



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRAZIL TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**
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The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – Special Procedures Branch – and, with reference to the note verbale AL BRA 8/2021, dated 7 September 2021, has the honor to transmit herewith the response of the Brazilian Government.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 11 November 2021



To: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) -
Special Procedures Branch
E-mail: registry@ohchr.org

RESPONSE OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TO NOTE VERBALE AL BRA 08/2021

The Brazilian government recognizes the historical relevance of the former Department of Operations (DOI) building, located at Rua Tutoia, 921, Vila Mariana, São Paulo, as a place of resistance memory, a living testimony of human rights violations and a physical, essential legacy for understanding the period, such reasons leading to its recognition as cultural heritage of the state".

The state process (with CONDEPAAHT) for historical listing is number 66578/12; the resolution for the historical listing is number. 25 of 05/12/14; the book for the historical listing is the inscription number. 414, p.123/124. The provision on the listing is found in the Resolution SC-24, of 05/12/2014, made public in the Journal "Diário Oficial do Poder Executivo", Section I, São Paulo, 1224 (88) -37, of May 14, 2014.

In addition, as provided for in art. 216 of the Federal Constitution, "Brazilian cultural heritage" constitutes of "the goods of a material and immaterial nature, taken individually or together, carriers of reference to identity, action, memory of different groups that make up Brazilian society, which include: IV - (...) buildings (...); and V (...) sites of historical value (...).

DOCUMENTS FROM THE MILITARY GOVERNMENTS (1964-1985): NATIONAL ARCHIVE INITIATIVES

Brazil has the largest documentary collection in America South concerning surveillance and political repression in the second half of the 20th century. The federal documentation, transferred to the National Archive between the years of 2005 and 2009, and related to the National System of Information and Counterinformation (Sisni), which had as its central body the National Information Service (SNI), consists of approximately 13 million pages of textual documents, and was digitized and opened to public consultation starting in 2012 by the National Archive, under the terms of the Law on Access to Information (Law 12527, November 18, 2011). Furthermore, we should also mention the existence of a vast documentation, estimated at 10 million pages, produced by state agencies of repression such as the Police Stations of Political and Social Order (DOPS), which are also open to face-to-face consultation in the country's state public archives.

It is worth highlighting the creation and maintenance, within the scope of the National Archive, of the Reference Center for Political Struggle in Brazil (1964-1985) - Revealed Memories, institutionalized through Ordinance n. 204, in May 13, 2009, by the Civil House Department of the Presidency of the Republic. Since its institutionalization, the Center has as its general aim to become a hub of information diffusion, to help disseminate the data contained in the documentary records about the political struggle in Brazil from the 1960s to the 1980s.

The actions of the Center also seek to promote the strengthening of public archival institutions, transforming them into spaces of citizenship. There, primary and secondary sources are referenced and made available to the public, encouraging the carrying out of studies, research and reflections on the referred period.

To the National Archive, as the managing body of the Revealed Memories Reference Center, it is essential to provide the technical and administrative support to carry out its

activities, in order to ensure that the Center may have adequate infrastructure. As defined in Ordinance No. 204/2009, the specific goals of the Center are:

Goal 1:

To stimulate research, from the perspectives of history, archivology, sociology, anthropology, political science, law, and other related areas, through:

- i) Control of primary sources and available bibliographic production
- ii) Search for new documentary sources;
- iii) Management of available research instruments and development of new instruments with a collective character.

Goal 2:

To promote broad access to knowledge and information sources thus systematized, through:

- i) Creation of a broad-spectrum virtual network;
- ii) Assembly of exhibitions;
- iii) Publishing (on paper or digital media) of reference works, monographic studies and periodicals, in partnership with other institutions;
- iv) Creation, through partnerships, of teaching material.

Goal 3:

To contribute to the political and academic debate regarding the period, through:

- i) Organization of seminars and events of an interdisciplinary character;
- ii) Promotion of monographic contests;
- iii) Exchange with similar institutions, both national and foreign.

In 2011, with the enactment of Law 12,528, in November 18th, it was also foreseen (art. 11, sole paragraph) as an objective the integration of the National Commission for Truth (CNV)'s archive to the Revealed Memories' archive:

Goal 4:

All the documentary and multimedia collection resulting from the completion of the work of the National Commission for Truth should be sent to the National Archives to integrate the Revealed Memories Project.

