



HUMAN DIGNITY OBSERVATORY

#PandemicWithoutHarm

Report of the Monitoring and Information
Center on Human Rights Violations
during the Pandemic of COVID-19



KNOWMAD
INSTITUT

2021

AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT OF THE:



IN COOPERATION WITH:



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Suggested quote:

“Díaz Velásquez, M. I., Molina aguilar, J., Baños, S. A., & Espin García, O. H. (2021). Human Dignity Observatory. In D. Kreher (Ed.), Knowmad Institut (Vol. 2, Issue 1). Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige UG (haftungsbeschränkt).

<https://knowmadinstitut.org/2020/04/quarantine-hhrr/>

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Foreword

Social justice, human dignity and sustainability are perceived as fundamental values - Freedom, Equality and Fraternity - that underlie the Charter of the United Nations.

Undoubtedly, the health and social emergency due to COVID-19, declared a pandemic in March 2020, has been an event that has tested each of the countries, their social systems and political regimes, for example, the health and emergency systems. This highlights aspects such as respect for the rule of law and human dignity.

The inefficient capacity of governments in the implementation of mobility restrictions has brought with it other serious consequences, labor rights are being seriously affected and family economies with them.

It is believed that verifiable data, together with public awareness of the particularly worrying effects of the crisis, will serve as a basis for combating human rights violations through the production of knowledge, and the constant observance of human rights and human dignity issues.

The purpose of this independent observatory is to collect and analyze allegations of human rights violations during the confinement resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare a report for submission to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Taking into account the systematic violations of human rights in the context of the current health crisis, the Knowmad Institut is working with partner organizations and volunteers on a record of violations based on complaints, photographs and videos posted on Twitter.

The problem outlined concerns all countries in the world. Our research languages are English, German and Spanish.

- Advanced search with specific parameters, including time ranges (from March 10, 2020 to November 11, 2020), geolocation, keywords (human rights, brutality, quarantine, COVID-19, violence, police, repression, denunciation, these searches were conducted in Spanish and English).
 - Screening and review of results
 - Data collection + Time stamping
 - Analysis and cross-checking of sources to verify facts
 - Mapping based on proximity
 - Second, verification by coordinator
 - Data dump to map (85% completed)
 - Third, verification by indexing data on the map (70% completed)
 - Report development and presentation
- ❖ **Data Mining and Text Analysis**
- Automatic search with the use of Twitter's official API making use of specific parameters, including time ranges (from March 10, 2020 to November 11, 2020), geolocation, keywords (human rights, brutality, quarantine, COVID-19, violence, police, repression, denunciation, these searches were performed in Spanish, English and German).
 - Sentiment analysis, tweets map, most used words.

Tools used

- Twitter API
- Advanced Twitter search tools
- [Tweet Stamp](#)
- [Orange](#)
- Google Workspace
- [Umap](#)
- [DataWrapper](#)
- [ACLEDDATA](#)
- [Tvistter](#)

Access to the Interactive Map

- https://umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/knowmad-human-dignity-observatory-eta-v004_464246#2/4.2/50.6

➤ <https://knowmadinstitut.org/2020/04/quarantine-hhrr/>

Pandemic Impact on Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Top 10 mapped countries with highest number of complaints

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. EL SALVADOR | 6. CHINA |
| 2. INDIA | 7. LEBANON |
| 3. USA | 8. COLOMBIA |
| 4. KENYA | 9. PALESTINE |
| 5. NIGERIA | 10. BRAZIL |

