in a hearing at the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) at the Organization of American States (OAS), held on March 19, 2010, in Washington, on



Overpopulation at the Vila Velha Police Station (Espírito Santo state): 265 men held in a place which capacity is for 36

the Brazilian prison system, including the case of Espírito Santo. Following the presentation made by the Brazilian government, Global Justice and Pastoral Carcerária Nacional, speaking on behalf of Conectas and four other organizations, gave civil society's viewpoint on the situation of rights violations in the detention system.

- ii) On April 8, 2010, the organizations presented a petition for precautionary measures for detention conditions in Vila Velha Police Station to the IACHR, requiring that the Commission demands the Brazilian State to adopt precautionary measures in order to preserve the life, physical and psychological integrity of all prisoners, officials and other persons related to Vila Velha. On April 30, 2010, less than a month after the petition was presented, the IACHR determined that the Government of Brazil must adopt precautionary measures in order to protect the lives and physical integrity of prisoners in the DPJ of Vila Velha. The decision also required the adoption of measures to substantially reduce overcrowding, avoid the transmission of contagious diseases within the prison, and guarantee prisoner access to health care. Additional information were also requested regarding the non-separation of condemned and pretrial prisoners. Conectas and partner organizations are monitoring the compliance of the Brazilian government with its obligation to adopt the precautionary measures.

Impact and positive developments

The constant monitoring and pressure of civil society organizations is an ongoing and necessary process. Recently, some positive responses to our reports on authority abuses were obtained regarding the administrative structure of the Espírito Santo detention system. According to information provided by local partners: three detention guards, one of whom was a general supervisor, as well as a high official from the state secretariat for prison administration, were dismissed. Further good news is the recent establishment of a Working Group to monitor and oversee the prison system, including juvenile detention units, by the Superior Court of the

state of Espírito Santo in April 2010. This group is composed of judges, ombudsmen, members of the office of the attorney general, members of the Brazilian Bar Association, representatives of the secretariats of public security and justice, and the Human Rights State Council. Conectas and partner organizations plan to collaborate with this Working Group and to continue pressuring government authorities to comply with their national and international human rights obligations.

The Sao Paulo prison system: an emblematic case

Since 2007, Conectas has been acting to improve the prison situation in the city of Guarujá, in Sao Paulo State, whose overpopulated public prison had adolescent and adult prisoners in the same unit. In face of the lack of a suitable response from the national legal system, the case had to be taken to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (IACHR-OAS), which ordered precautionary measures determining the withdrawal of the adolescents and the adoption of actions to guarantee the physical integrity of the adults.

Despite the evacuation and closing of the Public Prison of Guarujá in compliance with IACHR's precautionary measures submitted by Conectas and its partners the same situation was replicated in the new prison unit of the 1st Police District of Vicente de Carvalho (one of the districts of Guarujá), where the detainees were transferred. This prison is a smaller and more precarious unit than the previous one, which ended up suffering from the same problems of overcrowding as the Public Prison of Guarujá. As regards the adolescents, they are still detained for several days in a minuscule cell without ventilation before being transferred to the juvenile system.

With the occurrence of innumerable cases of violence, such as ransoms for prisoners and unsolved deaths, the situation has become even more dramatic with the closing of the other prison in the region, due to a judicial injunction. In January 2009, the 1st Police District of Vicente de Carvalho became the only unit to receive prisoners from the Santos lowlands region, since it does

not participate in the system of automatic inclusion of the Secretariat of Penitentiary Administration of the State of Sao Paulo, a system that would permit temporary prisoners, upon arriving at the police station, to be automatically sent to centers of temporary detention in the region, the overpopulation continues.

Despite this difficult situation, Conectas has had success in its dealings with the Mayor of Guarujá in order to guarantee medical services for detainees and through its local partners, was able to open a channel for advantageous dialogue with the local Public Defenders' Office. Besides, in July, 2010, Conectas had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (OAS) and Brazilian Government officials to report on the new situation of the Guarujá prison system and share concerns about the latest developments. The government officials recognized the poor detention conditions of imprisonment, but,

unfortunately, did not make any formal commitment to change the situation in the near future. The case of the Guarujá is just an example of the complexity of monitoring the São Paulo prison system, which confirms that the pressure of civil society organizations is a necessary and permanent process.

Conectas, with Pro Bono Institute and other partners, also regularly visits other detention units in Sao Paulo. This monitoring group also had several meetings with judges and other judicial authorities in Sao Paulo. For example, Justice Ulisses Oliveira Gonçalves Jr., responsible for the internal affairs of the prison system in the state of Sao Paulo, gave us assurance that an investigation will be conducted on the degrading treatments and health conditions of detainees in the detention units that we visited.



Julia Neiva, coordinator of the JUSTICE PROGRAM of Conectas, responsible to promote actions to curb human rights violations in the Espírito Santo prison system

Access to medications: GTPI/REBRIP

the program supports free access to medications for HIV/AIDS treatment

Brazil is one of the few countries in the world which maintains a policy of universal and free access to HIV/AIDS treatment. This policy is globally recognized as a great success. Nevertheless, its sustainability is at risk, as recognized by the Ministry of Health. This risk derives, to a large extent, from the growing costs of anti-retroviral medications, especially with the introduction of new drugs subject to patent protection and with no national production. Brazil, until 1996, did not recognize patents for pharmaceutical products and processes in its legislation, which made the local production of medications used in HIV/AIDS treatment possible, at a much lower cost than that practiced in the international market. With the advent of the TRIPS Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1994, Brazil was obligated to modify its legislation and grant patents in the pharmaceutical field. In accordance with the new rules, the medications, which are essential for guaranteeing the right to health, became treated as any other sort of merchandise.

From then on, it has become important to be familiar with the current intellectual property system and to explore the alternatives, with the goal of attending to public health needs, mainly those that allow reducing the prices of medications, either through national production or through importing generic versions.

Conectas, as the legal arm of the Working Group on Intellectual Property of the Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (GTPI/REBRIP), develops actions primarily aimed at minimizing the negative impact on access to essential medications caused by the protection of the intellectual property of pharmaceutical products.

An important example of its legal work was to oppose granting a patent to the Tenofovir (Viread) medication from the Gilead Company, indicated for HIV/AIDS treatment. Since 2006, Conectas has been questioning the request for the Gilead patent before the National Institute on Intellectual Property, which finally denied the request in June 2009, thus permitting Brazil to use generic versions of that medication, at much more accessible prices, thus increasing the public's access to it.

Conectas also contributed to avoid the approval of a bill proposal aimed at linking the patent of a medication to its registration with the health authorities (known as linkage), which would delay the entrance of generic medications into the market. Conectas participated in a public hearing on the issue in the Chamber of Deputies and submitted a legal brief against the approval of this bill proposal; the latter was rejected by the Chamber in November 2009.

The May 2006 Crimes

report shows the violence of police actions toward civilians during the 'Bloody Week'

The period from 12 to 21 May 2006 has become known as the Bloody Week (“Semana Sangrenta”) due to the excessive violence of police actions and to the explicit activity of extermination groups, which resulted in a considerable increase in the numbers of civil deaths during those days.

On the 12th of May, the PCC (Primeiro Comando da Capital, a criminal organization that operates mainly from inside the prisons) started a series of rebellions in the prisons all through the state of Sao Paulo, in reply to the transfer of the PCC heads to prison units spread out in several units in the state of Sao Paulo. The reason for this policy was the dismembering of the network of criminal contacts inside and outside the penitentiary system.

During the first six days, 59 cases of death of police officers were recorded. In reaction to the armed attacks against police station, vehicles and other public buildings and to the rebellions inside the prisons, the police deployed ostensibly its forces on the streets of the State, creating an emergency situation. In the following days, more than 500 civilians were killed by extermination groups and by violent repression actions by the Police.

The population of various cities of the state of Sao Paulo lived in panic during these ten days in the middle of random attacks and the feeling of that the violence was out of control. People were afraid of leaving their homes and the streets were deserted with the exception of police patrols. Consequently, an Independent Commission made up of civil society organizations (among them Conectas) and public entities, was created with the objective of monitoring the cases of deaths and the actions of the police forces.

As part of this Commission, and following the proceedings initiated in the Regional Prosecutor’s for the Rights of Citizens in Sao Paulo of the Public Prosecutor’s Office (Ministério Público Federal - MPF), Conectas took three years to obtain a copy of all the documents, including the police reports and autopsies related to the deaths caused by shootings during the “Bloody Week”. The difficulty in collecting these documents was due to the authorities’ delay in responding to the requests of the MPF.

A renowned specialist, Professor Ignácio Cano, from the Laboratory for Violence Analysis (LAV) at the Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), studied the documents and data and produced a Report “Analysis of the impact of the attacks of the PCC in São Paulo in May 2006” (available at <http://www.conectas.org/arquivospublicados/crimesdemaio.htm>).

