

# THE MILITIA FILES

**O DIA**

## VEÍCULO

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## REPÓRTERES

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The militia laid bare. In the year paramilitary groups multiplied and reached the alarming number of 78 occupied hills and shanty towns, the O Dia newspaper shows through the series 'Dossiê Milícia' (The Militia File, published from July 5th, 2008 till June, 2009) how these groups work and who are they, and how do the policemen threaten and impose their own laws by bullets and terror to 2 million people in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They are Military Police officers, Civil Police inspectors, firemen, and prison warders who organize the militia's army that charge protection tributes from the residents and exploit the public services in poor areas – like transportation, gas sale, cable TV and Internet. These criminals also charge sale's commissions, property's rents, controlling restaurants and nightclubs. And those at the slums who dare defying their law and orders are either killed or banned according to decisions taken by these executioner's 'Courts of Justice'.

The research made by **O DIA** during three months, evidenced that 13 out of the 43 investigated agents are responsible for the main militias in Rio (like the ones from Rio das Pedras and Gardênia Azul communities, in Jacarepaguá and Campo Grande). And differently from the people they exploit at the hills and shanty towns, while almost inhabitants live in simple houses and face sanitary problems, the so called militiamen have a millionaire life.

## SUMPTUOUS MANSIONS

There are no financial restrictions, as the limited payment they receive from the State Government suggests. They live in more than US\$ 1 million mansions, built next to the sea and in high class neighborhoods such as Barra da Tijuca and Recreio dos Bandeirantes; they drive bulletproof luxurious cars, own yachts, besides the summerhouses in the sophisticated municipal districts of Búzios and Cabo Frio, as well as farms with cattle breeding. One of them, the Military Police's Captain Epaminondas Queiroz Medeiros Júnior, shares the same condominium – Golden Green, in Barra da Tijuca –, as the football players Ronaldo and Romário, entitled to a golf course and helipad. Their official payments do not exceed US\$ 20,000 per year, but along the passing years their properties have reached up to US\$ 2 million (among land states, business and companies).

Another Military Police's officer shown as one of the leaders is Major Dilo Soares Pereira Júnior. The policeman, who receives US\$ 40,000 per

year from the Rio's State Government, in March of 2008 bought an apartment in Barra da Tijuca which value was estimated as US\$ 1,1 million. Two years earlier, he had already acquired another land property, in Recreio dos Bandeirantes, estimated about US\$ 600,000. An accomplishment also shared by sergeant Dalmir Pereira Barbosa. The O DIA's investigation shows that the military bought an apartment close to the sea in Barra da Tijuca for about US\$ 200,000 and paid it in cash. Barbosa's investments are diversified. He purchased US\$ 2,5 million in Banco Bradesco's stocks in a single financial application.

## COMPANIES

The financial empire was built by this group leaders using the money acquired with the protection tributes charged from the inhabitants (between US\$ 25 and US\$ 150 per house or commerce), and the exploration of shanty towns' services (just transportation and cable TV together generate US\$ 5 million per month). In order to disguise the illegal increase of their patrimony and to hinder the investigations, these military put great part of their possessions on behalf of their wives, sons, fathers, and lovers. Captain Medeiros Júnior and Sergeant Bombeiro Cristiano Girão sumptuous land states, for instance, belong to their companions, to whom they are not legally married. Girão passed on to his companion, by a symbolic value of US\$ 25,000, an apartment estimated as US\$250,000. Girão, who uses to go to parties dressed like a gangster, has several cars – one of them is an armored Toyota Hilux – and bought a farm with 100 cattle heads. Their salaries do not exceed the value of US\$ 5,000 per year.

They have also established ventures to "wash" the money illegally earned. With eminence to financial loan companies (such as Areal Cred Fomentos, the factoring agency created by the Major Pereira Júnior in the humble shanty town of Rio das Pedras to disguise the illegal stock-jobbing scheme), the sporting lottery, nightclubs, restaurants and flagstone industries, besides the profitable gas distributor and the alternative cooperative transport societies. And they have real estates, assembled to manage and rent the small apartments and houses that were built by the agents in irregular or environmental protection areas. The whole scheme was discovered by **O DIA** reporters. One of these undertakes relatives to land properties turned out into a judicial dispute between Dalcemir Pereira Barbosa and Maria do

**In order to consolidate their power, the paramilitary groups use fright and guns as intimidation: over 100 people were murdered by them between 2007 and 2008. O DIA's series identified some of these crimes and denounced the criminals**



Cristiano Girão and his wife: wealthy lifestyle and hot parties

Socorro Barbosa — inspector's Felix Tostes widow, pointed as the leader of the paramilitary group from Jacarepaguá and murdered in 2007.

