

On the move: report of a collective experience of resistance to violence in Ceará

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Abstract

This article proposes to share the history of the Movement Every Life Matters: The University in Preventing and Coping with Violence in Ceará (Movimento Cada Vida Importa: A Universidade na Prevenção e no Enfrentamento da Violência no Ceará – MCVI) in its first year of activities. Initially, the emergence conditions and the primary principles of the MCVI are addressed. Next, the scenario of violence in the State of Ceará is contextualized in 2018, with critical data and questions about its new manifestations – such as the vertiginous increase in the number of girl homicides. The

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auscultation of contexts and the listening to various social players have been constantly considered in the actions of this group and they are exposed through axial dimensions: a) awareness-raising; b) mobilization; c) education; d) articulation; and e) incidence. In the end, this study presents some challenges for the MCVI in 2019, by considering the political scenario changes and the state's public security crisis in January. It is noticed that the MCVI recognizes the need to obtain greater capillarity in Higher Education institutions (HEIs), both in terms of its expansion to a greater number of teaching units and fields of knowledge and the inclusion of other social players from HEIs – like technical-administrative civil servants and support workers. This is the MCVI on the move.

Key words violence; teenagers; youngsters; homicides; mobilization.

Em movimento: relato de experiência coletiva de resistência à violência no Ceará

Resumo

Este artigo se propõe a socializar a história do Movimento Cada Vida Importa: A Universidade na Prevenção e no Enfrentamento da Violência no Ceará (MCVI) em seu primeiro ano de atividades. Inicialmente, abordam-se as condições de surgimento e os princípios básicos do MCVI. Em seguida, contextualiza-se o cenário de violência no Estado do Ceará em 2018, com dados críticos e interrogações sobre suas novas manifestações – como o aumento vertiginoso de homicídios de meninas. A ausculta de contextos e a escuta de diversificados atores sociais vêm sendo consideradas constantemente nas ações desse coletivo e são expostas a partir de dimensões axiais: a) sensibilização; b) mobilização; c) formação; d) articulação; e e) incidência. Ao final, este estudo apresenta alguns desafios postos para o MCVI em 2019, considerando as mudanças do cenário político e a crise da segurança pública do estado no mês de janeiro. Constata-se que o MCVI reconhece a necessidade de obter maior capilaridade nas instituições de Ensino Superior (IES), tanto em termos de sua ampliação para um número maior de unidades de ensino e campos do saber quanto da inclusão de outros atores sociais das IES – como os servidores técnico-administrativos e os trabalhadores de apoio. É o MCVI em movimento.

Palavras-chave violência; adolescentes; jovens; homicídios; mobilização.

En movimiento: informe de una experiencia colectiva de resistencia a la violencia en Ceará

Resumen

Este artículo se propone socializar la historia del Movimiento Cada Vida Importa: La Universidad en la Prevención y en el Enfrentamiento de la Violencia en Ceará (Movimento Cada Vida Importa: A Universidade na Prevenção e no Enfrentamento da Violência no Ceará – MCVI) en su primer año de actividades. Inicialmente, se abordan las condiciones de surgimiento y los principios básicos del MCVI. En seguida, se contextualiza el escenario de violencia en el Estado de Ceará en 2018, con datos críticos e interrogaciones sobre sus nuevas manifestaciones – como el aumento vertiginoso de homicidios de niñas. La auscultación de contextos y la escucha de diversificados actores sociales vienen siendo consideradas constantemente en las acciones de este colectivo y se exponen a partir de dimensiones axiales: a) sensibilización; b) movilización; c) formación; d) articulación; y e) incidencia. Al final, este estudio presenta algunos desafíos planteados para el MCVI en 2019, considerando los cambios del escenario político y la crisis de la seguridad pública del estado en el mes de enero. Se constata que el MCVI reconoce la necesidad de obtener mayor capilaridad en las instituciones de Enseñanza Superior (IES), tanto en términos de su ampliación a un número mayor de unidades de enseñanza y de campos del saber cómo de la inclusión de otros actores sociales de las IES – como los servidores técnico-administrativos y los trabajadores de apoyo. Esto es el MCVI en movimiento.