Conectas Human Rights, together with other members of the Independent Commission, published and launched the Report in a public act on May 12, 2009. The results of the research present conclusive evidence showing that the civilian deaths did not occur during the attacks, but rather as reprisals with characteristics of summary executions and police violence. According to available data, more than a half of the deaths of public agents (33 cases) were concentrated in the first two days of that week, while the

four days that followed had an expressive increase of civilian deaths by shooting, estimated at three to four times greater than the average for an equivalent period.

Concomitantly, Conectas took up the defense of the case of the execution of four youths during the Bloody Week that became known as the “Massacre of the Bristol Park”. Conectas represents the families of these four fatal victims, murdered by an extermination group. Police investigations for these deaths had been closed in November 2008 without identifying those responsible for it.

Besides, Conectas also initiated two simultaneous proceedings at the national and regional levels. In Brazil, it petitioned the Attorney General of the Republic to demand the federalization of the investigations of that massacre, given that the state of São Paulo had not reached any results. Regionally, Conectas took up the case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR-OAS), to denounce violations to the rights to life, physical integrity and judicial protection and asking for the reopening of the investigations on the deaths of the “Bloody Week”.



Cover of the report “Analysis of the impact of the attacks of the PCC in Sao Paulo in May 2006”



Actions in Supreme Court: implementation and guarantee of fundamental rights

Conectas has been contributing to greater civil society participation in the protection and promotion of rights in Brazil

Since 2003, Conectas's JUSTICE PROGRAM has been participating directly in the constitutional debate on the realization of fundamental rights, which takes place within the Brazilian Supreme Court (Supremo Tribunal Federal - STF). The reason for this strategy is rather simple. On the one hand, the Constitution of 1988 adopted an extremely generous charter of rights; in addition to that, following its democratization, Brazil has become a party to nearly all international human rights treaties. On the other hand, the 1988 Constitution and subsequent amendments gave the Supreme Court an important role in the implementation and guaranteeing of fundamental rights. For institutional reasons, few NGOs sought to influence the STF, partly because *amicus curiae* was only introduced in our legislation in 1999, and also because of the lack of tradition and experience in using the judiciary system. In these seven years, Conectas presented 38 *amicus curiae* briefs to the STF, becoming the most active civil society organization at the STF. It is also the only civil organization that has participated in all public hearings held until the present date by the STF.

Through its systematic collaboration with other organizations and the creation of a website that disseminates information on the Supreme Court's involvement in the field of human rights (www.stfemfoco.org.br), Conectas has clearly been contributing to enhance civil society participation in the protection and promotion of rights in Brazil. This greater participation of other organizations has allowed Conectas to concentrate its efforts on cases with a more direct relationship to its mandate, as well as in cases where it has not been possible to encourage participation from directly interested organizations.

Five new *amicus curiae* briefs were presented by Conectas in 2009, regarding the following issues: homosexual unions, the autonomy of the Public Defenders Office, the prohibition of emergency contraception pills, intellectual property rights and access to medicine, and the right to health.

Moreover, four cases in which Conectas participated as *amicus curiae* were concluded in 2009 and beginning of 2010: the used and retreaded tire case (ADPF 101), the Raposa Serra do Sol case (Pet 3388), the emergency contraception pills case (ADI 166.129 in TJ/SP), and the digital television system case (ADI 4344).

Amici presented in 2009

Same sex unions – ADI 4277

In July 2009, the Attorney-General of the Republic (Procurador Geral da República - PGR) filed a Direct Action of Unconstitutionality (Ação Direta de Inconstitucionalidade - ADI) challenging the constitutionality of article 1723 of the Brazilian Civil Code, which guarantees only the recognition of “stable unions” for a man and a woman living together as if they were married. “Stable union” is the term used by the Brazilian legislation to extend some of the marital rights to a man and woman living together without being formally married.

Based on constitutional equality arguments and on the understating that same-sex unions are not prohibited by the Federal Constitution, the Attorney-General challenged the interpretation given to this article that it could only be applied to a man and woman couple, excluding couples formed by two men or two women.

Conectas, in partnership with ABGLT (Brazilian Association of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transvestites and Transgenders) and CORSA (Citizenship, Pride, Respect, Solidarity and Love group based in São Paulo), presented an *amicus curiae* brief to support the Attorney-General’s request. They argued that although same-sex unions are not specifically written in the Constitution, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and transvestite people’s rights, and their unions, are in fact protected by the interpretation of constitutional principles, individual and collective rights and guarantees; and the refusal of that interpretation would result in serious discrimination against this vulnerable group, reinforcing violence and unconstitutional social exclusion. The brief concludes that the most adequate constitutional interpretation is that same-sex unions should enjoy the same status, protection, rights and obligations granted to opposite-sex unions eligible for “stable unions”.

Intellectual property rights and access to medicine – ADI 4234

In December 2007, Conectas, together with the Working Group on Intellectual Property of the Brazilian

Network for the Integration of Peoples (GTPI/REBRIP), made a complaint to the Attorney-General of the Republic (Procurador Geral da República - PGR) questioning the constitutionality of a mechanism adopted by Brazil to allow the revalidation of patents granted abroad, known as “pipeline”. The complaint asked him to file a Direct Action of Unconstitutionality (Ação Direta de Inconstitucionalidade - ADI) before the Supreme Court, because civil society organizations cannot file this kind of lawsuit directly. The argument submitted was that pipeline patents violate the objectives of the patent system established in the Federal Constitution.

By granting companies the commercial monopoly of a medication or pharmaceutical process, which was already in public domain, the pipeline patents increase unnecessarily the prices of medication. This measure has a negative impact on both patients’ and government’s budgets and reduces access to medicine, which is contrary to the social interests, technological and economic development of the country.

In May 2009, the Attorney-General of the Republic filed the ADI 4234, challenging the constitutionality of the pipeline mechanism. Approximately 1,200 patents fall under this mechanism (out of which about 750 for medicines); should the STF determine their unconstitutionality, all of them would immediately return to the public domain in Brazil, allowing the commercialization of generic versions of those products at considerably more affordable prices. Conectas, along with GAPA/SP (Support Group for AIDS Prevention, based in Sao Paulo State), presented an *amicus curiae* brief in this ADI and encouraged several other civil society organizations to do the same. A booklet with questions and answers about pipeline patents is available online at http://www.conectas.org/arquivospublicados/QuestAnswers_PIPELINE_INGLES.pdf

This case is an important example of how civil society organizations, even without the standing to propose actions directly before the Supreme Court, can indirectly influence its agenda.

Autonomy of the Public Defenders Office in São Paulo state – ADI 4163

According to Sao Paulo State’s Constitution and laws, the Public Defenders Office is not allowed to enter into a covenant to provide subsidiary free legal services to the poor with anyone, except the state’s Bar Association. In October 2008 the Attorney-General of the Republic filed a Direct Action of (Ação Direta de Inconstitucionalidade - ADI) challenging the constitutionality of these provisions, arguing that such restriction violated the Public Defenders Office’s autonomy prescribed in the Federal Constitution.

Conectas and the Pro Bono Institute, alongside with the Ombudsman of the São Paulo Public Defenders Office and six partner organizations, presented an *amicus curiae* brief supporting the Attorney-General’s request. The organizations argued that the imposition of an exclusive counterpart violates the autonomy of the Public Defenders Office and hinders the right to the best free legal services to those who do not have sufficient funds to pay for private services. The organization’s arguments were supported by a *pro bono* legal opinion provided by Professor Virgílio Afonso da Silva, head of the Constitutional Law Department at Sao Paulo University, with the same conclusions. Although the organizations were not accepted as amici curiae, the arguments brought by the brief and the legal opinion were accepted for consideration by the Supreme Court.

Right to Health - PSV 4

In Brazil, the Supreme Court can issue binding Mandatory Precedents. A Proposal of Mandatory Precedent (Proposta de Súmula Vinculante - PSV) may be filed by third parties with standing established by the Brazilian Constitution and third parties that lack that standing can participate in the process as amici curiae. In this case, the Public Defender-General presented the PSV 4 about the joint responsibility of all federative entities (federal, states and municipals governments) to provide medications and medical treatment to the population. Conectas, together with others organizations from GTPI/REBRIP (Working Group on Intellectual Property of the Brazilian

Network for the Integration of Peoples), presented an *amicus curiae* brief reinforcing the importance of the joint responsibility of all federative entities to “provide health and public assistance” for all. Governments often argue that the obligation to provide health care falls under the responsibility of some other level of government and the approval of this mandatory precedent would undermine this argument and consolidate the responsibility of all levels of government.