### THE BULLET POWER

In order to consolidate their power, the paramilitary groups use fright and guns as intimidation: over 100 people were murdered by them between 2007 and 2008. After listening to witnesses' reports and recognizing evidences, the O DIA's series identified some of these crimes and denounced the criminals. There are two iconic cases. Adeildo Alves Cunha, 32 years, was shot to death by five men in Rio das Pedras. He was unable to pay the loan parcels from the money he took from Areal Cred Fomentos. The payment delay was the reason for the leaders to summon the 'Justice Council'. His sentence was handed down: he should pay or die. He fled, stayed one year away from his community, but came back to see his family and so was killed.

The death of the teacher Washington Estevam Ribeiro, 27, and the military policeman Marcílio Barbosa Macedo, 33, on December 21st of 2007, followed the same methodology. The policeman owned money to the politician and former Brazilian Army's skydiver Luiz André Ferreira da Silva, known as Deco, who was in charge of the paramilitary group in Chacrinha slum. In the New Year's Eve, he was surprised by five men led by Deco. He was with his friend, and they both were put in a car. The bodies appeared with shots marks and tied with ropes.

One of the men accused for involvement with the militia in Rio das Pedras, the Councilmen Josinaldo Francisco da Cruz - known as Nadinho and who was in election campaign with the actual Rio's mayor Cesar Maia - denounced the economic and political structure of this paramilitary group to the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (CPI). Nadinho said also that because of this he would be murdered. In December 2008, he suffered an attack but escaped alive. In May 2009, two armed men stormed into his condominium at Barra da Tijuca and murdered Nadinho with more than 10 shots.

### BUSINESS BEHIND BARS

The strength of paramilitary groups can be proven by the connection with the State power. The votes of the dominated areas helped to elect friends, like Rio's former secretary of Public Security Marcelo Itagiba (federal deputy elected with great amount of votes from areas commanded by the militia) and the former head of the Civil Police Álvaro Lins (also elected as Federal Deputy with votes from these areas). And their friendships helped them to escape jail or, in case of conviction, to live better in prison. The former Councilman Jerônimo Guimarães Filho, known as Jerominho, from Campo Grande, did not only had easy days in the penitentiary of Bangu 1, but also negotiated the transfer of an area of land in Recreio in exchange of 10 apartments. To complete the transaction, he took a clerk from the register office and made business in the penitentiary director's office.

DIVULGAÇÃO



Jerominho and his brother, Natalino: handcuffs as a trophy

DIVULGAÇÃO



#### THE POLITICAL POWER

If electing friends is a good thing, this military also find in the votes the power beyond guns. The main plan of the militias' 'capos' includes embracing a career in politics in order to consolidate their social projection. The militias' political arm acts in the Zona Oeste, from Rio das Pedras to Gardênia Azul, Praça Seca, and Campo Grande, Bangu, Realengo and Santa Cruz. Each neighborhood has its own delegate, who relies on social centers' aid services to make people vote for them. They offer physicians, dentists, and other professionals who rarely can be found in the ambulatories and hospitals around the area. And they also prevent that political rivals get in their region. Jerominho and his brother Natalino Guimarães - who resigned his mandate under the pression held by **O DIA's** news - were elected this way.

These constrained votes helped the election of Carminha Jerominho, Elton Babu, and Cristiano Girão for the Rio's Town Council, and Geiso Pereira Turques for the Town Council of São Gonçalo, besides the partisan Fernando Moraes (chief officer and backed up by Rio das Pedras militias' and in Terreirão). But they were not enough to reelect two former councilmen: Nadinho from Rio das Pedras and Luiz André Deco.

The journalists took three months to prepare the survey. First of all, they went to 23 communities

and found out who were in charge of the militias in the main neighborhoods and mapped who showed illegal enrichment. The next step was to examine 43 persons in the land properties' register offices, in the commercial council registrations from Rio de Janeiro, and in the archives of Detran and Serasa. They examined the investigations in the Military Police and Fire Brigade's departments of internal affairs, as well as lawsuits in the Court of Justice against the suspects and perused the Electoral Justice's database. At the end of the work, the journalists had analyzed exactly 131 documents from register offices.

Due to the **O DIA** denouncements, the Security Secretary and Rio's Public Ministry launched investigations and the Federal Police accused 13 people for money laundry and extortion. The work also helped to arrest the deputy Natalino Guimarães and other 30 people (most of them policemen), charged of murder and association for criminal purposes. The **O DIA's** reports served as a base for the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (CPI) initiated in the Legislative Assembly to investigate the militias' action in Rio and identify its leaders and political involvement. In December of 2008, the deputies pointed 1,113 involved with militia and denounced and claimed for the accusation of other 226 people.

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