Palabras clave violencia; adolescentes; jóvenes; homicidios; movilización.

Introduction

The Movement Every Life Matters: The University in Preventing and Coping with Violence in Ceará (Movimento Cada Vida Importa: A Universidade na Prevenção e no Enfrentamento da Violência no Ceará – MCVI) began its activities in February 2018¹. It emerged in the then scenario of rising lethal violence in that state, amid a large number of massacres and the classification of Ceará and its capital city, Fortaleza, in the first position in teenage murders in the *rankings* of states and capital cities in the country, respectively (Cerqueira et al., 2017; Comitê Cearense pela Prevenção de Homicídios na Adolescência [CCPHA], 2018a; Melo & Cano, 2017). Omissions in terms of public policies aimed at the prevention of these serious processes, responses from the public power restricted to

1 For an in-depth look at the MCVI, it is suggested to read Negreiros, Quixadá and Barros (2018).

actions of punishment and repression, coupled with the indignation of many people, led us to a movement to interconnect members of Higher Education institutions (HEIs) in order to intensify existing actions and to concretize others rather focused on preventing and fighting against violence in Ceará.

Over the last year, professors, students (in large numbers), and technical-administrative civil servants belonging to at least 14 HEIs from various fields of knowledge, in partnership with the Ceará State Committee for Prevention of Teen Homicide (Comitê Cearense pela Prevenção de Homicídios na Adolescência – CCPHA) and with institutions of the civil society (such as forums, networks, institutes, and associations), have gotten together to influence and contribute internally and externally to prevent and fight against the most varied manifestations of violence, including, among many threats and violations of individual and collective rights: physical violence; psychological violence; political violence; institutional violence; and lethal violence.

As a group, thus in progress, the MCVI turns constantly to 5 axial dimensions: a) sensitization; b) mobilization; c) education; d) interconnection; and e) incidence. The group's mobilization was triggered by unrest about the naturalization of death that such a scenario of alarming lethal violence rates had been announcing. We could not remain indifferent. Lost lives, represented by bodies that were merely counted and seemingly disposable, were selective in terms of age, gender, race, and territory, and they involved stories of bereaved and desperate families. Thus, they needed to become visibilized and qualified as human, considered in their importance not only to close people, but to society. Thus, in such a context, the group would be committed to increase awareness and mobilize the interconnection between the university and social movements to address the forms of violence. This has been the course of the MCVI, which also draws on seminars, study groups, and other spaces for reflection and education. The direct incidence has been occurring, fundamentally, via existing groups or those that emerged in the university environment, such as: university outreach and research programs and projects; nuclei; laboratories; observatories; and study groups. It has taken constant effort and attention so that actions are deified, more and more, in the social spaces of communities that ask for them.

The MCVI has some basic principles that guide its thoughts and actions and that have been kept among us, even if we are in constant movement, since it has been characterized as a 'movement on the move,' because of the needs that we can detect by listening to and auscultating the various contexts in which manifestations of violence take place. It is worth making it clear that the MCVI is aiming, preferably, at actions and thoughts that strengthen the prevention of various manifestations of violence, particularly those that affect children, teenagers, and young people.

Constant auscultation and listening have provided evidence of the dispute of narratives in circulation in the social life of Ceará. As the first dispute, we observe the

concepts of the relationship between university and society, strengthening the narrative that actions in the academic sphere can and do take place outside their walls. We are trying to crack them, or even knock them down, through dialogism with some instances of civil society: groups, communities – especially those undergoing a more critical situation in terms of daily violence and needs to be met by the university environment, in view of its irrefutable social function. Likewise, we have been putting into question the narrative to contribute to internal and external education in the MCVI. By *internal education* we think of our dialogism, the collective construction of planning and decision making, the partnerships we have established between domains of university outreach, teaching, research, and political action, which result in strengthening our nuclei, laboratories, observatories, and groups, in quiet places of courses, centers, colleges, and institutes of the HEIs.