Emergency contraceptive pill case in Pirassununga – ADI 166.921 (SP)

The city of Pirassununga, in the countryside of Sao Paulo State, passed a law that prohibited the municipal medical services to dispense emergency contraception pills (known as “morning-after” pills) under the argument that such procedure would be an abortion. Being a municipal law, its constitutionality was challenged by the Sao Paulo State’s Attorney-General before the State Court (and not the Supreme Court) (ADI 166.921), after a complaint put forth by a group of feminist organizations.

Conectas and CCR – Citizenship and Reproduction Commission presented an *amicus curiae* brief to support the Attorney-General’s request to declare the law unconstitutional and guarantee the dispensing of emergency contraception pills in the municipal’s medical services. The organizations argued that the method is only contraceptive because it prevents the fertilization of the egg by the sperm and is not abortive because it would not be effective if taken after the conception.

The Sao Paulo State Court issued a preliminary injunction decision that orders the city to make emergency contraception pills available in the municipal health system to every woman who had it prescribed by a physician. The merits of the lawsuit have not been considered yet, but the State Court has received many lawsuits in the past years about similar laws in different cities and has declared them unconstitutional, including the Jundiaí case in which Conectas also participated as *amicus curiae*.

Following up with previous cases

In addition to the new cases presented in 2009, Conectas follows up on all previous cases in which it has participated and that are still ongoing. This follow up requires daily work in the form of: presentation of new documents, making oral arguments at the judgments and participating in public hearings held by the STF, as well as relations with the media and other interested organizations.

Oral arguments

Emergency contraceptive pill case in Jundiaí - ADI 166.129 (SP)

Like in Pirassununga, the city of Jundiaí, in the outskirts of Sao Paulo, passed a law that prohibited the dispensing of emergency contraception pills in the municipal medical services. The law's constitutionality was challenged by the State's Attorney-General before the State Court (ADI 166.129), after a complaint from feminist organizations.

Conectas and the Citizenship and Reproduction Commission - CCR also presented a brief and were admitted as *amici curiae* in this ADI (Ação Direta de Inconstitucionalidade). The case was considered by the Court in February 2009 and the organizations, represented by Conectas's senior lawyer, Eloisa Machado, delivered an oral argument to support the brief and the Attorney-General's request. The Sao Paulo State Court ruled that the law was unconstitutional.

Used and retreaded tires case – ADPF 101

This was one of the most important environmental cases in Brazil in the last few years. In 2000, Brazil passed a legislation to prohibit the importation of used and retreaded tires. This decision was based on the fact that the storing of used tires poses a risk for the environment and for public

health. On June 24, 2009, the Supreme Court declared the constitutionality of this new legislation, which was being challenged by a number of lower court decisions allowing the importation of used and retreaded tires. The case was brought before the Supreme Court by the President of Brazil, who filed an Allegation of Disobedience of Fundamental Precept suit (Arguição de descumprimento de preceito fundamental - ADPF 101) against those lower court decisions. Conectas, along with Justiça Global and Associação de Proteção ao Meio Ambiente de Cianorte (APROMAC), was admitted as *amicus curiae* in that case. In March 2009, during the judgment of the case, Conectas's Director, Professor Oscar Vilhena Vieira, delivered an oral argument supporting the prohibition of the importation of used and retreaded tires. Vieira emphasized that the Constitution is clear in affirming the prevalence of the environment issues over economic activity. The oral argument can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZxVaUL8nO4>.

This case gained international relevance after the European Community asked for a panel at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against Brazil, questioning the prohibition of the importation of used and retreaded tires. WTO's ruling determined that the country's prohibition on economic activity harmful to the environment was fair, as long as the prohibition was valid in all the country. The President of Brazil filed the ADPF 101 before the Supreme Court in order to be compliant with WTO's decision. In July 2006, Conectas, along with six other Brazilian civil society organizations and a US-based NGO, submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the WTO, in which Brazil's key environmental commitments and human rights obligations regarding public health issues were presented as part of the argumentation. This was the first time that Brazilian organizations filed an *amicus curiae* brief before WTO.

Raposa Serra do Sol case – Pet 3388

In August 2008, the Supreme Court started the judgment of the most relevant case related to indigenous rights to have ever reach Brazilian courts, the Raposa Serra do Sol case (Pet 3388), an indigenous land in the Northeastern Brazilian State of Roraima (in the Amazon Region). The judgment was concluded in March 2009, when the Supreme Court decided to maintain continuous demarcation of the indigenous land and determined the expulsion of the non-indigenous people of the region. This case received extensive coverage in national and international media due to the constant conflicts between the indigenous population and local landowners. Conectas presented a brief that underscored the importance of a continuous demarcation to the preservation of the culture and practices of the local indigenous community and supported to the campaign for continuous demarcation, led by attorney and indigenous leader Joênia Wapichawa. Conectas also presented an opinion to the Court about the correct interpretation of continuous demarcation in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was being misinterpreted by some Justices of the Supreme Court.

Digital television system case – ADI 3944

Challenging the constitutionality of the Federal Decree that created the Brazilian Digital Television System, the political party PSOL filed, in 2007, the ADI 3944 before the Supreme Court. This decree allows for the automatic assignment of several digital transmission channels to the companies that already hold concessions to explore analogical transmission channels today. The ADI argues that the digital television system is a new transmission service and not just an improvement of an existing one, hence the new channels should be awarded according to new rules, considering constitutional principles of pluralism and freedom of expression and information.

Conectas, the Pro Bono Institute and Inter-vozes – Coletivo Brasil de Comunicação Social

presented a brief and were admitted as *amici curiae*. They supported PSOL's request and argued further that the digital television system could allow the participation of more actors and lead to a democratic revolution in the media; as opposed to the automatic assignment that consolidates an unequal distribution, fosters the concentration of the media and the absence of competition. The judgment of the ADI by the Supreme Court was rescheduled several times, and, when it was finally considered in August 2010, the organizations presented their oral arguments, supporting their *amici curiae* brief and the original request. The Supreme Court also heard several other actors and ruled against the PSOL request and the organization's arguments. Conectas and its partners consider that the Supreme Court missed an important opportunity to enhance freedom of expression and information and to strengthen democracy in Brazil.

Public Hearings

Conectas participated in the following public hearings in 2009 and beginning of 2010:

• Affirmative Action

In March 2010, the Supreme Court held a public hearing on the case of affirmative action in the Universidade de Brasília – UnB (ADPF 186). More than 38 organizations and specialists presented their statements in the hearing, and many others sent written documents related to the case.

This hearing illustrates well the new perception of civil society organizations regarding the importance of the judiciary system for the implementation of fundamental rights. In this context, Conectas played an important role in fostering the involvement of many NGOs. Conectas's Director, Oscar Vilhena Vieira, was one of the specialists selected to participate in the hearing on March 4th, 2010. His arguments are available online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPaeqSatKtk>



- Health

A good example of the use of the Supreme Court as a place for human rights promotion arose in the public hearing on health, held in April and May of 2009, and that counted with the participation of several civil society organizations and government agencies. Conectas, as a member of the Working Group on Intellectual Property of the Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (GTPI/REBRIP), was chosen as one of the specialists to be heard. The oral arguments delivered by Conectas's senior lawyer, Eloísa Machado, supported the thesis of the impact of pharmaceutical patents on access to medications and public health policies. (Available online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAKleSJZVxc> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HphQX44ds7M>).

In addition to the oral arguments, Conectas also presented written documents on the subject that

included a written opinion brief by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Anand Grover, especially drafted for this public hearing. This document was subsequently published by the GTPI and is available online at http://www.deolhonaspontentes.org.br/media/file/Publica%C3%A7%C3%B5es/Audiencia_STF.pdf.

Furthermore, the GTPI published a book in English on access to medications and intellectual property rights in Southern countries (Brazil, China, Colombia, Thailand, India). This book (available online at <http://www.deolhonaspontentes.org.br/media/file/Publica%C3%A7%C3%B5es/Intelectual%20Property.pdf>) was distributed at the last International AIDS Society Conference, held in July 2009, in South Africa.



Eloísa Machado, Conectas's senior lawyer, is in charge of lawsuits brought by Conectas

Fostering pro bono legal culture in Brazil

expanding the access to justice of vulnerable groups
is one of the main objectives of this project



From the left to right: Oscar Vilhena Vieira (Legal Director, Conectas), Malak Poppovic (Executive Director, Conectas), Minister Gilmar Ferreira Mendes (former President of the Supreme Court), Marcos Fuchs (Executive Director, Instituto Pro Bono), Flávia Regina de Souza (Lawyer of Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr e Quiroga Advogados, board member of IPB and of Conectas) and Miguel Reale Junior (former Minister of Justice and president of IPB board)

Conectas hosts, at its headquarters, the Pro Bono Institute (IPB), which carries out *pro bono* advocacy work, by means of lending free and specialized legal assistance for organizations of the Third Sector that are demonstrably lacking in financial resources. It allows legal professionals and advocacy firms to develop a socially responsible task in their respective fields of action.