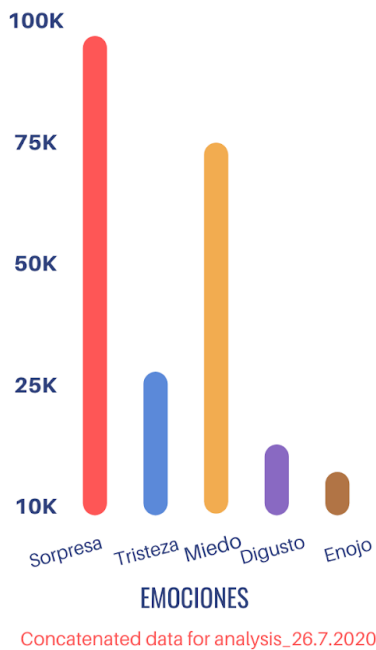


3.01.2021 | Knowmad Human Dignity Observatory

Restrictions

The exceptional circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in restrictions already foreseen in the 2018 WHO Incident Management System manuals, which states that *"some human rights may be suspended (limited), most civil rights may be suspended. An example of a right that is sometimes suspended in health emergencies: restricting freedom of movement to contain an outbreak of a dangerous disease (quarantine for those who are exposed and isolation for those who are sick)."*

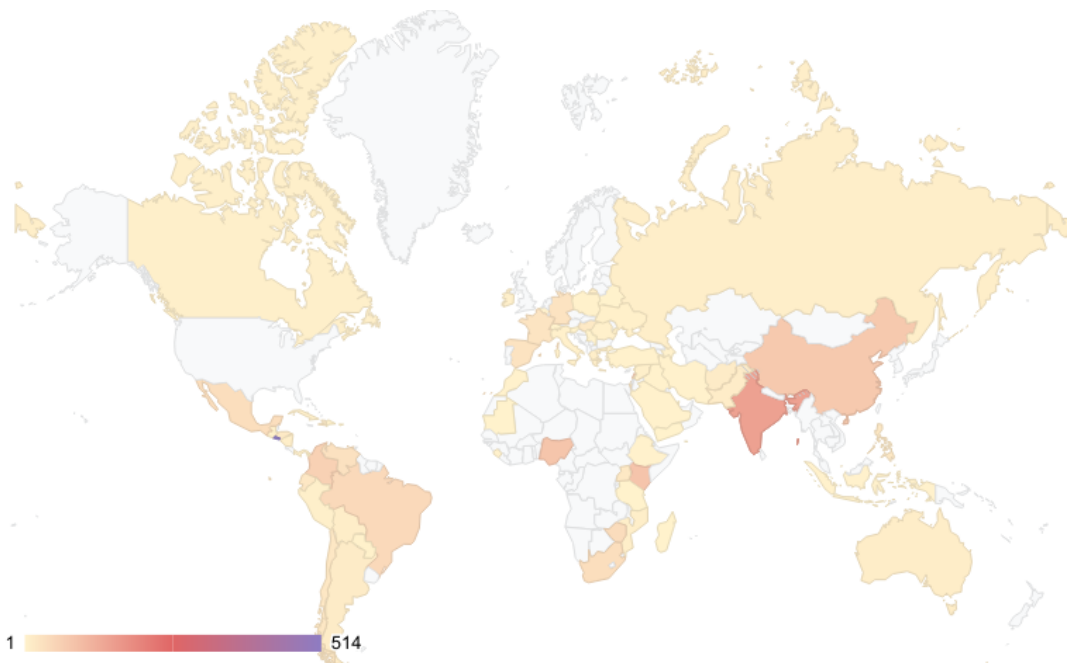
It is necessary to recognize that in the various international instruments there is the figure of "derogation in time of emergency" as indicated in Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which allows States "in time of war or other



public emergency threatening the life of the Nation [...] to adopt measures derogating from their obligations...". This can also be found in similar provisions in the first paragraph of Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), in the opening paragraph of Article 27 of the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR) or in Article 4 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, to mention a few.

Although these restrictions should be limited according to the guiding principles of the WHO and the fundamental values of the UN, it has been observed how Member States, for the most part, have limited human rights in broader ways, both in scope and duration, in addition to a generalized rise in the abuse of police forces (accompanied by their militarization) and in

contrast the desertion of the duty of public security forces in some developed countries.



3.01.2021 Mapped countries with the highest number of complaints

Findings

The beginning of the decade of action has been intense and has made visible the urgent need to deepen multilateralism in an irreversibly hyperconnected world. Peripheral countries remain the most vulnerable to the direct and collateral effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is largely due to two fundamental factors: on the one hand, the lack of commitment by decision-makers to SDG Goal 16 "Peace, justice and strong institutions" and on the other hand, due to the lack of international support to ensure progress towards the SDGs.