Concerning financial resources and the budget that has been making possible the actions of the Revealed Memories Center, these have been guaranteed, since 2009, by the budgets of the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety and of the National Archive, through sponsorships to the Cultural Association of the National Archives (Acan) via Rouanet Law (Law nº 8,313/91), and also through activities sponsored by the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), and also through the Public Call for Selection for Support for Collections Preservation Projects or, even, through direct funding and actions by partner institutions of the Revealed Memories Center.

In addition to these investments, the acquisition, by the National Archive, in 2014, of equipment for digital archiving and the installation of a vault-room, with the goal of increasing the safety of digital representatives originating from the actions of digitization of collections from the 1964-1985 period and, equally, of those produced or accumulated by the National Commission of Truth (CNV). The resources needed to the maintenance of this structure are guaranteed by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and by the National Archives.

RESULTS

National Network for Cooperation and Archival Information - Revealed Memories Center

In order to promote the analysis and organization of documents of interest regarding the theme of political struggles in Brazil during the 1964-1985 period, documents produced or accumulated by Public Administration bodies and entities, as well as by private individuals and private law entities, throughout the national territory, the Reference Center was constituted as the initial project of a national cooperation network for archival information. This project was also called "Revealed Memories Network ", bringing together partners from all regions of the country and abroad, among them public agencies, civil society organizations and private individuals.

The partnerships involve carrying out projects in cooperation, including the organization of events, the publication of works and actions seeking the preservation of archival collections from the 1964-1985 period.

Currently, the Network has 171 partner entities, including 11 foreign entities headquartered in Latin America and five foreign entities from other regions of the world. In the State of São Paulo, the following entities are partners: Public Archive of the State of São Paulo - APESP; Association of Archivists of São Paulo - ARQ-SP; São Paulo Justice and Peace Commission; the Publishing company from the University of São Paulo - EDUSP; Group "Torture : Never Again São Paulo" - GTNM-SP; Resistance Memorial of the State of São Paulo; "Armazém Memória" ("Memory Storage"); Documentation and Memory Center for the University of the State of São Paulo - CEDEM-UNESP; center of Documentation and Information of the Pontifical University of the Catholic Church of São Paulo - CEDIC-PUC-SP; Single Union of Workers - CUT; Exchange, Information, Studies and Research - IIEP-SP; Memory Project of the Opposition of the Metallurgical Union - OSMSP and Center for Documentation and Research Vergueiro - CPV.

Revealed Memories Portal

The Revealed Memories Reference Center portal, available at <www.memoriasreveladas.gov.br>, was created in 2009 and aims to disseminate information contained in archival collections of interest to the theme of political struggles in Brazil (1964-1985), as well as to provide access to information systems developed by the institutions that make up the Revealed Memories Network (database collections from the institutional archives, multimedia, virtual exhibitions, bibliographical references etc.). The portal also works as an element of integration of the Revealed Memories Network, since it aggregates content produced not only by the National Archive, but also by partner entities.

In 2016, it should be noted that the portal also started to house new sections, such as the "Classroom" section, in order to attract a younger and less specialized public, including high school and elementary school teachers. In 2018, the portal of the defunct National Truth Commission (CNV) was integrated to the Revealed Memories Portal, ensuring that all information remains available for research at the address <<http://cnv.memoriasreveladas.gov.br>>.

It has been observed that the public that accesses the portal is comprised mostly of researchers and specialists linked to universities and research centers. In this sense, the portal is updated frequently with relevant data to the public interested in the archives of the military regime, and it is currently one of the most complete references for research on the period of Brazilian military governments available on the Internet.

Revealed Memories Database

The Revealed Memories Database (BDMR) presents information and, in many cases, the digital representative (digital copy) of documents related to the political struggles and to the practices of political surveillance and repressive actions by the State during the 1964-1985 period. The bank was created based on the File Information System National (SIAN) experience, still today the main database for the institution. However, BDMR is technically distinguished because it allows the online feed of information and documents by the partners of the Center of Reference, thus consolidating itself as the main Integration tool of the Memories Revealed National Network of Cooperation and Archival Information

In fact, it is possible to say that Memories Revealed Network took shape with the establishment and maintenance of the Revealed Memories Database that gathers, in a cooperative way, information from the archives relating to political repression in the 1964-1985 period held by different entities, be they public or private. Data regarding these funds and collections organized by the participating entities are displayed in descriptive worksheets that comply with the Brazilian Standard of Archival Description (Nobrade).