On one hand, the objective is the structuring of Third Sector entities and the subsequent strengthening of civil society; and, on the other, the more frequent participation of lawyers in activities of public interest that aid in expanding the access to justice of vulnerable groups.

Since 2001, the IPB (Pro Bono Institute) has had more than 520 registered voluntary attorneys and the support of 32 medium-sized and large law firms. In 2009, IPB acted as a clearing-house to provide legal assistance to small NGOs. The number of cases taken up by private lawyers reached 143 during the year.

Achievements and challenges in 2009

The IPB has continued pursuing its objectives: on the one hand, to disseminate the *pro bono* culture in other states in Brazil and, on the other, to contribute to the training of university students in public interest law and voluntary work.

Expanding pro bono practice in the state of Sao Paulo and throughout Brazil

An important realization for the IPB was the signing of an agreement with the Brazilian Study Center of Lawyers' Societies (CESA - *Centro de Estudos das Sociedades de Advogados*). This agreement stipulates that CESA will channel all of its members' requests for pro bono assistance through the IPB, which will act as a clearing house and be responsible for administering them in the best possible way. This constitutes a recognition of the IPB's role as the main reference in the area.

IPB's main obstacle regarding the provision of free legal assistance to vulnerable groups continues to be the regulations of the Brazilian Federal Bar Association and State Bar Associations, which determine that it is illegal for lawyers to provide legal services free of charge in most of Brazilian states. Only Sao Paulo State and Alagoas State Bar Associations enacted a "Pro Bono Resolution" allowing lawyers and law firms to provide free legal assistance to non-profit organizations, but it remains illegal for lawyers to render free legal services directly to individuals throughout Brazil. In other states, the bar associations continue to oppose the legalization of this practice which they consider to be unfair competition.

Nevertheless, the IPB was active in three Brazilian States in the Southeast and Southern regions of the country. In March 2009, IPB had meetings with the President of the Rio de Janeiro Sectional Branch of the OAB (*Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil*)

and submitted a proposal regarding public interest legislation for *pro bono* services, but although a partner law firm in Rio is following up, the final decision has yet been taken. In the State of Parana, against all expectations, the Curitiba Sectional Branch of the OAB denied the request for the adoption of a resolution in favor of *pro bono* legal services, on the allegation that it was contrary to the Code of Ethics and Discipline. In spite of this drawback, IPB continued its campaign in the Southern States of Brazil by submitting, at the request of an important law firm in city of Santa Catarina State, Joinville, a joint demand for the adoption of pro bono resolution to the Sectional Branch of Santa Catarina State.

This slowing-down of the expansion process caused by the negative attitude of the Bar Associations has been counterbalanced by the positive view taken by the Supreme Court (*Supremo Tribunal Federal – STF*). In a meeting with the Director of IPB, Marcos Fuchs, held in Brasilia in March 2009, the then President of the STF, Gilmar Mendes, expressed his support for *pro bono* lawyering as a form of democratizing access to justice in Brazil.

Moreover, it is important to highlight that the IPB continues its close collaboration with the Public Defender's Office, to which it channels all individual cases of human rights violations that cannot be legally handled by private pro bono services. Regular meetings are held with its ombudsman ("*ouvidoria*") to discuss issues related to access to justice.

Finally, the IPB continued to disseminate the results of its various projects through online newsletters – 4 issues in 2009 - and its interactive website (www.institutoprobono.org.br). The target audience includes private sector lawyers, law firms, public interest organizations, and academics interested in access to justice issues.

Promoting pro bono law at the university, the Pro Bono Junior Initiative

In October 2009, the IPB created the **Junior Pro Bono Program**, with the Law School of Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV Law School), the first initiative of its kind in Brazil. It is a "model office" inside the university to stimulate students to engage in *pro bono* advocacy. Lawyers who have registered

to volunteer with the IPB will be able to count on students' help as they take on pro bono cases on behalf of NGO constituencies. Students receive academic credit for their work. With 40 students enrolled, this program has proved to be a success. Additionally, IPB's members are giving legal support to another FGV legal clinic on "Inclusive Business" to street collectors of recyclable material.

Perspectives for 2010

Through its travels and direct consultations, the IPB has come to a better understanding of the opposition of the state bar associations and their board of directors with respect to pro bono advocacy. It is presently concentrating its efforts on devising new strategies with private law firms and members

of CESA who are willing to fight for new legislation. Moreover, given the success of the Pro Bono Jr. initiative at the FGV Law School, the IPB will continue its negotiations with other universities in Sao Paulo to introduce similar initiatives.



From the left to right: José Carlos Dias (former Minister of Justice), Miguel Reale Junior (former Minister of Justice and president of IPB board) e José Gregori (Human Rights Secretary for Sao Paulo), in the event of the IPB.

Legal empowerment of Black Women

project addressed racial and gender issues
from a human right perspective



The Project aimed at empowering women of Sao Mateus, in Sao Paulo community, in Sao Mateus, Brazil, on human rights issues

With duration of three years, the project, which began in March 2007 and came to a close in April 2010, is a successful example of action addressing racial and gender issues from a human rights perspective. Carrying it out, in partnership with the Geledés – Black Women's Institute, was an enriching experience for Conectas. Geledés's expertise in popular education and working for racial and gender equality, together with Conectas's experience in training activists and developing projects within the field of human rights, resulted in success.

Its main activities throughout these years were:

- the production, in 2007, of the Reference Manual for the Black Women's Right to Health, a didactic and informational material containing five manuals on human rights, race, gender, and health-related themes;
- two Training Courses, which began in 2008, on gender, race, and health, gathering more than 110 Popular Legal Promoters trained by Geledés – Black Women's Institute;
- the creation of the Rights Center in the São Mateus neighborhood in March 2009.

Furthermore, other activities were likewise relevant for the Black Women's Right to Health Project, such as the creation of the Project's website (www.saudemulhernegra.org.br), its participation in the Campaign for an Inter-American Convention on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and the production of materials for a Future Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and its dialogue with the Public Defender's Office.

Conectas and Geledés finalized this Project with the launching of a publication entitled "Conquering Rights – the Experiences of the Black Women's Right to Health Project". The objective of this document is to explain why the project was developed, based on which findings, practices, and theories, how it was executed and to present what its successes and achievements were, so as to encourage and facilitate its replication.

Achievements and Challenges in 2009

The main activities carried out by the Project in 2009 and in the first months of 2010 were:

- the creation and operation of the Rights Center in the Sao Mateus neighborhood;
- assisting in the production of material regarding the Future Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance;
- the compilation and drafting of the replication manual.

The Sao Mateus Rights Center

Objectives and operation

In March 2009, the Sao Mateus Rights Center was inaugurated. Mainly focusing on popular education as an important instrument for appropriating rights and empowerment, the Sao Mateus Rights Center offered women courses in different areas of the project's sphere of operation: health, race, and gender from a human rights perspective.

In addition to continuously holding training sessions, the Center was designed to be a center for receiving complaints of racial discrimination in health services. Nevertheless, the users did not file any legal complaints. The Project's team, along with its partner, Geledés, which has a great deal of experience in receiving discrimination complaints, due to its SOS Racism program, estimates that the absence of complaints is due to the fact that, in Brazil, the culture of litigating on racial discrimination is still very weak. This is why a capacity-building program was designed instead.

Operating three days a week, the scheduling of weekly classes and the dynamics of the space were structured in cooperation with the users and the Project team. In total, during its year of operation, the Center held thirty lectures with specialists, in addition to gatherings for film and book debates. The program was devised taking into consideration the demands and needs of the

beneficiaries. For example, it was decided to devote a month for adolescents, focusing on issues of sexuality, STD prevention, behavior, drugs, and reproduction, so as to satisfy a recurring demand for information surrounding these issues from the women frequenting the Center who are grandmothers and mothers of persons between 12 and 20 years of age. Another example is the course on body expression, with a duration of three months, which was also created once the users' need to work on self-esteem was perceived.

Frequented by more than 40 women, the Center was also a gathering space that offered users a small library with works on health, race, and gender, as well as a collection of films, legislation, and informational material.