However, the dissonance in the quantitative easing policies of the major central banks that have responded to the pandemic contrasts with the growing financial burden faced by peripheral countries with vulnerable economies. All the above reduces the likelihood of additional support from the international community for vulnerable countries in the near future, unless creditor countries consider a debt jubilee.

The negative impact of the pandemic on food security, environmental protection, access to public health services, freedom of expression and the loss of trust between the authorities and the civilian population in particular stand out. These are clearly strategic priorities of the SDGs.

The most affected SDGs according to our record are goals 16¹, 3², 10³, 8⁴ and 2⁵ related to justice, rule of law, health, reduction of gaps, decent work and food security respectively.

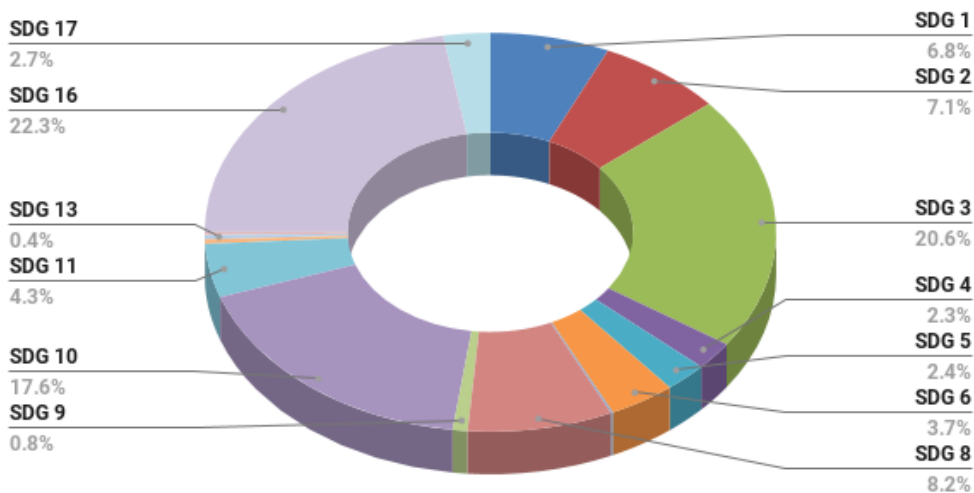
¹ SDG 16.- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

² SDG 3.- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

³ SDG 10.- Reduce inequality within and among countries.

⁴ SDG 8.- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

⁵ SDG 2.- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



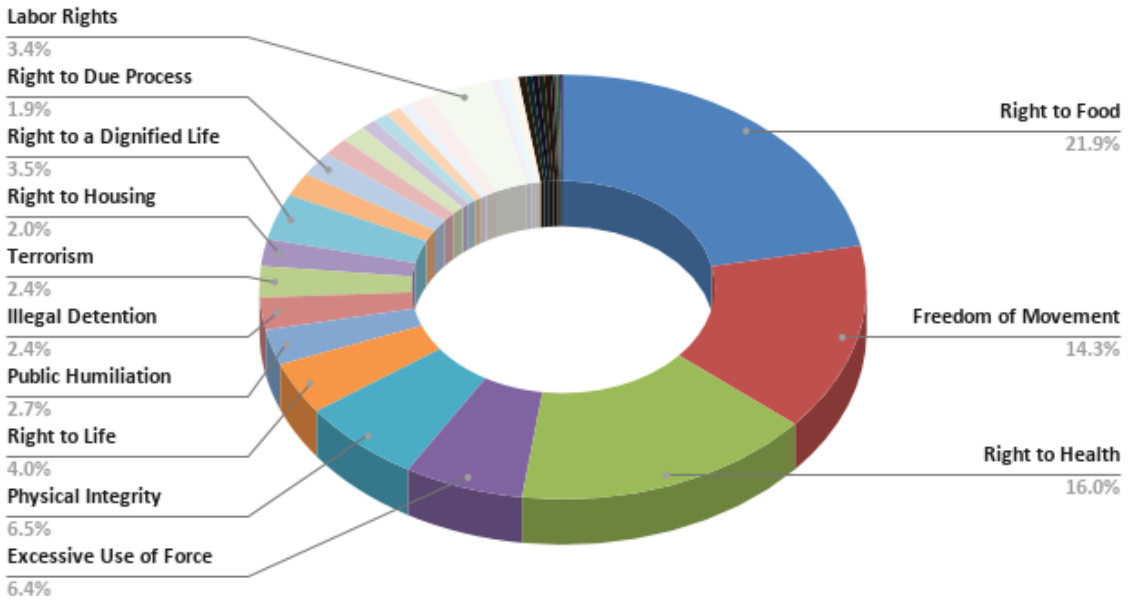
Percentage of reported human rights violations linked to specific SDGs.