Partnerships with domains outside the university environment have also contributed to the narrative we have constructed in the MCVI that knowledge is produced not only at the HEIs, but in various social spaces, as well as in the interconnection between them. In other words, we name ourselves as epistemic subjects who construct observations, thoughts, and knowledge that do help us to concretize actions that contribute to collective well-being and dignity for all. We follow the path pointed out by Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2009, pp. 19-20) concerning “the profile of a new emerging scientific order,”

[...] as this synthesis [of the emerging science] takes place, the hierarchical distinction between scientific knowledge and vulgar knowledge [common sense] tends to disappear and practice consists in what the philosophy of practice does and says.

Perhaps, the most central and peculiar narrative, since it shows our most basic principles, is that synthesized in the very name of the movement: *Every Life Matters*. We try to contribute to deconstruct ideas, circulating in social thought, that some lives matter more than others. Likewise, we are in the narrative dispute that there is a responsibility dimension of the HEIs to contribute in this way, i.e. *every life matters*. It is worth registering a synthesis thought, proposed by a Biology professor at the Federal University of Ceará (UFC), through which we concretize education actions:

Every life matters, including the lives of those who do not care about other lives.

Another key axis of the MCVI, the contribution in raising awareness and providing external education, in terms of preventing manifestations of violence, has been materialized

in a number of our actions, many of them in partnership with civil society institutions and detailed information is shown below. First, it is worth contextualizing the issue of violence in Ceará and in Fortaleza, which has mainly victimized teenagers and youngsters from peripheral neighborhoods, the vast majority of them blacks.

Scenario of lethal violence in Ceará

The critical scenario of violence in Brazil is highlighted, among other aspects, by the large number of homicides in recent years. According to the *Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública 2018* (Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública [FBSP], 2018), the country registered 63,880 homicides in 2017, which is equivalent to a rate of 30.8 victims per 100,000 inhabitants. *The Atlas da Violência 2018* (Cerqueira et al., 2018) indicates that homicide has been the main cause of mortality, especially among young men aged from 15 to 19 years – representing 56.5% of the deaths in this population.

In 2017, Ceará reached a worrisome rate of 59.1 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants (FBSP, 2018), totaling 5,332 violent deaths – the highest number ever registered in the state’s history. In the same study, its capital city, Fortaleza, reaches 77.3 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, ranking second among the highest homicide rates in Brazil.

According to the Department of Public Security and Social Defense (Secretaria de Segurança Pública e Defesa Social – SSPDS) of Ceará, until December 26, 2018, the state registered 4,460 intentional lethal violent crimes (ILVCs)², making this year the second most violent. Faced with such striking numbers, we must see that the rise of this type of violent mortality did not occur abruptly. Within the period from 2005 to 2015, Cerqueira et al. (2017) indicate that there was an increased number of deaths in the North and Northeast regions, while in the Southeast and South regions there was a drop in homicide rates. In the same period, Ceará increased from the 17th (rate of 21 cases per 100,000 inhabitants) to the 3rd position (rate of 46.7 cases per 100,000 inhabitants) among the states with highest homicide rates in the country. In addition, among the 30 most violent Brazilian municipalities in 2015, 3 are located in Ceará: Maracanaú (6th position); Fortaleza (13th position); and Caucaia (27th position) (Cerqueira et al., 2017). The same ranking registers only another capital city: São Luís-MA (23rd position). In terms of firearm homicides in Brazilian capital cities, Fortaleza moved from 19th position in 2004 to 1st position in 2014, reaching a rate of 81.5 firearm homicides per 100,000 inhabitants (Waiselfisz, 2015b).

The Mapa da Violência 2014 already pointed out that, in Brazil, youngster homicide (individuals aged from 15 to 29 years) accounted for 53.4% of all cases registered in 2012, and the young population accounts for 26.9% of the country’s total population (Waiselfisz,

² This is the criminal typification used by the SSPDS, which includes homicides, robberies, bodily injury followed by death and feminicide.