Partners

In addition to the direct participation of its users, the Center's successful operation was guaranteed thanks to the innumerable partnerships made by the Project. Whether through the donation of materials, or the exchange of experiences, its partners made important contributions, such as:

- The partnership with Canal Futura, an educational TV channel, which donated the Future Democracy Package (*Maleta Futura Democracia*) to the Center, making it possible to work dynamically with issues such as democracy and rights, with television programs, documentaries, and didactic books. It is worth mentioning that some pamphlets produced by the Project were included in the Future Health Package (*Maleta Futura Saúde*), which is being distributed to organizations working with this issue.
- The United Nations Population Fund in Brazil (UNFPA) made a large amount of health-related materials available to the Center for them to be distributed to the community and to its users.

- Partner organizations, such as Casa Cidinha Kopcak, which works with women who are victims of violence in the São Mateus region, and the Casa Ser, a medical center which addresses the issue of women's health, also referred women to the Rights Center.

Future Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance

The project's contribution to debates regarding the Future Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance took the form of drafting an explanatory Manual about the Convention, containing the following topics: the structure of the Organization of the American States (OAS), the meaning of a Convention, racism, racism in Brazil, facts about African descendants in Latin America, why an OAS convention on race, resistance to drafting the Convention; the rights encompassed in the Convention and the applicability of the Convention.

The Manual was launched in the second semester of 2009 and was distributed to organizations working with racial and gender issues in Brazil.

In addition to our close partnership with Geledés Black Women's Institute, other partners were also involved in this task:

- Catholics for the Right to Choose, a feminist entity of an inter-religious character, whose main objective is to seek social justice and change in current cultural and religious patterns in our society, respecting diversity as necessary for guaranteeing liberty and justice (www.catolicasonline.org.br).
- The National Feminist Network for Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights, more commonly referred

to as the Feminist Health Network, an umbrella organization for the women's movement currently comprising 266 entities (www.redesaude.org.br).

Experience sharing manual: conquering rights – the experience of the Black Women's Right to Health Project

The objective of this manual, composed of a 102-page booklet and 20-minute DVD, is to record the experience of two years of work. This publication will serve as an instrument for stimulating initiatives aimed towards a rights-based education as a form of social transformation, especially as related to health issues from a gender and race perspective.

The first chapter addresses the vulnerability of black women in Brazil, presenting statistical data and research findings to spell-out the theoretical principles on which the Black Women's Right to Health Project was based. Moreover, it highlights the importance of public policies that foster equity in the field of health care, such as is the case with the National Comprehensive Health Care Policy for the Black Population.

The second chapter contains a meticulous analysis of the actions carried out, with details regarding the actors involved, as well as recommendations for replicating the successful dynamics of the Project.

Finally, with the objective of giving a voice to the beneficiaries of the Project, an audiovisual documentary, lasting twenty minutes, containing testimony from 10 participants in the Rights Center, composes the third chapter. Entitled, "Experiences – Records from the Rights Center of the Black Women's Right to Health Project's Rights Center" the documentary portrays their experiences in receiving health care, addressing issues such as blackness, rights appropriation, and empowerment.

Conclusion of the project: continuation within the community

With the conclusion of 3 year project, the team, together with the Center's users, transferred its activities to a community space in the Sao Mateus

region. The community took over the initiative and continues maintaining a gathering space for women.

Inclusive Business Clinic

promoting the social and environmental accountability of businesses and supporting inclusive business practices.

The Inclusive Business Clinic is the result of the partnership between the FGV Law School (Direito-FGV), the AVINA Foundation and Conectas Human Rights. Its main objectives are to promote the social and environmental accountability of businesses and to support inclusive business practices.

Inclusive business is defined as economically profitable and environmentally and socially responsible initiatives that use market mechanisms to improve the quality of life of people with low incomes.

AVINA Foundation, the primary source of funding of the Clinic for collectors of recyclable materials, awarded a grant to its fellow Oscar Vilhena Vieira (Director of Conectas and professor at FGV) to implement this project. Conectas contributes by providing *pro bono* legal services to support the Clinic's activities, and the FGV Law School hosts and gives academic support to the Clinic.

Two years of the Clinic: achievements and challenges

Project context and justification

In our first two years, the work developed by the Clinic had the focus of promoting the social and economic inclusion of the collectors of recyclable materials. These workers, who constitute the base for the productive recycling chain, are subjected to diverse forms of exploitation, ranging from inadequate remuneration to unsafe working conditions. Many collectors continue to work in inhuman conditions, pushing heavy carts, often with the help of their entire family, including children.

This is principally due to the absence of a regulatory framework to create legal responsibilities following consumption, the fragility of inclusive public policies for collectors, and due to the logic of the market itself, which goes against the work carried out for day-to-day subsistence, because it demands quantity, quality, and terms for invoicing.

Therefore, questioning inclusive public policies and creating legal responsibilities for the large waste

managers and companies that produce or use recyclable materials for completing their operations, has constituted the main objective of the Clinic until now.

Main results

This project aims at creating a legal framework to regulate the post-consumption and/or the use of recyclable materials by large firms; and to ensure the protection of the rights of the collectors.

In the last two years, the Inclusive Business Clinic carried out advocacy work with the Congress for the adoption of socioeconomic laws that regulates the solid waste national policy, with emphasis on the participation of collectors in the productive recycling chain. It also provides, through a partnership with the Instituto Pro Bono, legal services to advise them on the creation of cooperatives or associations, so as to enable collectors to carry out business as service providers to public and private enterprises.

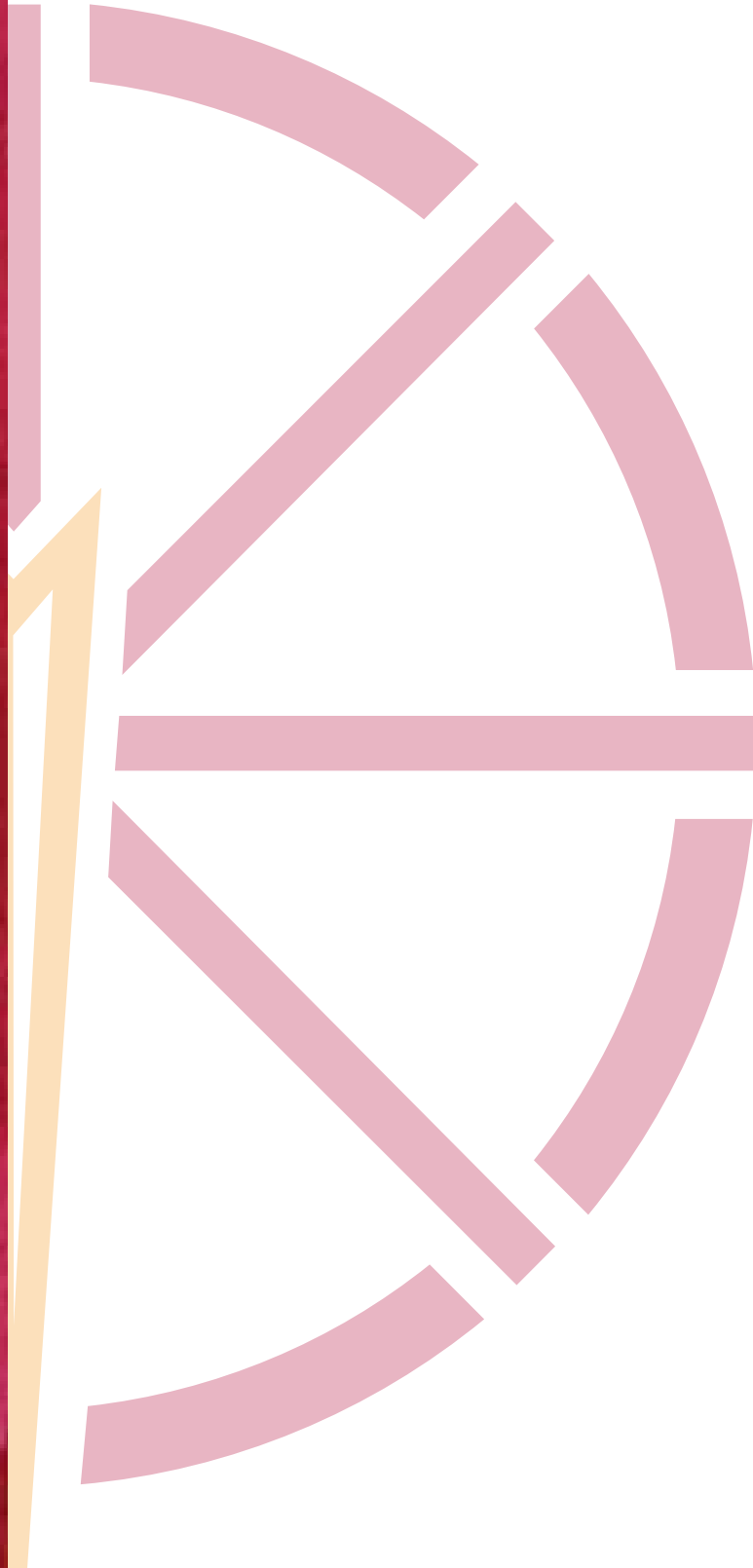


Collectors of the recyclable materials constitute the base for the productive recycling chain



This project aims at creating a legal framework to regulate the post-consumption and the use of recyclable materials by large firms and to ensure the protection of the rights of the collectors.