Corruption, repression and hunger have long been the subject of debate and scrutiny, but never before have they been so visible. Although, it remains to be traced how we will move forward through the current civilizational crisis exacerbated by hunger, COVID-19 and the effects of Quantitative Easing (QE) policies.

Key Observations:

Lack of Confidence in Public Security and Healthcare.

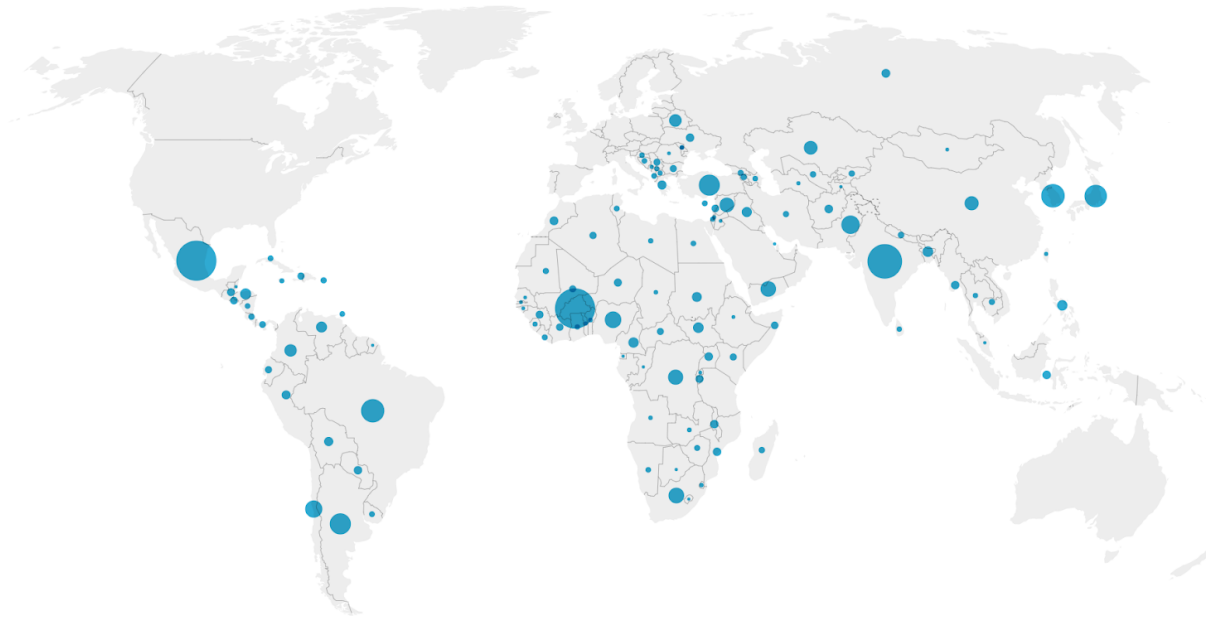
It has been observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the priorities of health and public security systems, State portfolios that in most countries are usually restricted to provide quality services and that the crisis has further limited them, in many cases being restricted to provide, at least, the services they provided to their communities before the pandemic.