The data, displayed in up to five levels of detailing, are constantly updated, providing an overview of the collection available to consultation in different parts of the country and allowing the monitoring of the inventory of document sources.

As the bank grew in number of records and digital documents, thematic searches, by names and/or expressions, or even by dates, came to favor the crossing and confrontation of data, as well as the identification of documents that serve the reconstitution of facts and processes. The images of documents, gradually associated with the records, make it possible today to view various document types, such as letters, processes, maps, drawings, photographs, brochures and pamphlets. The BMDR is accessible at the address <www.memoriasreveladas.gov.br>, section "Bank of Data", or directly from the link <<http://pesquisa.memoriasreveladas.gov.br>>.

The Bank was completely overhauled in 2018. A new feature of this recent version is the implementation of a digital search tool that allows you to search within the texts of digital documents with optical character recognition (OCR), providing users with more than 13 million pages of textual documents, searchable by names and expressions, besides audiovisual and iconographic documents, referring to the political struggles in the 1964-1985 period, whose originals are in the custody of the National Archive and other partners of the Revealed Memories Network, such as state public archives and documentation centers.

The data bank feed, it should be noted, is carried out progressively, but it is already the most complete online source on archives of political repression in Brazil in the 1964-1985 period. In 2021, database feeding activities and description of digital documents are still

happening, especially those related to the collections of the Police Stations for the Political and Social Order (DOPS), carried out in partnership with state public archives.

Access to information in numbers: access to documents from the 1964-1985 period, in the National Archives

Based on data collected by the Coordination of Information Technology (COTIN), from the National Archive, we have the following numbers of user accesses, from January 2006 to September 2019, to documents from the military regime period available in the databases of the Revealed Memories and Information System of the National Archives (SIAN):

- Total access to documents: 4,716,478
- Total accesses to documents related to DOI-CODI: 45,148
- Total records containing the expression "São Paulo" in the Revealed Memories Database: 535,978
- Total records containing the expression "DOI-CODI" in the Revealed Memories Database: 45,193

Additionally, it should be noted that, based on survey of the General Coordination of Access and Dissemination of the Collection (COACE), from 2006 to 2021, 227 calls were carried out through remote customer service, in which the user is helped to find the desired information. In the regional Coordination of the National Archives in the Federal District (COREG), where most of the collections related to the National System of Information and Counterinformation (SISNI) reside, 23,200 requests for research and copies of documents were answered, in the 2005-2017 period, before the digital availability of most of these collections.

Finally, please note that the National Archive receives constant requests for documents from the period of the military regime by the Federal Public Ministry, State Public Ministries and other members of the Judiciary power, which denotes the importance of historical documentation in the defense of human rights.

Actions in the States

The National Archive and the Revealed Memories Center have also developed an organization program for archives, to ensure the preservation of the documents of the Police Stations of Political and Social Order (DOPS), sponsored through the Rouanet Law (Law No. 8313, of December 23, 1991). The actions of the Center of Reference have given rise, for the first time, to cooperation agreements signed between the Union, States and the Federal District for the network integration of archives and public and private institutions in permanent communication. Activities were developed in 13 states, including São Paulo, and in the Federal District, where there had been, until that moment, collections identified organized in their respective public archives. These collections were in a perilous situation, menaced by pest infestations (insects and microorganisms), inadequate preservation conditions and lack of intellectual control, which led the project to prioritize actions aimed at the organization, preservation and description of documentation. Currently, these collections are properly preserved and, in most cases, summarily controlled. Information about them is available on the Revealed Memories Portal and on the Revealed Memories Database.

In the specific case of São Paulo, the project had as its objective the preservation of the Specialized Police Station Fund of Political Order and Social Order of São Paulo - DEOPS/SP, through the organization and digitization of the documentation. In total, 120,000 access tokens to the "Political Order" series and 450,000 cross-reference forms from the "dossiers of the general file" of DEOPS/SP were digitized, which represents 40% of the total. Full microfilming of the Political Order series was also carried out, comprising 1,582 folders, about 76 linear meters, adding up to approximately 520,000 pages, which were later digitized by the Public Archive of the State of São Paulo (APESP). The project had, therefore, an expressive result and was fundamental to raise reflections regarding the documentation and to preserve part of the collection. In addition to the research activities, the DEOPS Fund documentation has been intensively utilized for legal purposes.