To face the difficult situation due to the world economic crisis, Conectas has strengthened its institutional structure, so as to reduce its fixed costs without affecting the implementation of the projects. To quote a Brazilian saying, we had to struggle to change the tyre while the car was moving.



Consolidating our bases
the major goal in 2009 was to ensure the financial sustainability of the organization

Although considered a relatively young organization, Conectas has gained a name and reputation for its innovative approaches and cutting-edge methods, both in the national and international spheres. It has also grown steadily since its creation in 2001, in terms of staff, structure and budget.

Our 2009 budget was substantially affected by the world economic crisis and by the devaluation of the Dollar in relation to the Brazilian Real. Conectas made drastic cuts in its expenditures, such as freezing salaries and reducing those of its directors by 50%, as well as reducing fixed costs (i.e. lower rent). Therefore, 2009 was a year of great challenges as many project activities were in the process of expansion. To face this difficult situation, Conectas has strengthened its institutional structure, so as to reduce its fixed costs without affecting the implementation of the projects. To quote a Brazilian saying, we had to struggle to change a tyre while the car was moving.

The institutional area is divided into three departments whose activities are closely interconnected:

DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundraising• Monitoring and reporting• Planning and evaluation	COMMUNICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact with the media• Websites maintenance• Regular newsletters• Internal daily clippings• Support to project activities	FINANCIAL and ADMINITSRATIVE MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative support• Financial monitoring and reporting
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MAIN INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure new sources of financing.• To respond to the increase of monitoring and reporting obligations for diversified donors.• To define a long-term strategic course and institutional horizons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop and disseminate institutional materials about the organization and its activities.• To provide information to the media and influence public debate.• To ensure flows of information to partners' and scholars' networks for interaction and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To revise practices and processes in order to respond to the needs of multiple projects and donors.• To reformulate needs to adjust to the international financial crisis.• To make the understanding of budget execution and monitoring more accessible to project coordinators and donors.
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Fundraising, planning and evaluation

Fundraising, reporting, and monitoring of activities

In terms of fundraising, the major goal in 2009 was to ensure the financial sustainability of the organization against the adverse effects of the global economic crisis.

In 2009, Conectas continued to receive the financial support of its main donors, namely Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute, Overbrook/BWF, OAK Foundation, European Commission, UNDEF. In addition, three new donors started to support Conectas's activities in 2009/2010: Mac Arthur Foundation, the Sigrid Rausing Trust and Fundação Carlos Chagas. The latter constituted the first large Brazilian grant given to the Sur International Journal on Human Rights.

Conectas also benefited from other contributions for specific projects in 2009/2010. They were: Amnesty International; Brazilian Ministry of Health/UNESCO; Democracy Coalition Project; Dutch Embassy in Brasilia; Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul; French General Consulate in Sao Paulo; Friederich Ebert Foundation in Brazil; International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Lawyers Collective; National Endowment for Democracy; OSI Criminal Fund; OSI Public Health Program; Oxfam; Swiss Embassy in Brasilia; United Nations Foundation and UNHCR.

To achieve these results, more than 100 funding prospects were analyzed and more than 30 proposals were submitted to potential donors for new or renewal of grants, and 20 requests for support were approved. Conectas's staff as whole, including directors, project coordinators and assistants, and communication and financial officers cooperated to face this challenge.

Finally, it is also noteworthy to mention the in kind contributions that strengthened the capacity and outreach of our organization: the work of 30 volunteers (university students), the partnership with the Getulio Vargas Foundation that offers the venue for staging the annual International Human Rights Colloquium and other events, the internships offered by Brazilian NGOs to our African fellows, the unpaid collaborators and authors who write for the Sur Journal; the *pro bono* legal work coordinated by the Pro Bono Institute to support our JUSTICE PROGRAM and capacity-building courses offered to our staff free of charge or at reduced fees by well-known institutions: SENAC, Umapaz, Itaú Social and Instituto Fonte.

Planning and evaluation

In 2009, Conectas undertook an intensive effort to improve its planning and evaluation processes by introducing a more systematic method: strategic and operational planning, which were followed by an organizational assessment. Participative and self-evaluation methodologies involving all staff members were applied in all of these processes.

The strategic planning process started with two external facilitators, Thereza Penna Firme and Angela Dannemann, who conducted the first steps of this process using an "empowerment evaluation" methodology. Conectas will be continuing this process throughout 2010 and 2011.

The operational planning processes were improved. In addition to the project-by-project monitoring, a more in-depth discussion and analysis of the synergy and integration among the different program activities was conducted.

Finally, an organizational assessment was conducted by Martha Farmelo, consultant to the Open Society Institute Latin America Program (OSI LAP), within a capacity building initiative (CBI) for selected strategic counterparts recognized by OSI LAP for their impact and vision. The initiative offers the possibility to request multiyear institutional support and seeks to strengthen groups on issues of structure and operations to maximize both impact and sustainability. The assessment objectives were to assist Conectas in its process of institutional strengthening by identifying those areas working well and those that require strengthening. The final report, delivered in April 2010, constitutes an important contribution to Conectas's ongoing strategic planning.



Nathalie Nunes, coordinator of the Development area of Conectas

Increasing visibility and dialogue with stakeholders

Improving and rethinking Conectas's communication

This department develops and coordinates the internal and external communication of the organization. It is responsible for establishing dialogue between Conectas and its institutional partners and maintains close contact with opinion formers and the media, in addition to organizing the flow of information within the organization.

Throughout 2009, the sector was rethought as a strategic component for institutional strengthening and for helping Conectas's projects to reach their full potential.

The Communication achieved many results and also invested efforts and resources that should increase Conectas's visibility and dialogue with stakeholders as well as with a broader public during 2010 and 2011.

Overview of achievements in 2009/2010

The development of its new website to be launched in 2010

The project of a new institutional website was designed to make it more interactive, user-friendly and attractive, as well as to give it a better display of updated information, and more consistent integration of other project websites.

The reformulation of its newsletter's distribution and format

Conectas changed the frequency of its monthly newsletter to an issue every two months. In 2009, it published seven editions. The online distribution of the newsletter was improved with the use of the Campaign Monitor system. This service is useful for creating and sending email campaigns, managing lists of subscribers

and getting reports and data on the readers' reactions, such as the most accessed news. The new format will be launched together with new website.

The intensification of contact with the media

During 2009 and 2010, Conectas's activities have gained visibility in the national and international media. In 2010, a press adviser joined our team to design a more proactive policy with the means of communication. Conectas's team also received a media training, from Tomas Fischer (Zenza), as a *pro bono* contribution, to improve its communication skills and relation with media professionals.

Publications

Besides the support to the projects' specific publications, the Communications department coordinated the

second edition of Conectas's Annual Report published in English and Portuguese. It was sent to our donors and main partners and is also available online at: <http://www.conectas.org/relatorio2008en.htm>.

Support to events

Specific support for the IX International Human Rights Colloquium (<http://www.conectas.org/coloquio/IX/>) was provided, such as the management of online tools for the applications and selection of participants, and a blog was created for the event <http://www.ixcoloquio.blogspot.com/>; in addition to the publication of several materials for the participants.

