



ENCONTRO ESTRATÉGICO DE SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA & POLÍTICA DE DROGAS



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Rio de Janeiro Declaration

By invitation of the Coordination of the Pacification Police Unit of the Military Police of Rio de Janeiro state, and in partnership with Viva Rio, we have come together in Rio de Janeiro and present the following conclusions. We are public security and law enforcement professionals from seventeen countries (Germany, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, the USA, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Uruguay), including several authorities who have developed innovative drug policies in countries such as Portugal and Uruguay.

We have gathered here to rethink the repressive law enforcement policies against the trade and use of illegal drugs, which we have spent a great part of our lives enforcing. We are concerned about the very few results that have been achieved in so many years of battle, as we seem to be stuck in a vicious cycle. We are even more concerned about a number of negative consequences for which we have paid a high price in resources and lives. We reaffirm the continued need for tough enforcement against organized crime, money laundering and corruption, but we are no longer satisfied with the “War on Drugs” doctrine. We are looking for other, more effective and more constructive approaches.

Individual choices that lead to drug use are the result of complex psychological and social factors, which affect people from childhood onwards and in particular during adolescence. Family, religious faith, school and the community all play a role in this, but in many countries current drug policies dump the entire issue on the police and the penal system. We resent this situation that exposes us to great risks, endangering our own lives as well those of others, our morale and the image of our institutions. It is not fair and it doesn't address the root cause of the problem. A civic police force in a democratic society should pursue more intelligent and consistent goals, including in its combat.

The experience of the Pacifying Police Units (UPP) in Rio de Janeiro deserves the attention of the international community. It doesn't renounce law enforcement against organized crime. On the contrary, it has stepped up its law enforcement, reclaimed territories, and reduced armed violence. The police use of force and the community police effectively work together. However, not everything is the responsibility of the police. Social and economic investments in urbanization projects in the favelas and the integration of the city have increased. Opportunities have been created to work together with community health services, offering a harm reduction strategy for alcohol and other drug addictions.

We know that the Rio de Janeiro experience still faces serious challenges, and some aspects of it concerns us, such as its sustainability in the long term but it motivates us to consider other examples, like the decriminalization of drugs in Portugal, in the Netherlands and in Uruguay, the sale of medicinal marijuana in seventeen US states, harm reduction policies and therapeutic models in Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, as well as multidisciplinary reintegration programs for at-risk youth and for youth in conflict with the law in Nicaragua and Peru, prevention programs, like DARE and PROERD, that have been important in the experience of some countries of Latin America and educational practices, such as those of the Youth Integration Center in Mexico. All participants in this meeting have good practices to share that are based on the simple premise that punishment alone doesn't work. These examples deserve to be shared with others, while allowing for adjustments to the reality of each country. Overall, these practices demonstrate that as police officers we need to be better prepared to address drug use.

Despite the many challenges, we share a realistic optimism that it is possible to overcome the harm and damage created by the so-called “War on Drugs”. Instead of fighting tooth and nail for the fantasy of a drug-



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free world, we want to achieve more objective goals to reduce the harmful consequences of drug use, both for individuals and society as a whole.

We call upon our colleagues in law enforcement and public security to courageously commit to this issue and foster a closer relationship with other government sectors and society who also need to be involved.

In the International Day of Peace, September 21, 2011, subscribe this declaration:

Alejandro Silva, Nicaragua. Delegation of *Terres des Hommes* in Nicaragua.

Daniel Llaury, Peru. Chief of the El Augustino precinct and coordinator of the Specialized Module focused on Youth in Police Precincts.

Erlinda Castillo, Nicaragua. Chief of the Youth Services Division at the Police of Nicaragua.

Flávio Alves, Portugal. Supervisor at Portuguese Police of Public Security and director of the Department of Criminal Investigation.

Hans van Duijn, Netherlands. Former president of the Dutch Police Union and current member and speaker of *Law Enforcement Against Prohibition* (LEAP).

Hugo Armando Ramírez Mejía, El Salvador. Vice-director of Public Security for the El Salvador Police.

Jack Cole, USA. Former executive director of the organization *Law Enforcement Against Prohibition* (LEAP), worked as undercover police officer in drug crimes investigations.

João Goulão, Portugal. President of the Portuguese Institute on Drugs and Drug Addiction (IDT).

Joaquim Pereira, Portugal. Director of the National Unit to Fight Drug Trafficking (UNCTE) in Portugal.

Jorge da Silva, Brazil. Former Chief of Staff of Rio de Janeiro State Military Police and current professor in the State University.

Juan Sonoqui Martinez, Mexico. Class "A" officer of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) project for the Municipal Preventive Police in Cajeme, Sonora, in Mexico.

Luciene Magalhães, Brazil. President of the do Brazilian Forum on Public Security and colonel of Minas Gerais State Military Police.

Luis Mauricio Lermenda López, Chile. Chief of Personal and Logistics for the Drugs Department, at the Carabineers of Chile.

Melissa Jardine, Australia. Researcher on harm reduction in the Nossal Institute and member of a network of law enforcement agents who support harm reduction strategies (LEAHRN).



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Milton Romani, Uruguay. Traveling Ambassador on Drugs and Human Rights.

Nairo Lopez Riaño, Colombia. Chief of the Judiciary Police at the Atlantico province, Colombia National Police.

Neill Franklin, USA. Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) and retired police officer from the Maryland State Police.

Nicole Turner, Australia. Police officer for twenty years, researcher at the Nossal Institute as Coordinator of the Law Enforcement and Harm Reduction Network (LEAHRN).

Orlando Zaccone Brazil. Chief police officer of the 18th Precinct at Praça da Bandeira in Rio de Janeiro, former director of Prisoner's Control of the Interstate Police (POLINTER).

Plauto Roberto de Lima Ferreira, Brazil. Major of Ceará State Military Police and coordinator of a drug rehabilitation project for law enforcement professionals.

Reinaldo Correa, Brazil. Police officer of the Division for Prevention and Education (DIPE) of the Drugs Investigations Department of the Civil Police (DENARC) in São Paulo.

Robson Rodrigues, Brazil. Administrative Chief of Staff of Rio de Janeiro State Military Police and former coordinator of the Pacifier Police Units (UPP).

Roger Flury, Switzerland. Drug analyst for the Federal Criminal Police of Switzerland.

Rubem Cesar Fernandes, Brazil. Executive director of Viva Rio.

Rubens Fabian Rebuffo, Argentina. Head of the Division for Information Services of the Neuquén Police, Argentina.

Sonia Dall'Igna, Brazil. Director of the Division for Prevention and Education (DIPE) of the Drugs Investigations Department of the Civil Police (DENARC) in Rio Grande do Sul.

Thomas Zosel, Germany. Chief-Detective and Investigation Team Leader of the Police Department in Frankfurt am Main, in Germany, at the Drug Crimes Division.

Tom Lloyd, England. Former Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, England, and current coordinator of the Law Enforcement project of the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

Wagner Ricardo Coutinho Rego, Brazil. Major of Alagoas State Military Police and creator of a specialized module on drug prevention, Human Rights and citizenship in municipal schools.

Wilson Petronilo Lopez Maldonado, Guatemala. Police officer at the Division for the Analysis of Antinarcotics Information (DAIA) of the National Civil Police of Guatemala.

Yony Robert Mezquita Machado, Uruguay. Police officer at the Department of Public Order of the Investigations Division from Montevideo Police, in Uruguay.