

ACTIVITY
REPORT

2024

COMISSÃO
ARNNS

Commission For The
Defense Of Human Rights
Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns



Eny Moreira Award

April 5 | The Arns Commission received the 2024 Eny Moreira Award, granted by the *Rede do Bem Forum* and created in 2023, when it honored Father Júlio Lancellotti. Lawyer Eny Raimundo Moreira (1946-2022) stood out for her courage in defending political prisoners during the military dictatorship and in the fight for human rights. Founding president of the Brazilian Committee for Amnesty, she was a member of the Rio de Janeiro State Truth Commission and one of the creators of the *Brasil: Nunca Mais* (Brazil: Never Again) project.

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The Arns Commission in 2024

Events that had a significant impact on human rights marked the year 2024. Two issues that particularly affected our society were the high number of fatalities in police actions and the frequent conflicts between security forces and Indigenous peoples. The Arns Commission acted in both areas, participating in field actions such as missions to listen to residents of communities in the Baixada Santista region and visits to the Guarani-Kaiowá peoples. Alongside environmental and Indigenous peoples' rights organizations, we were at the forefront of the fight against the time frame, one of the most harmful attacks on the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Through various partnerships, contacts were strengthened with entities such as the Getúlio Vargas Foundation Law School, the Vladimir Herzog Institute, the Memory and Truth Forum, Conectas, Rede Liberdade, the Justice and Peace Commission, the State Council for the Defense of Human Rights (Condepe), and Pastoral organizations. Dialogues with public and private organizations were also intensified, such as sections of the United Nations (UN), the Federal Supreme Court, state departments of justice, the National Indigenous Peoples Foundation (Funai), the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (Apib), the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB), the Human Rights Observatory, parliamentary commissions, the Center for the Study of Violence at the University of São Paulo (USP), and the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (Fiesp).

In the first semester, we participated in the organization of an unprecedented event, bringing together business leaders and representatives of vulnerable populations at the headquarters of Fiesp. The seminar, entitled The Street Demands Passage, discussed the reality of the homeless population and the reporting and monitoring of Operation Escudo and Operation Verão in the city of Santos, São Paulo. The seminar received international attention through a report

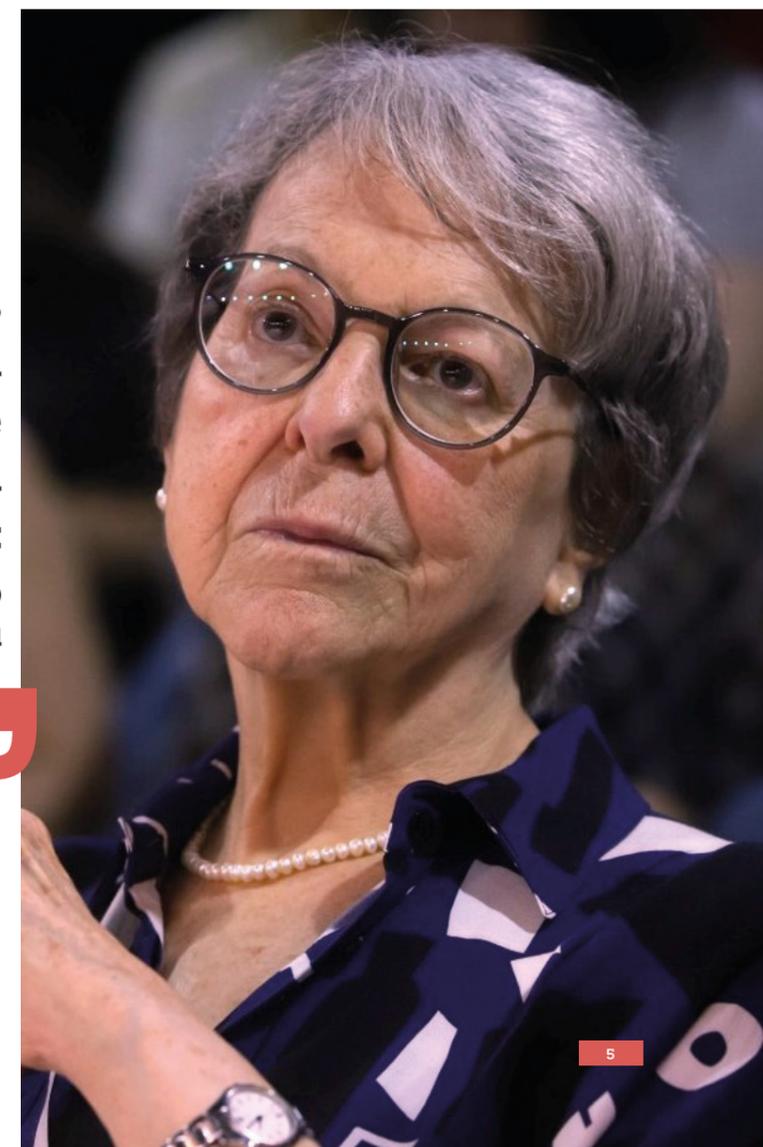
presented to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which accepted the recommendations made in the document.