Management and accountability

Revising procedures and reducing costs

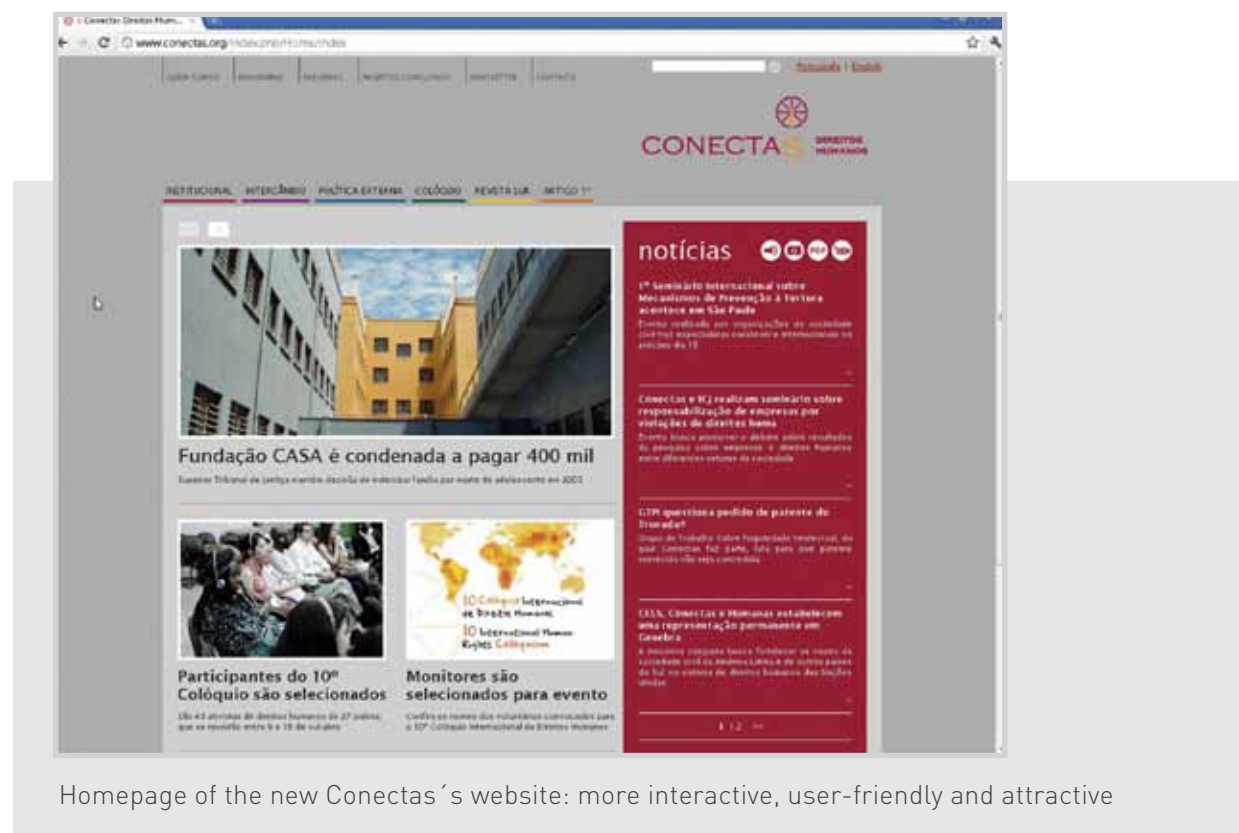
To respond to the expansion of the organization, to the multiplication of its projects and to the diversification of its sources of funding, it has been necessary to strengthen the administrative and financial department and to revise a number of its practices and processes.

A great challenge for the team was to rationalize the current administrative costs. A special effort was made to update and systematize our filing system, and to reduce costs by adopting more economic solutions for office supplies, telephone bills etc.

To reduce fixed costs, the most important structural change was to move the location of Conectas's office. The new address is in the old center of Sao Paulo where rents are cheaper because of urban deterioration. Unlike the former premises composed of two small houses, the new office is larger and more functional.

All of the staff members cooperated to facilitate the moving and this enabled the organization not to stop its activities when occupying its new premises. For example, we did not face any problem with our computers' network during the moving. In addition to buying some furniture items, we also purchased some essential equipment to improve our communication: an integrated telephone system, conference-call equipment, and a projector for internal and external slide-show presentations.

Another administrative issue was to make the by-laws and procedures of the organization compatible with government requirements, at the request of the auditors. Moreover, the administrative and financial team had to implement the new internal procedures established in a manual developed for Conectas by an external consultant in 2008. These procedures greatly facilitate the financial tracking and monitoring of projects. A group of volunteer students from the Business School of Fundação



Homepage of the new Conectas's website: more interactive, user-friendly and attractive

Getulio Vargas also helped us in 2009 to analyze some aspects for improvement in our internal procedures.

Focusing accountability and transparency

The financial department also regularly responds to the inquiries of the international auditing firm Baker Tilly (<http://www.bakertillybrasil.com.br/en/>) that assess the execution of all our projects. The accounts of our two legal entities are submitted to this external independent auditing, since 2007. An external accountant firm (www.confisco.com.br) also provides support to our financial manager.

Finally, it should also be mentioned that:

- Conectas, as a rule, does not allow overall expenditures to exceed income, and our organization has not contracted loans with financial institutions since its creation;
- We submitted more than 20 narrative and financial reports that were all approved in 2009 and until June 2010. Our organization complied with all of its reporting obligations, paying special attention to deadlines and being in permanent contact with its donors for the monitoring of grants.

These results are extremely rewarding for us and show how strongly and efficiently our financial and administrative departments have operated.



Conectas's new location:

Rua Barão de Itapetininga, 93 - 5º andar | São Paulo - SP | CEP 01042-908 | Brazil

Tel/Fax: 55 11 3884-7440

Institutional challenges and perspectives for 2010/2011

The institutional area as a whole has been expanded in 2009/2010 and achieved considerable progress on various fronts. However, there is still a great need to increase its capacity to attend the needs of the various operational projects which are expanding at a much faster rate. Therefore, Conectas has given special attention to the development of the institutional area so as not to hinder the proper functioning of our programming activities and benefit the organization as a whole.

Several measures were devised to respond to this priority in 2010 and 2011:

- to strengthen the institutional area as an important strategic component of the organization;
- to strengthen the planning and evaluation processes, with the continuation of the strategic planning process initiated in 2009, the monitoring of the implementation of the operational planning of projects for 2010/2011 and the development of qualitative evaluations;
- to strengthen the financial sustainability of the organization, with the systematization of procedures for budget monitoring, reporting and

fundraising, the prospection of donors in Brazil and development of an international fundraising plan of action and the mapping of opportunities for reducing costs;

- to upgrade and innovate Conectas's communication by developing strategic and specific channels of communication with its various stakeholders, updating institutional materials and creating new ones, concluding websites' reforms and using new technologies, such as social communication tools and audiovisual resources;
- to improve financial and administrative management by continuing the restructuring and equipment of the new office, the assessment and revision of internal processes, the implementation of an integrated management system (ERP) and the development of a human resources policy;
- to increase the participation of the members of the Advisory Board and use their skills, contacts and experience to play a greater role in operational and fundraising activities.

Audited financial statements

Associação Direitos Humanos em Rede

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 dos Direitos Humanos em Rede

1. We have audited the balance sheets of Associação dos Direitos Humanos em Rede (the "Institution"), as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the accompanying statement of deficit, changes in corporate assets, and statement of cash flows for the years then ended, prepared under the responsibility of the Institution's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.
2. Our work was conducted in accordance with Brazilian audit standards and comprised: (a) planning of the work, taking into consideration the significance of the balances, volume of transactions, and the accounting and internal control systems of the Institution, (b) checking, on a test basis, the evidence and records that support the amounts and accounting information disclosed, and (c) evaluating the significant accounting practices and estimates adopted by management, as well as the presentation of the financial statements taken as a whole.
3. In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Associação dos Direitos Humanos em Rede as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of deficit, changes in corporate assets and cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with Brazilian accounting practices.


São Paulo, March 19, 2010.

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




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

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**BAKER TILLY
BRASIL**
AUDITORES & CONSULTORES

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

ASSETS	2009	2008	LIABILITIES	2009	2008
CURRENT ASSETS			CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Cash and cash equivalents	2 90.567	393.771	Accounts payable	4.200	3.630
Other receivables	1 37.514	9 .950	Payroll-related obligations	21.534	12.448
NONCURRENT ASSETS			Taxes payable	71	7.522
PERMANENT ASSETS			Sundry advances	41.097	74.405
Property, plant and equipment	4 3.802	39.899		66.902	98.005
TOTAL ASSETS	4 71.883	443.620	NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		
			CORPORATE ASSETS		
			Corporate assets	384.797	394.648
			Surplus (deficit) for the year	20.184	(49.033)
				404.981	345.615
			TOTAL LIABILITIES	471.883	443.620

EXIBIT II – STATEMENT OF SUPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31
(In Brazilian reais)

	2009	2008
REVENUES		
Domestic donations	7 6.995	61.215
Foreign donations	2 .128.084	2.159.945
REVENUE FROM DONATIONS	2 .205.079	2.221.160
EXPENSES		
Expenses with projects	(1.879.322)	(1.958.331)
Personnel expenses	(347.296)	(328.950)
Financial expenses	(4.642)	(6.697)
Tax expenses	(24.163)	(24.140)
Financial income	7 0.528	47.925
EXPENSES FROM THE ACTIVITIES	(2.184.895)	(2.270.193)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	20.184	(49.033)

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

	Corporate assets	Accumulated surplus (deficit)	Total
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007	2 42.411	169.978	412.389
Transference of funds to owner’s equity	169.978	(169.978)	-
Adjustments from the previous year	(17.741)	-	(17.741)
Deficit for the year	-	(49.033)	(49.033)
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008	394.648	(49.033)	345.615
Transference of funds to owner’s equity	(49.033)	4 9.033	-
Adjustments from the previous year	39.182	-	39.182
Surplus for the year	-	2 0.184	20.184
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009	384.797	2 0.184	404.981