2014). In turn, *the Mapa da Violência 2015* brings a study focused on violent mortality among teenagers aged 16 and 17 years and notices that within the period from 1980 to 2013, the homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants in this age group grew by 496.4% – becoming one of the main responsible for the increase of the means of this type of mortality in the general population (Waiselfisz, 2015a). Still according to Waiselfisz (2015a), in 2013, Fortaleza had the highest homicide rate: 267.7 per 100,000 teenagers aged 16 and 17 years.

In order to ratify the critical situation of homicides in the age group from 12 to 18 years, it is worth mentioning the *Índice de Homicídios na Adolescência* (IHA) (Melo & Cano, 2017), which studies homicide mortality by specifically delimiting the age group of adolescence (12 to 18 years) in relation to the rate per 1,000 teenagers in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. In the last survey carried out, for the year 2014, Ceará was the state showing the highest IHA: 8.71 per 1,000 teenagers. Among the capital cities, Fortaleza also ranked first, totaling 10.94 homicides per 1,000 teenagers. In the previous edition of the IHA, with numbers for the year 2012, Fortaleza already ranked first as the capital city with the highest IHA: 9.92 (Melo & Cano, 2014).

In this scenario of worsening of lethal violence in the state, attention is drawn to the increase in episodes of massacres and micro-massacres. By way of illustration, 7 massacres were registered in Ceará within the first 7 months of 2018 (O Portal de Notícias da Globo [G1], 2018). In January alone, 3 events occurred, one of them the largest massacre registered in the state, in which 14 people were killed after the invasion of a group of armed people in a *forró show* in Cajazeiras, a neighborhood in Fortaleza (Cavalcante, 2018).

Until the Cajazeiras Massacre, the most emblematic case of this lamentable ranking was the Curió Massacre, in which 11 people were murdered by policemen in November 2015 (O Povo Online, 2016). Another recurring situation consists in double or triple murders, frequent in the state. In his journalistic column on public security, Ricardo Moura (2017) already pointed out the aggravation of these events, which he named as micro-massacres. According to the author, during the first 5 months of that year there were 30 episodes in which 2 or more people were murdered in Ceará.

According to the CCPHA (2018b), during the first 7 months of 2018 there was a large increase in the number of ILVCs against female victims in Ceará, a situation that becomes more serious considering the age group from 10 to 19 years. In Fortaleza alone there was an increase of 412.5% in the murders of girls.

This is a different scenario from the trends studied in these events, since, historically, the percentage of female homicide victims in all states of the country does not exceed 10% of the total number of people killed. In the *Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública 2018* (FBSP, 2018), for the year 2017, Ceará is the third state in the murder rate of women, which represents 7.6% of the total deaths in the state. In a survey conducted by the CCPHA, considering the total number of violent deaths whose victims were between 10 and 19

years old, in Ceará almost 15% are girls and 20% of the teenagers murdered in Fortaleza are female.

When highlighting the recurrence of episodes of such violence, in an already aggravated scenario of deaths, we are interested in discussing the process of social naturalization of deaths of children and youngsters inhabiting the urban margins. Such naturalization seems to be related to acceptability of the fact there are segments of the population that can be killed, notably young people, blacks, and residents of more impoverished regions, making it seem that there must be tragedies with increasingly large numbers so that some social repercussion occurs.

“ Movement on the move”: narrative disputes, coexistence, and mutual learning

This topic tells the experiences and actions taken by the MCVI, which may be divided into the following axes: a) awareness-raising and training; and b) communication and political actions.

This division has only a didactic purpose, to better expose the activities. However, it is characterized by transversality in its practices, i.e. they are dimensions that intertwine, since they are involved and feed each other, to the extent that this favors communication and awareness-raising about the problem of lethal violence against teenagers and youngsters and education is also promoted for MCVI members and those who participate in their activities, which in fact become political actions.

