



*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 and has the honor to refer to the joint communication AL BRA 7/2025 by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva would like to forward the attached information from the Government of Brazil regarding the aforementioned joint communication.

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, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2026

To the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);

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**FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL**

**UNITED NATIONS  
SPECIAL PROCEDURES DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)  
REFERENCE: JOINT COMMUNICATION AL/BRA 7/2025  
“MINAS GERAIS HUMAN RIGHTS MEMORIAL”  
STATE REPORT**

**February 2026**

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## I – INTRODUCTION

This report presents information in response to Joint Communication AL/BRA 7/2025, dated 22 December 2025, signed by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (Bernard Duhaime); the United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (Alexandra Xanthaki); and the Chair-Rapporteur of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Gabriella Citroni).

The communication refers to the alleged resistance of the Government of the State of Minas Gerais to the establishment of a "Human Rights Memorial" in the city of Belo Horizonte, in a building that once housed the now defunct Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS).

In this regard, information was requested on the case, specifically on:

1. Any additional information and/or comments on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Information on the reasons for the lack of implementation of the Minas Gerais State Law No. 13,448, creating the Minas Gerais Human Rights Memorial at the site of the former DOPS in Belo Horizonte.
3. Information on the measures taken by the relevant authorities to ensure that human rights violations committed during the Brazilian dictatorship, including in the state of Minas Gerais and in the site of the former DOPS in Belo Horizonte, are adequately memorialized to ensure the preservation of the collective memory of those violations, the acknowledgment of the harm suffered by victims, and the prevention of the recurrence of past violence.
4. Information on the alleged attempts by the State of Minas Gerais to suppress and censor the activities carried out by civil society organizations at the site of the Minas Gerais Human Rights Memorial project aimed at preserving the site and promoting human rights, education and historical memory. Explanation of how this action complies with international human rights standards.

5. Information on the alleged request made by the Government to Court demanding the closure of the site, the removal of the civil society organizations carrying out memorialization and human rights work therein, and authorization of the use of force in that context. Explanation of how this action complies with international human rights standards.

In view of the foregoing, the Brazilian State respectfully submits the requested information.

## **II – INFORMATION FROM THE STATE**

### **II. 1 – Minas Gerais State Law No. 13,448 (items 1 and 2)**

With regard to the reasons for the non-implementation of State Law No. 13,448, any clarifications on the merits depend on information to be provided by the Government of the State of Minas Gerais itself, which is the competent authority to explain the administrative, budgetary and political decisions related to the implementation of the law. The Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship (MDHC) has requested information in this regard from the Government of the State of Minas Gerais, which will be forwarded by the Brazilian State as soon as it is received.

### **II. 2 – Measures in memory of the victims of the dictatorship (item 3)**

With regard to measures to memorialize human rights violations committed during the civil-military dictatorship, the Federal Government, through the MDHC, has been working continuously to promote policies of memory, truth and reparation at the national level, including through support for initiatives to preserve collective memory, value the testimonies of victims and strengthen educational actions aimed at non-repetition, without prejudice to the specific responsibility of federal entities for the locations and equipment under their management.

In 2023, the first year of the current administration, the MDHC established the Advisory Office for the Defense of Democracy, Memory and Truth (ADMV), with the following responsibilities, in accordance with Decree No. 11,341/2023:

I - to coordinate actions to promote and defend the right to memory and truth;

II - to provide support to the Special Commission on Political Deaths and Disappearances, as provided for in Law No. 9,140 of 4 December 1995;

III - to pay compensation resulting from decisions of the Special Commission on Political Deaths and Disappearances;

IV - manage the database of genetic profiles of relatives of political deaths and disappearances;

V - make efforts to locate and identify mortal remains about which there is doubt as to whether they belong to political dead and disappeared persons; and

VI - coordinate actions to build memory and provide reparations to victims.