Human rights violations with the most frequent incidences detected in mapping

National authorities have not yet managed to plan a response to the challenges related to issues such as health, security and food for their populations, a situation that is further aggravated when they must respond to the health and social crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Likewise, there has been an increase in the abuse of force by State security forces. The rise of extremist groups, social and citizen movements, and of course, conspiracy theories, orient their thinking around the impact caused by the pandemic. Likewise, these groups also seek to delve into factors such as corruption and the reconfiguration of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) around the preservation of the rule of law.



Political violence directed at women and demonstrations led by women

Human Dignity Observatory | CC BY-NC 4.0 // 2020

Map: Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige UG Source: "[Political Violence Targeting Women & Demonstrations Featuring Women \(ACLEDD\)](https://acleddata.com/download/15693/)"; <https://acleddata.com/download/15693/>." Created with [Datawrapper](#)

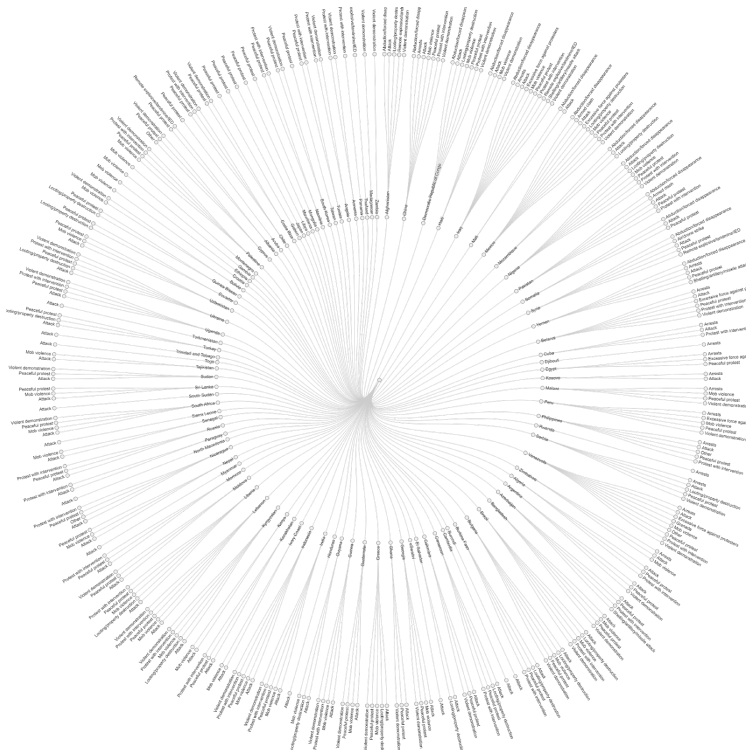
Political Violence Directed Against Women

The burden of patriarchal systems, and the obstetric violence of many public policies have been evidenced in the time period observed. From the lack of access to menstrual-related personal hygiene products due to high prices and taxes, to the criminalization of abortion in some countries, exacerbated by a dizzying rise in gender-based violence and femicides globally.

The growing debt burden afflicting all countries is disrupting economies and causing hundreds of thousands of deaths worldwide. Countries with low- and middle-income economies suffer from the lack of available international financing, undermining their path to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in terms of climate change mitigation/adaptation and biodiversity conservation. In this logic, the effects of the pandemic will continue to undermine progress towards the SDGs by 2030, even though prior to the pandemic, these countries were already moving away from the expected results.

Through the results obtained, there is evidence of a loss of trust by civil society towards the authorities. This can be explained by several factors, ranging from the infantilization of society projected in the public communication of some governments, and also, the excessive exaltation of state security forces by others, in the midst of a health and social crisis. Even going as far as the excessive use of force, coercion of the exercise of freedom of expression and extrajudicial executions.

The lack of political will to offer a balanced response, based on science, and the criminal negligence of some decision-makers, have undermined many democratic processes that are now threatened by governments with authoritarian tendencies, extremist groups and organized crime.