Awareness-raising and education

Throughout its first year, the MCVI conducted several activities to sensitize and mobilize the population of Ceará in terms of preventing and coping with violence in the state, and this is the movement's purpose from the outset. Thus, we hold seminars in several public and private universities, such as the UFC, the Universidade de Fortaleza (UNIFOR), the University of International Integration of Afro-Brazilian Lusophony (UNILAB), the Ceará State University (UECE), the Ceará State University Vale do Acaraú (UVA), the Centro Universitário Christus (UniChristus), the Centro Universitário 7 de Setembro (UNI7), and the Faculdades Nordeste (FANOR). These seminars aimed at promoting information and production of knowledge and practices, based on the exchange of experiences between people who already research and work in the areas of Social Sciences, Psychology, Law, and Public Security, as well as society as a whole. The themes discussed in such events addressed the university and its actions in preventing and coping with violence in Ceará; the impacts of social inequalities and violations of rights in producing urban violence; the

challenges to overcoming violence: insecurity, extermination of black youth, and right to the city; and public policies and debated budget for teen homicide prevention.

There was, however, a turnaround in the dynamics of the MCVI when, in the second half of 2018, in addition to remaining focused on planning and deploying awareness raising and education actions, we also started being invited by institutions that seek guidance and support to face, in their scopes of action, situations of violence. We realized a sense of urgency for the needs involved in this reality to be heard. There is a pressing necessity to inform the obstacles to the functioning of these institutions as a result of the violence that is often experienced and this makes workers of these services get sick. Such a need to listen, however, was accompanied by a certain silence, a ban on some utterances, since they could denounce occurrences that should remain invisible, as they supported the reality of violence in some locations.

Incidentally, in the university environment, we started, in the second half of 2018, the educational work along with students of the Biology Course at the UFC, who hold scholarships provided by the Institutional Program for Teaching Initiation (PIBID), with activities conducted along with the official school network. As MCVI members, we shared the activities planned and addressed, in conversation rounds: the various forms of violence; violence in the State of Ceará, with a deeper focus on high homicide rates among teenagers and young people; ways of preventing and coping with violence; healthcare and self-care practices. The MCVI plans to go on with this along with students who hold scholarships provided by the PIBID/UFC in several other undergraduate courses.

The listening and care-related needs have increased and one of the actions taken by the MCVI was mobilizing psychologists from Fortaleza, who, being aware of the problem, mainly distress of families that lost children or young relatives in these massacres or in other occurrences, offered free weekly service for these cases. This action is coordinated by the Ceará State Public Defender's Office (DPE-CE), through the User's Embrace Network Program (Programa Rede Acolhe).

The User's Embrace Network Program also sought some groups that conduct university outreach or internship programs, in the Psychology Course of the UFC, and this resulted in the interconnection of four teams, linked to nuclei, laboratories, and university outreach programs, specifically the Research and Intervention Group on Violence, Social Exclusion, and Subjectivity (Grupo de Pesquisas e Intervenções sobre Violência, Exclusão Social e Subjetivação - VIESES), the Ceará Center for Studies and Research on Children (Núcleo Cearense de Estudos e Pesquisas sobre a Criança - NUCEPEC), the Laboratory of Behavior Analysis of Ceará (Laboratório de Análise do Comportamento do Ceará - LACCE), and the Pasárgada University Outreach Project (Projeto de Extensão Pasárgada). This interconnection between the MCVI and the User's Embrace Network Program along with the Psychology Course of the UFC made it possible to put interventions into practice

at public schools in the Bom Jardim neighborhood, collectively chosen by the Bom Jardim School Forum, which also introduced the school community's needs in relation to the type of actions to be taken. In one of the meetings of this forum, with participation of UFC teams, three intervention types were characterized: a) 'Good Chat' (Bom de Papo), open discussions as conversation rounds or workshops with school students, on themes related to *human rights, urban violence, life history*, and others; b) 'Sensitive Listening' (Escuta Sensível), a more individualized listening space in cases of need for psychological care, carried out by trainees in Psychology; and c) 'I got together' (Me Junto), with broader actions of political mobilization through artistic, cultural, or community manifestations.