Members of the Commission also attended the posthumous graduation ceremonies of USP students, activists killed by the dictatorship, in the name of the Right to Truth and Memory.

The Eny Moreira Award, received by the Arns Commission, reinforces our commitment to human rights, and that we are aware of the immense challenges that remain and of our responsibility given the expectation of support from groups most vulnerable to violence, discrimination, and exclusion.

“ **Thus, always honoring our patron and inspiration in the defense of human rights, we proclaim: Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns, presente!** ”

¹ The word « presente » after Dom Paulo Evaristo's name is a way of saying that, although Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns has died physically, his legacy and his ideas are still alive and present in society.



New leadership in the presidency

Sociologist Maria Victoria Benevides took over as president of the Arns Commission in April 2024. She had previously served as vice president under lawyer José Carlos Dias and is the third president and first woman to lead the commission. The vice presidency was taken over by historian Luiz Felipe de Alencastro, also one of the founding members of the Arns Commission.

Who we are

The Arns Commission was born out of a commitment to treat the most vulnerable groups in the population—women, Black people, young people, Indigenous people, quilombolas, and LGBTQIAP+ individuals—who still bear the brunt of Brazilian inequality as a priority. We are a civil society organization composed of lawyers, intellectuals, journalists, and human rights activists. We operate on a voluntary and non-partisan basis.

Mission

Our mission is to receive, report, and monitor cases of serious violations of physical integrity, freedom, and human dignity, especially those committed by state agents. We also work to give visibility and legal standing to such cases, both nationally and internationally. We network with other human rights organizations, supporting their initiatives and joining forces to contribute to a country where justice and democracy prevail.

Members

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Socióloga
Presidente de honra da Comissão Arns

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Advogado, ex-presidente da OAB-SP

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Luiz Felipe de Alencastro
Historiador e professor universitário
Vice-presidente da Comissão Arns

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Socióloga e cientista política
Presidente da Comissão Arns

Oscar Vilhena Vieira
Advogado e professor universitário

Paulo Vannuchi
Ex-ministro de Direitos Humanos,
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Thiago Amparo
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Vladimir Safatle
Filósofo e professor universitário

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Advogado e professor universitário

José Gregori
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**Maria Victoria de Mesquita
Benevides Soares**

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André Alcântara

Communication

Aurea Lopes

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**Areas of
activity**

Defense of Indigenous Peoples

Legal action | January 12

Coordination in defense of Indigenous Lands in response to the conciliation proposed by STF Justice Gilmar Mendes. Both the Arns Commission and Conectas are participating in a new action in the STF against the Temporal Framework.

Dialogues | June 1

Meeting with Attorney General Jorge Messias, with the participation of Minister of Indigenous Peoples Sônia Guajajara and FUNAI Executive Secretary Eloi Terena.

Missions | September 11

Participation in two human rights missions for the Guarani Kaiowa Indigenous peoples of Douradina (MS) and Guairá and Terra Roxa (Paraná). The group included: the Arns Commission, the Indigenous Missionary Council (Cimi), the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST), Aty Guasu, the Campaign Against Violence in the Countryside, the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), Rais, local support groups for the Avá Guarani and Guarani-Kaiowá peoples, and social pastoral groups.



Coordination | September 20

Ongoing participation in the *Indigenous Peoples Memory and Truth Forum*, which takes place once a month online.

Homeless people



National coordination

April 8 | Seminar entitled “The street demands passage: public policies and social commitment,” held in partnership with the São Paulo Law School of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV Direito SP) and the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (Fiesp) at the SESI Theater.



October 9 | Drafting and letter of commitment to mayoral candidates in the second round, in conjunction with Fiesp.

International coordination | June 4

Participation in the 88th Session of the *Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), with a speech by Eloisa Machado and presentation of a report on homeless women. In its final opinion on the session, CEDAW accepted the recommendations in the report.

Dialogue | July 9

Meeting with Minister of Human Rights Silvio de Almeida on the homeless population.

Public Safety and Human Rights

Legal action | January 31

As a result of an appeal filed against the Taurus arms industry by the organizations Arns Commission, Idec, and Intervozes, together with lawyers from Rede Liberdade, a ruling restricting online advertising of firearms was signed.

Missions | February 15

Participation in the civil society delegation in two missions to listen to and support victims of police violence in the Operations Escudo and Verão in Baixada Santista.

Coordination

February 26 | Participation in the preparation of two reports on fundamental rights violations delivered to the Attorney General of São Paulo, Mario Sarrubbo.

March 25 | Participation in the public hearing to disseminate the second report at the USP Law School.