POLITICAL VIOLENCE IMPACTING JOURNALISTS: JANUARY-MAY 2020

Human Dignity Observatory | CC BY-NC 4.0 // 2020

Map: Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige UG Source: ["POLITICAL VIOLENCE IMPACTING JOURNALISTS: JANUARY-MAY 2020 \(ACLED\); https://acleddata.com/download/22439/."](https://acleddata.com/download/22439/)

Particular Cases:

Rights of People Who Use Drugs

Due to the particular sensitivity of our Institution regarding the interrelation between human rights and drug policies at the international level, particular attention has been paid to the rights of people who use drugs.

One year after the international declaration of a pandemic caused by the SARS-COV2 virus (COVID-19), the most important protective measures are based on everyday preventive actions, including staying at home and hygienic practices. To protect citizens, the international community has opted to restrict mobility, and some types of economic activity, to avoid transmission of the virus between people.⁶

It can be observed internationally that confinement has led to a significant increase in anxiety, violence, fear and anguish (along with unemployment), so that many people have not known how to deal with these situations and have taken refuge in substance abuse.⁷

Of the most vulnerable populations during the pandemic, people who use drugs who live in conditions of marginalization, migration and overcrowding stand out. Both in urban and rural contexts, since they do not exercise their right to decent housing and work. Therefore, they do not have access to basic water and sanitation services for basic food and hygiene practices, such as handwashing and physical distancing.

In the **Americas**, forced migrations have been exacerbated in countries such as Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Venezuela due to necropolitics and the effects of the current health crisis.⁸

In Mexico, the problem is located in the child and adult populations that live in street situations and consume "activo" - inhaled solvents - to avoid hunger and endure the anxiety of winter weather (Ortiz et al., 2017). Similarly, in Argentina, urban populations of migrants who are hooked on cocaine paste - Paco - suffer the same adversity, having no place to spend the night and being victims of ethnic discrimination.⁹

⁶ (Rome Consensus 2.0, 2020)

⁷ (USI, 2020)

⁸ (DW, 2021)

⁹ (Epele, 2011)

In **North American** countries such as Canada, opioid-related death rates broke record levels in 2020. However, stimulant-related deaths are also on the rise. Experts have documented 445 stimulant-related deaths in Ontario between April and June 2020, just after the pandemic was declared, compared with 273 from January to March 2020, coroner's figures show. In total, there have been at least 300 overdose deaths (including stimulants and opioids) every month in Ontario from May to October, which equates to 10 people dying every day.¹⁰

The healthcare impact of substance abuse can lead to *-dependence syndrome* and increased health care costs due to the comorbidity of substance abuse problems with chronic degenerative diseases, cardiovascular, respiratory, cancer, mental illnesses and infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis B-C, (NIDA, 2017).

According to the Ontario, Canada news system, TVO (2021).

"So many people end up using stimulants because they have nowhere else to go. It's cold outside and if you're afraid your stuff is going to get stolen, or you're afraid of sexual assault, stimulants are a very good way to stay awake and make sure that doesn't happen."

"We see something cardiac going on, but it's clearly not an opioid-related overdose." While an opioid overdose usually makes someone very lethargic and could slow their heart rate, people who experience an overdose or adverse effects from stimulants may appear to be experiencing something more akin to cardiac arrest or a panic attack. With crystal methamphetamine, for example, symptoms can include chest pain, shortness of breath, high blood pressure and paranoia"¹¹

From a human rights protection and public health perspective, it is of utmost importance that "people who use drugs are included in all strategies, plans and operations for preparedness and response to outbreaks of COVID-19. There is a strong public health rationale for extending all measures to all, regardless of status, and ensuring inclusion."¹²

People who use drugs and their families may be at increased risk for adverse mental health outcomes, particularly during infectious disease outbreaks and possible quarantine. For that reason, Rome Consensus 2.0 (2020) proposes a

¹⁰ (Browne,2021)

¹¹ (Browne,2021)

¹² (Rome Consensus 2.0, 2020,p2)

range of harm reduction-based strategies that also include providing mental health shelter and support.

The scientific understanding of COVID-19 and the best precautionary practices preventing infection and transmission continue to evolve every day (Rome Consensus 2.0, 2020) so it is extremely important to keep up to date on what is happening in our regions.