From a structural perspective, the Advisory Office was organized into four specific areas designed to deal with: I) providing support to the Special Commission on Political Deaths and Disappearances (Law No. 9,140/1995); II) providing support to the Amnesty Commission (Law No. 10,559/2002); III) memory and truth policies; and IV) memory and truth policies on slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

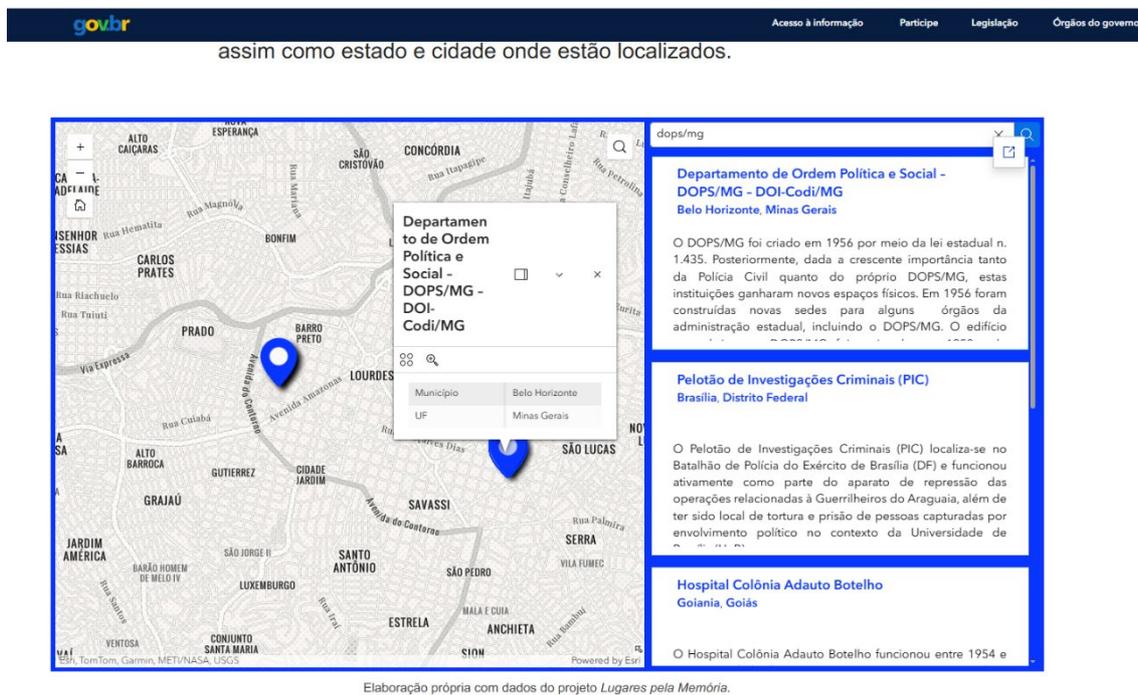
In this regard, the ADMV has been implementing a number of actions that respond to the guarantees of memorialization of the violations that occurred during the military dictatorship. Among these actions, the following stand out:

#### **a) Places of Memory Project**

The project consists of mapping, developing meanings for the term "place of memory," signage for mapped locations, and support for the implementation of memorials in some places.

With regard to the mapping stage, consultants were hired under a partnership between the MDHC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and are carrying out their activities, which are expected to be completed by April 2026. To date,

50 locations have been previously disclosed on the Human Rights Observatory website (<https://observadh.mdh.gov.br>), including the site where the former DOPS of Minas Gerais operated, as shown in the image taken from the website and reproduced below.



With regard to the development of the concept of places of memory, it should be noted that several South American countries have made significant progress in defining places of memory related to the recent past of military dictatorships or armed conflicts. In this sense, the MDHC has been working to contribute to the future definition of the term.

With regard to signage, the necessary authorizations and plaques are being arranged for the marking of an initial list of sites that have already been mapped. These plaques are the result of two processes, one of which was developed by the MDHC itself to mark locations that are emblematic of the Brazilian dictatorship, while the other was derived from a Mercosur decision regarding places related to Operation Condor. These models can be found in the booklet prepared by the department, and were announced by the Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship during the 13th Human Rights Conference, held in 2025.