Since 2009, thousands of requests for documentary reproduction for legal purposes were answered, subsidizing actions to obtain indemnities with the public power.

In addition, the publication of inventories resulting from academic research, as well as the development of new research tools such as catalogs concerning the Dossiers of the General Archive series and the database of the medical records series, both initiatives under responsibility of the State Public Archive of São Paulo, has substantially increased the demand for documentation. It should be noted that the documentation that makes up the DEOPS/SP fund passed to the custody of the Public Archives of the State of São Paulo in 1992, being opened for consultation since 1994. Because of the project, it was endowed with archival organization, streamlining the service to APEESP users, and it is worth noting that the State Archive has its own database, also available on the Internet, where the information was made public.

It is also worth mentioning the partnership between the National Archive and the Public Archive of the State of São Paulo and the Federal Public Ministry in São Paulo (Regional Attorney of the Republic - 3rd Region), a partnership that has launched in 2013 the "Brasil: Nevermore" database, which contains the digitized documents of the original initiative. So far, there have been more than 5 million accesses to this collection.

Publications

To meet the goal of promoting broad access to sources of information and knowledge and to stimulate research, from the perspective of history, of archivology, sociology, anthropology, political science, social service and law, among other related areas, the Reference Center has promoted the edition (on paper or via digital media) of reference works, monographic studies and periodicals, some in partnership with others institutions. With the same objective and aiming to communicate with the primary education sector, teaching material has been created, via partnerships with other institutions.

Revealed Memories Research Award

The Revealed Memories Research Award is a biennial monograph contest based on documentary sources referring to the military government period in Brazil, instituted by the Ordinance No. 95, in November 19, 2009, and amended by Ordinance 072/2012, both from the General Directorate of National Archives.

Award-winning authors are entitled to the editing and publishing of their works by the National Archives. Anyone can compete regardless of level of academic training. The

analysis of work entries will be based on criteria defined in the notice, by a judging committee composed of experts appointed by the General Directorate of National Archives (Ordinance No. 396, July 28, 2017, published in the Union's Official Diary n. 147, August 2, 2017, section 2, p. 42).

Reference works

Prepared by initiative of the Reference Center and the National Archives or, we might say, by the initiative of partners of the Revealed Memories Network, 30 reference works about the period of the military regime were published, between 2008 and 2020, in addition to two thematic dossiers in the *Acervo Magazine*, the National Archives periodical. These works reflect the constant search for the production of quality material, material that is capable of promoting broad access to information and knowledge sources, and of stimulating studies on the military regime period.

During the operating period of the Revealed Memories Reference Center, the National Archives became a reference in the production of works about the military regime period, several of which are currently out of print and, for that reason, were made available as e-books (digital books) in the Revealed Memories portal.

WORLD MEMORY PROGRAM - UNESCO

Aiming for the protection of federal collections in custody of the National Archive, and of state collections and documentation centers under the custody of state archives and linked to universities, the archives of the information and counter-information network of the Military Regime were recognized in 2010 as a world heritage by the "Memória do Mundo" (Memory of the World - MOW) program, a program which is under the Organization of the United Nations for Education, Science and Culture (Unesco) banner. The Brazilian application was approved by the International Committee of the MOW program in May 2011, and was drafted by the National Archive and the Revealed Memories Reference Center, bringing together documents from the National System of Information and Counterinformation (Sisni), created in 1970, coordinated by the extinct National Service of Information (SNI), and also documents from the General Commission of Inquiry of the Military Police, from the General Commission of Investigations and of National Security Council, as well as of archives from the Political and Social Order Police (Dops) of the states of Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The definition of these collections as world heritage emphasizes the duty and commitment of the Brazilian State to guarantee their preservation and the diffusion of information contained therein.

OTHER ACTIONS

Between the years 2009-2020, the National Archives and the Revealed Memories Reference Center promoted or collaborated with the promotion of 57 scientific, technical-scientific and cultural events related to the recovery of memory from the military regime. These initiatives are associated with Goal 3 of the Revealed Memories project ("to contribute to academic and political debate"), and the initiatives have represented privileged spaces for the discussion regarding the particularities involving the archives from the military regime period.

Finally, we may highlight, in 2021, the participation of representatives of the National Archives in the Work Group "Archives and Human Rights", organized by the Latin American Archives Association (ALA), which aims for the construction of a reference database of Latin America's surveillance and political police archives in the 20th century.