El Salvador

Since the end of the armed conflict in 1992, El Salvador has been moving towards the consolidation of a democratic culture and lasting peace. Over the course of 29 years, El Salvador has experienced diverse situations, some of which have violated respect for human rights, but for the most part, the long-term results have been positive.

El Salvador was one of the first countries to take action in the face of the impending health crisis; as of March 11, the borders were closed and all educational centers were closed to prevent possible contagions¹³. Since March 21, the Government decreed a State of Emergency, a mandatory quarantine, with the support of the Parliament.

In principle, the measures were considered positive, but in practice they meant transgressions to legality and violations to human rights. Several appeals of unconstitutionality were filed and by mid-April, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice ruled that excesses were being committed with respect to the powers allowed by the State of Emergency¹⁴.

A short time had passed, approximately more than an hour, since the mandatory quarantine was decreed when the first arrests of people were made, many of whom had not heard the news and were circulating freely, working or even returning to their homes.

According to journalistic investigations and registered complaints, many of the detainees were victims of abuse of force in police custody, spending more than 48 hours without food or water. And although they were subsequently taken to containment centers, many of these people were "treated like prisoners"¹⁵.

¹³ (Labrador, 2021)

¹⁴ (Informe: La transparencia en la administración de Gobierno durante la emergencia por COVID-19, 2020)

¹⁵(Cáceres, 2020)

Although the Government assured that there were some exceptions to allow free circulation, the improvised nature of the measure and the limited access of citizens to social networks, led to a disproportionate increase in arbitrary detentions, causing the centers destined to enforce the mandatory quarantine to be overcrowded.

The reaction from civil society was immediate, as not only were illegal detentions taking place, but the minimum conditions to safeguard the right to health itself were not being guaranteed.

The illegal detention centers were not only for people who were circulating in the street and did not present a "valid justification", but also for those Salvadorans who were abroad and wished to enter the country. There were no criteria for the distribution of citizens in these places. And according to some complaints received, "the containment centers became real centers of contagion"¹⁶.

For several weeks there were complaints about the absence of COVID-19 tests for the people in confinement, and when they were finally granted access, many of them were not given the results. In some cases, people were confined and left without knowing the state of their health. Others, on the other hand, were less fortunate, spent almost 50 days in confinement, and on some occasions, when they protested and broke the isolation, they had to start the confinement period from scratch.

In addition to the above, it is impossible to ignore the prominence given to the State security forces from the very beginning, which continues to increase. Abuses of the use of lethal force have been endorsed and even authorized, under the pretext of "public security". On April 26, 2020, through a series of tweets, the president of the republic Nayib Bukele assured that **"The use of lethal force is authorized for self-defense or for the defense of the lives of Salvadorans."**¹⁷. This only legitimized and justified the aggressions.

In the absence of a contingency plan from government authorities to deal with this situation and to attend to the population, entire families had to resort to camping on the roadsides and waving white flags to ask for food. This action quickly spread from focalized points to the whole country, the government was slow to react, until it announced the delivery of food packages, a plan that was highly questioned due to its disproportionate distribution method.

¹⁶ (Deutsche Welle (www.dw.com), 2020)

¹⁷ (Deutsche Welle (www.dw.com), 2020)