We were also present at the VII Meeting of Psychologists of the SESA Network, at the invitation of its organizers so that we could provide, along with psychology practitioners from the Ceará State Health Department (Secretaria de Saúde do Estado do Ceará – SESA), in-depth analysis of violence as a theme and its various manifestations. Psychologists pursued their activities in the most varied institutions of the SESA Network: general hospitals and mental health hospitals; Family Health Program; and supervision of multiprofessional residency programs, to name a few. The debate focused particularly on the unacceptable teen and youngster homicide rates in Fortaleza and in Ceará; the increased number of girl homicides within the last two years; and how the MCVI has been constituted. There was exchange of information and experiences that could result in more spaces for dialogue and mutual strengthening of thoughts and actions.

At the invitation of the Ceará Public Health School (Escola de Saúde Pública do Ceará – ESP-CE), as MCVI members, we collaborate to continuing education of healthcare residency students and community health workers. Especially in relation to the second category of practitioners, we noticed the need for therapeutic listening, which seemed more urgent than adopting prevention/awareness-raising strategies. During this process, some MCVI members participated in meetings with the professional team responsible for this educational initiative, as well as in meetings with community health workers in the municipalities of Fortaleza, Guaramiranga, and Itaitinga.

On another front, as MCVI members, we participated in several activities along with professors and students from the UNI7. We highlight herein the dialogue with professors in Psychology and Law, contributing to the activities both in the classroom and in study groups in both areas. Also, the BRADO – Experimental Advertising Agency, which consists of students in Social Communication, voluntarily designed the visual identity of the MCVI.

The diversity of interactions shown reinforces the MCVI's willingness to talk to various areas from a perspective of constant exchange of experiences and knowledge that can contribute to prevent and cope with situations of violence in the State of Ceará.

Communication and political actions

Since the outset of the MCVI, we have been in close dialogue with the Journalism Sector of the UFC University FM Radio. Contact has taken place more often with those responsible for the Radio Debate Program (Programa Rádio Debate), which airs on working days. Thus, we have publicized events, socialized thoughts that can contribute to prevent and cope with violence in Ceará and our presence in the Radio Debate Program episodes focuses on themes directly related to the MCVI action lines. From August 2018 on, we established a partnership with the Radio Debate Program production team in order to provide at least two episodes each month with content, and MCVI members and other players from the university environment and social movements have attended the program. It has been a rich experience: in addition to the debate during the episode, listeners also participate, by bringing observations, critiques, and questions about the various dimensions of the violence processes. The partnership between the MCVI and the UFC University FM Radio became even more intense during the month of December, since many human rights aspects were highlighted, with a view to the celebration of 70 years of approval, by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN), of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The partnership under analysis also has an internal formative nature in face of the MCVI, since students and young practitioners have attended the program as debaters, reporting their experiences in actions taken by the movement.

Another effort to sensitize the population that Fortaleza, despite being a city that is much sought after by tourists, is also a site of struggle for life, we held at the Iracema Beach, during the school holidays, the event 'The struggle for life does not take away vacation time' (A luta pela vida não tira férias) – which had the support of several social movements and the CCPHA, being highlighted by the local media. It is worth mentioning that, by means of a partnership with the BRADO agency and relying on the support of some media outlets, the MCVI produced a short film to report some aspects of one of the ways that structure the chain of situations of violence.

In addition, the MCVI adhered to popular agendas by supporting and participating in events such as: a) the 6th 'March of the City Outskirts' (Marcha da Periferia), an action organized by several groups in Fortaleza, whose theme in this edition highlighted the narratives of families that have lost children violently and asked for public policy actions that result in reducing homicides in the capital city and in Ceará; b) the 1st 'Youth Homicide Prevention Week' (Semana de Prevenção aos Homicídios de Jovens), an initiative encouraged by the CCPHA and regulated by the Lei Estadual n. 16.482 (2017), which mobilized various public agents and civil society to discuss homicide prevention strategies in the State of Ceará; and c) the event 'Childhood as Absolute Priority' (Infância Prioridade Absoluta), organized by the Permanent Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations Advocating for the Rights of

Children and Teenagers (Fórum Permanente de Entidades Não Governamentais de Defesa dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente – DCA Forum), which expressed indignation at disrespect for the absolute priority given to children and teenagers, in view of the inexistent or low budget allocation for actions related to the respective social subjects.