Finally, with regard to support for the implementation of memorials, two main projects stand out: one is the building where the clandestine center known as the House of Death operated, located in the city of Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro; the other is the Memorial of the Struggle for Justice, where the Military Audit Office operated in the city

of São Paulo/SP. In this context, each location to be supported requires a different effort, depending on the arrangement established for each case.

#### **b) Project for the Dissemination of Subnational Truth Commissions**

The MDHC has also been working on mapping truth commissions established at the state, municipal and other levels, such as universities and trade unions. The initiative aims to disseminate the results obtained by these commissions, which have managed to publish reports, as well as to expand access to the archives that have been organized by these institutions. It is prudent to note that the existence of several truth commissions operating simultaneously and without a common guiding framework is a *sui generis* event, which makes the Brazilian case unique and, therefore, renders it particularly important to gather their results and make them public available. This relevance is especially linked to the fact that the different commissions as a whole presented a broad and innovative result regarding the recent past, with attention to phenomena that received little attention in other official initiatives.

To meet this expectation, the MDHC hired five consultancies that are conducting research on the impact of commissions in the five regions of the country, within the framework of the MDHC project with the UNDP. At the same time, the MDHC has been working to establish partnerships with public institutions capable of disseminating and safeguarding such materials.

#### **c) Memory Goes to the Archives**

In an initiative called "Memory Goes to the Archives," the MDHC has been supporting activities aimed at undertaking projects to safeguard documents that are scattered or otherwise vulnerable. In this context, the MDHC has been working to hire consultants who will support the Rio de Janeiro State Public Archives with the documentation found and/or originating from the former DOPS building in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

### **II. 3 – The Minas Gerais Human Rights Memorial (items 4 and 5)**

With regard to the allegations of i) alleged attempts by the State of Minas Gerais to suppress and censor the activities carried out by civil society organizations at the site

of the Minas Gerais Human Rights Memorial project and ii) an alleged request made by the state government to the courts, demanding the closure of the site of the Minas Gerais Human Rights Memorial project, it should be noted that the MDHC sent an official letter to the State Government of Minas Gerais. However, no response has yet been received. The Brazilian State undertakes to forward the information from that state as soon as it is received.

Furthermore, since the beginning of 2025, the MDHC has been monitoring the request to transform the former DOPS headquarters in Minas Gerais into a memorial. A letter from the Legislative Assembly of the State of Minas Gerais on the subject was received by the MDHC on 14 May 2025.

In the same month, the Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship visited the building in Belo Horizonte, where she received a document from the Human Rights Memorial Commission (Annex II - Official Letter from the Human Rights Memorial Commission).

For this reason, the Minister sent a request to the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) seeking information about the process of listing the property at the federal level. IPHAN replied that the process is currently in the preliminary investigation phase (Annex III - Letter from the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage), information that was forwarded to the Commission that sent the initial letter in a reply that also included Technical Note 39/2025/COPMV/ADMV/GM.MDHC/MDHC (Annex IV), issued by the General Coordination of Memory and Truth Policies of the MDHC.

Additionally, during the month of May 2025, the then Head of the MDHC's Advisory Office for the Defense of Democracy, Memory and Truth participated in a public hearing held by the 5th Civil Chamber of Belo Horizonte on 30 May 2025 (Annex I - Minutes of the DOPS hearing - 30.05.2025).

The MDHC also presented a statement on the case in response to a challenge filed by the Regional Attorney General's Office of the 6th Region in relation to Public Civil Action No. 6395839-40.2025.4.06.3800 by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office against the Federal Government and the State of Minas Gerais. On that occasion, other information already provided by the Special Advisory Office for the Defense of Democracy, Memory and Truth in relation to the case was revisited.

It should also be noted that the Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship was present at the site in October 2025, recognizing the relevance of the claim.

### **III – FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

On this occasion, the Brazilian State takes the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the defense of human rights and reiterate its high esteem and consideration for the United Nations.

### **IV - ANNEXES**

Annex I - Minutes of the DOPS hearing - 30 May 2025

Annex II - Letter from the Human Rights Memorial Commission

Annex III - Letter from the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage

Annex IV - Technical Note 39/2025/COPMV/ADMV/GM.MDHC/MDHC