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

	2009	2008
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus (deficit) for the year	2 0.184	(49.033)
Adjusted by:		
- Depreciation	1 4.225	22.632
- Adjustment from the previous year	3 9.182	(17.742)
- Write-off of property, plant and equipment	3 .969	-
	7 7.560	(44.143)
CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Other receivables	(127.564)	1 1.369
Accounts payable	5 70	568
Payroll-related obligations	9 .086	(10.730)
Taxes payable	(7.451)	(4.632)
Sundry advances	(33.308)	9 .598
Net cash used in operating activities	(81.107)	(37.970)
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(22.097)	(5.463)
Net funds used in investments	(22.097)	(5.463)
DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(103.204)	(43.433)
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3 93.771	437.204
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	2 90.567	393.771
DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(103.204)	(43.433)

Sur – Rede Universitária de Direitos Humanos

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

1. We have audited the balance sheets of Sur – Rede Universitária de Direitos Humanos (the "Institution"), as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the accompanying statement of surplus (deficit), changes in corporate assets, and statement of cash flows for the years then ended, prepared under the responsibility of the Institution's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.
2. Our work was conducted in accordance with Brazilian audit standards and comprised: (a) planning of the work, taking into consideration the significance of the balances, volume of transactions, and the accounting and internal control systems of the Institution, (b) checking, on a test basis, the evidence and records that support the amounts and accounting information disclosed, and (c) evaluating the significant accounting practices and estimates adopted by management, as well as the presentation of the financial statements taken as a whole.
3. In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SUR – Rede Universitária de Direitos Humanos, as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of surplus (deficit), changes in corporate assets and cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with Brazilian accounting practices.

São Paulo, March 19, 2010.

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


MAURO AKIO SAKANO

ACCOUNTANT – CRC-1SP143589/O-9



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

ASSETS	2009	2008	LIABILITIES	2009	2008
CURRENT ASSETS			CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Cash and cash equivalents	7 4.460	381.736	Social obligations	-	4.459
Other accounts receivable	4 1.545	28.365	Tax obligations	225	3.538
NONCURRENT ASSETS			Creditors Miscellaneous	-	4.800
FIXED ASSETS				225	12.797
Immobilized	6 39	1.570	NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		
TOTAL ASSETS	1 16.644	411.671	CORPORATE ASSETS		
			Corporate assets	398.874	176.282
			Surplus (deficit) for the year	(282.455)	222.592
				116.419	398.874
			TOTAL LIABILITIES	116.644	411.671

EXIBIT II – STATEMENT OF SUPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31
(In Brazilian reais)

	2009	2008
REVENUES		
Domestic donations	81.611	-
Foreign donations	58.799	823.437
REVENUE FROM DONATIONS	140.410	823.437
EXPENSES		
Expenses with projects	(446.877)	(599.371)
Tax expenses	(6.711)	(8.433)
Financial income	30.723	6.959
EXPENSES FROM THE ACTIVITIES	(422.865)	(600.845)
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(282.455)	222.592

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

	Corporate assets	Accumulated surplus (deficit)	Total
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007	1 76.282	-	176.282
Surplus for the year	-	2 22.592	222.592
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008	1 76.282	222.592	398.874
Tranference to corporate assets	2 22.592	(222.592)	-
Deficit for the year	-	(282.455)	(282.455)
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009	398.874	(282.455)	116.419

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

	2009	2008
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(282.455)	2 22.592
Adjusted by:		
- Depreciation	9 31	2.061
	(281.524)	2 24.653
CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Other accounts receivable	(13.180)	(22.645)
Social obligations	(4.459)	2.512
Tax obligations	(3.313)	(803)
Creditors Miscellaneous	(4.800)	(12.111)
Net cash used in operating activities	(307.276)	1 91.606
INCREASE (DECREASE) NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT	(307.276)	1 91.606
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3 81.736	190.130
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	7 4.460	381.736
INCREASE (DECREASE) NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT	(307.276)	1 91.606

OUR TEAM

SENIOR STAFF

Conectas Human Rights is composed of two sister entities that work under the same name and develop interrelated activities.

CONECTAS HUMAN RIGHTS	
ASSOCIAÇÃO DIREITOS HUMANOS EM REDE	SUR-HUMAN RIGHTS UNIVERSITY NETWORK
MALAK POPPOVIC – Director MARCOS ROBERTO FUCHS – Associate Director	OSCAR VILHENA VIEIRA – Director MARCOS ROBERTO FUCHS – Associate Director

INSTITUTIONAL AREA

COMMUNICATIONS

DENISE CONSELHEIRO – Coordinator (until April 2010)
NATÁLIA SUZUKI – Coordinator (since July 2010)
RUI SANTOS – Press Adviser (since May 2010)
MARCELO MOISÉS – Programmer (until September 2009)
CLEYTON VILARINO – Intern (until December 2009)

DEVELOPMENT

NATHALIE NUNES – Coordinator
MURIEL SOARES – Intern (until March 2010) and Program Officer (International Colloquium, since April 2010)

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

FERNANDA MIOTO - Coordinator
ROSIMEYRI CARMINATI – Financial Officer
GISELE MARIA DOS SANTOS – Administrative Assistant
JOSEFA DAS NEVES DOS SANTOS LEITE – Administrative Assistant
MAIRA BARRETO – Administrative Assistant (until December 2009)
VIVIANE CARMINATI – Intern
CELSO GOTTSFRITZ – IT Consultant

GLOBAL SOUTH PROGRAM

JUANA KWEITEL – Global South Program Coordinator
LUCIA NADER – International Relations Coordinator

PEDRO PAULO POPPOVIC –Sur Journal Editor
CAMILA ASANO – Program Officer (Foreign Policy)

MARIANA DUARTE (Representative in Geneva/Switzerland)
MILA DEZAN – Program Officer (Exchange with Lusophone Africa) and Communications Assistant (Institutional Area, since June 2010)
THIAGO AMPARO – Program Officer (International Colloquium and Sur Journal)

MARÍLIA RAMOS – Intern (Foreign Policy, since September 2010)
RAPHAEL DAIBERT – Intern (International Colloquium, until December 2009)
RENATO BARRETO - Intern (Sur Journal, since June 2010)
ROSANA MIRANDA – Intern (Foreign Policy)
TATIANA SILVA – Intern (International Colloquium and Human Rights Fellowship Program for Lusophone Africa)

JUSTICE PROGRAM

ELOISA MACHADO – Justice Program Coordinator (until June 2009)
JÚLIA NEIVA – Justice Program Coordinator (since August 2009)
MARCOS ROBERTO FUCHS – Pro Bono Institute Director
BRUNA ANGOTTI – Project Coordinator (Black Women’s Right to Health)
CAROLINA BITTENCOURT - Attorney (Pro Bono Institute, until December 2009)
ERIC LOCKWOOD - Attorney (Pro Bono Institute, until December 2009)
FLÁVIA SCABIN - Attorney (Legal Clinic)
MARCELA VIEIRA - Attorney (Artigo 1º)
RAISSA GRADIM – Attorney (since March 2010)
SAMUEL FRIEDMAN - Attorney (Artigo 1º)

FABIANE OLIVEIRA – Intern (Black Women’s Right to Health, until April 2010; Artigo 1º, since May 2010)
FERNANDA SACILOTTO - Intern (Artigo 1º, since June 2010)
MONICA UCHOA LIMA DA ROSA – Popular Legal Promoter (Black Women’s Right to Health)
RICCARDO SPENGLER HIDALGO SILVA – Intern (Artigo 1º)
ROBERTA ABDALLA – Intern (Pro Bono Institute, since July 2010)
VALCRÉCIO PAGANELE – Intern (Artigo 1º, until July 2009)
VIVIAN SAMPAIO - Intern (Artigo 1º, until February 2010)

VOLUNTEERS 2009/2010

Conectas also has a team of volunteers for each of its projects and receives students for non-remunerated internships from Brazil and from abroad.

Brazilian student volunteers: Alexandre Pacheco, Ana Letícia Salles, Anna Livia Arida, Bárbara de Castro Marra, Bruno Vinícius Luchi Paschoal, Daniella Carvalho, Fernanda Balera, Gala Dahlet, Igor Machado, Letícia Quixadá, Marília Velloso, Newton Martins, Renata Laurino, Thaís Olivetti, Thilá do Nascimento.

Foreign student volunteers: Bianca Santos, Clara García Parra, David Schäfer, Emma Kemp, Erika da Cruz Pinheiro, Kayley Bebbber, Laura Abadia, Rebecca Dumas, Sonia Soriano.

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