Thus, as we have already said, in 2018, the MCVI was characterized as ‘a movement on the move’ – this is so because we reorganized our early objectives, interconnecting them to social reality, and keep strong as a broad collective construction, expanding our scope of intervention as time passes by.

Further challenges

Even in view of this context of homicide reduction in the year 2018, although there is an increase in femicide among youngsters, it is worth emphasizing that hope was not renewed by the new year and, on January 2, 2019, a wave of attacks was triggered – which already totaled more than 200 criminal acts in 48 cities in the State of Ceará and had not come to an end during the writing of this article, until January 21, 2019. The SSPDS claimed that more than 400 people were arrested for taking part in attacks. These data are reported on a daily basis in newspapers of state circulation. In the midst of this scenario, we must ask how will the judicial system, chock-full of court proceedings, meet these needs created in a few days? Will the needs of provisional prisoners increase and how will tensions in prisons affect the territories in the coming months?

The attacks demonstrated the strength and power of criminal organizations, which set fire to several public and private buildings, buses, garbage trucks, viaducts, power poles, banking centers, security equipment, etc. The fuse was lit by the unceremonious statement made by the Secretary of Prison Administration (Secretário de Administração Penitenciária – SAP), a newly created position, who said he did not recognize criminal organizations in the state, thus there was no reason to divide prisoners by rival groups in prisons. Nevertheless, for at least three years, criminal organizations have shown, more forcefully, great power of regimentation and mobilization in prisons, socio-educational centers, and neighborhoods, especially in the City of Fortaleza, for execution of the most varied types of criminal acts, penalizing the working classes with expulsion from their households and hindering both the right to come and go and the access to public services.

During this period of attacks, however, it is speculated that in some communities there was some stabilization of conflicts between rival groups, with homicide reduction in January, when compared to the same period in 2018 (Castro, 2019), and free movement of people in previously forbidden territories. Fear began to operate in various forms in the city, extrapolating the walls of its outskirts, although the latter remain as the most affected locations.

Thus, the dynamics of homicide reduction did not seem to diminish the warlike power of criminal organizations in Ceará and the possible solutions to this complex problem seem far from being achieved. Which prevention actions have been deployed on a large scale? Again, the focus of public security seems to be calling the Military Police, keeping a reaction perspective.

Given the above, it is necessary to overcome the silencing of some debates, which makes many of the violence mechanisms invisible in neighborhoods and, as a social movement, achieve capillarity in discussions on violence prevention and on coping with its structural causes in the most diverse academic and non-academic environments, reinforcing and expanding the actions carried out during the year 2018.

Final remarks

We introduce in this article the MCVI, an organized and plural group, with representatives from universities and civil society, which came about by having researchers and professors' indignation and commitment to deny remaining indifferent to a rather gloomy reality of urban violence, which has taken many lives and it has particularly affected young blacks from impoverished regions in the capital city of the State of Ceará, which are not by chance located in the outskirts of the city. This mobilization has repercussions on the adherence of a significant number of HEIs, leading their representatives to engage in the movement's actions and make it broad and consistent, in addition to enabling greater interconnection to social and community movements.

In exposing our actions, we hope to give visibility to possible ways of preventing and coping with violence, which are not enough to solve the problem, given its complexity and the need to involve sectors of public power and civil society in coordinated and integrated actions, with the purpose of contributing to guarantee security, mobility conditions, and, more broadly, fundamental rights to the population as a whole.

This is how we stand because we understand that the fight against violence is not done with more violence and only through repression policies. This path leads us to a daily life of war, fear, and paralysis of people, who start asking for solutions without getting into the problem at all. Our struggle seeks to make society and the public power aware in order to take strategies that are not exhausted in tackling emerging situations, which, in turn, do not reach the origins of the problem, but along with these situations, which are also important, commit ourselves to policies public and social rights that favor the guarantee of rights, by having in mind that public security and the fight against violence can only be effective if associated with such guarantees.

Thus, we see that our challenges are immense and depend on this commitment to be overcome. However, strength, courage, and social commitment nourish us so that we do not lose hope of living better days and sharing victories in this journey.

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