September 20 | Public debate on *Public Safety, Democracy, and Human Rights*, in partnership with the Vladimir Herzog Institute. Published an article about the seminar at PUC-SP.



November 11 | Participation in Mass at the São Judas Tadeu Chapel with Father Júlio Lancelloti, followed by an act of solidarity with the family of Ryan, a child who was a victim of police violence in Baixada Santista.



International coordination | March 11

Participation, together with Conectas, in the 55th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, to denounce the lethal operations and escalation of police violence in Baixada Santista, promoted by the Tarcísio de Freitas administration.

Dialogue | November 26

Meeting with Felipe de Freitas, Secretary of Justice, and Human Rights for the state of Bahia, to discuss public safety, at the office of José Carlos Dias.

Memory and Truth

Legal actions

February 9 | Participation in ADPF 320 at the Federal Supreme Court (STF) on amnesty, in partnership with the Vladimir Herzog Institute, participating in a meeting with Justice Dias Toffoli of the STF.

June 19 | Filed as amicus curiae in the Luís Merlino v. Ustra case in the Superior Court of Justice (STJ), one of the cases of death under torture during the military dictatorship.

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**Other
events and
participations**



- **March 14** | Dialogue with **Ana Claudia Pinho**, prosecutor for the state of Pará, on monitoring the actions proposed in the Pará Report.
- **March 31** | **Silent March**, starting at Rua Tutória, former address of DOI-CODI, and ending at Ibirapuerra Park.
- **May 8** | Preparatory meeting to define the theme of the **LGBTQIA+ Parade** in São Paulo.
- **May 8** | Meeting with the **National Secretary for Drug Policy**, Marta Machado, to discuss current challenges regarding the issue.
- **June 1** | **Dialogues with the CNBB**, the Inter-American Court Commissioner, Supreme Court justices, and the Attorney General of the Republic, in Brasília.
- **June 11** | **Interinstitutional Working Group for the Defense of Citizenship** linked to the 7th Chamber of Coordination and Review of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, formed to monitor investigations and examine irregularities in homicides committed by police officers in São Paulo.
- **July 12** | **IACHR hearing** on police lethality in Brazil, with the participation of mothers and relatives of victims, in partnership with entities from the Baixada Delegation.
- **July 26** | Preparatory event for the G20, **Seminar and Social Dialogue Roundtable - Foreign policy as public policy, "States of the Future,"** held in Rio de Janeiro, on July 26.



- **July 26** | Events to award **posthumous diplomas** in memory of students murdered by the Civil-Military Dictatorship. Awarding of the title of geologist to Honestino Guimarães, at UNB.
- **August 19** | Launch of the **Permanent State Campaign to Fight Torture**, organized by Condepe, Police Ombudsman, OAB-SP, and NEV-USP.
- **August 27** | Public hearing on 45 years of the **Amnesty Law** at the Federal Senate Human Rights Commission.
- **November 1** | Dialogue with **Paulo Teixeira**, Minister of Agrarian Development.
- **November 14** | **Self-managed panel at the G20 Social**, "Guarding the Earth, Protecting the Climate: The Intersection between Indigenous Peoples and Climate Justice."
- **December 10** | **Event in defense of human rights**, organized by the Justice and Peace Commission - CNBB, at PUC-SP.
- **December 11** | Public hearing in celebration of the **76th anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights** at the São Paulo City Council.
- **December 12** | **Franz de Castro Holzwarth Human Rights Award** from OAB-SP presented to Luiz Eduardo Greenhalgh.
- **December 16** | Dialogue with Archbishop **Dom Odilo Scherer**, at the Curia of São Paulo.

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**Public
notes**

April 4 PN #67 | Operation Verão and the dismantling of the professionalization of the São Paulo Military Police

The Arns Commission expresses concern about the direction of public security in the state of São Paulo and will monitor and demand that the Public Prosecutor's Office and the relevant federal and international authorities investigate the facts and hold those who may have violated the law accountable.

June 13 PN #68 | In repudiation of Bill 1904/24, which equates abortion with homicide

The Arns Commission expresses its indignation at the decision of the Chamber of Deputies to approve the urgency of Bill No. 1904/24, which equates abortion after 22 weeks of pregnancy with homicide.

Sep- tember 18 PN #69 | Time to say enough is enough! Repudiation of attacks against the Indigenous community in MS

On the day of the murder of 22-year-old Neri Ramos Kaiowá, the Arns Commission once again demands firm responses from state and federal authorities.

November 14 PN #70 | Solidarity with the STF

The Arns Commission calls for a rigorous investigation of all acts committed by those who violate the rule of law.

December 4 PN #71 | Repudiation of the actions of the São Paulo police and immediate dismissal of the Secretary of Public Security

The Arns Commission will forward a report on the escalation of police violence to the relevant international organizations, calling for urgent measures to put an end to this situation.





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