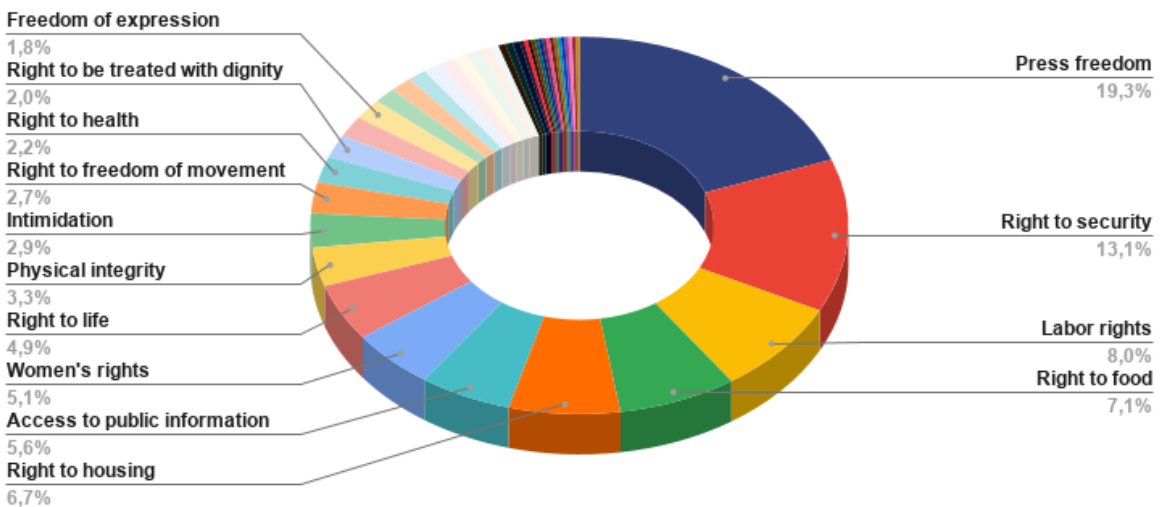
This situation was another cause for concern: the delivery mechanism has not been disclosed, and the most needy sectors have not been prioritized, not to mention the lack of transparency that has arisen with respect to the use of public funds in the response to the pandemic.

During the states of emergency and exception, the processing of information requests was suspended, which also violates the right of access to public information by citizens and the national and international press.

On the other hand, abuses were also committed against the prison population. Faced with an increase in crime rates, Nayib Bukele ordered through the Penitentiary General Bureau, the declaration of a state of emergency in 7 maximum security penitentiaries, which have inmates linked to gangs, and who according to government logic, were behind the increase in homicides¹⁸.

The state of emergency not only brought isolation, but also restrictions on family visits, and little information on health conditions, protocols and actions to prevent contagion, which were carried out for the prevention of the virus.

Undoubtedly, the cases of human rights violations range from the right to health, to arbitrariness that have ended in fatality. To illustrate and detail the state of human rights during the emergency, 3 representative areas in which rights were violated are presented.



Human Rights Violations with more records detected in El Salvador

¹⁸ (BBC, 2020)

Violations against the right to health and access to public information

Since the decision to use the so-called "containment centers", citizens have reported various violations of their human rights. There have been reports of contagions as a result of their detention in these places, the lack of decent living conditions, the absence of drinking water, poor food or even non-compliance with biosecurity standards and even precarious conditions for the health personnel responsible for attending these centers.

Undoubtedly, one of the greatest concerns has been the violation of the right to health and access to information. Many cases were recorded where COVID-19 tests were denied, and when citizens were finally able to access them, they were not given the results.

Faced with these and other situations, many of the people housed decided to organize themselves and demand through social networks (their only contact with the outside world), better conditions and clarity about their health status.

A particular case occurred in the containment center located in the Gamaliel building of the Tabernáculo Bíblico Bautista and in the one installed in the Palacio de los Deportes, both in San Salvador, where agents of the Unit for the Maintenance of Order (UMO for its Spanish acronym) arrived to repel those who expressed their discontent, as they had already been confined for more than 30 days. This situation was compounded by reports of threats and intimidation received by gang members who were also in these same containment centers.

Another representative case is that of more than 60 people housed in the "Nuestro Señor de Montecarmelo" center, in Ciudad Delgado, who remained in illegal detention for more than 40 days, despite the fact that all of them were tested four times for COVID-19, and three of them were negative (the results of the last test were still pending).

In that place the people were distributed in three sections in the Retreat Center, one of those sections showed their discontent on May 14, 2020, which led to the intervention of the Unit of Maintenance of Order -UMO- an elite police force that arrived to "impose order". In addition, helicopters of the security forces flew over the place in order to intimidate not only the disgruntled people, but also the population in general, since this expression of public force was transmitted by different media.

Another group of people, confined in the same place, denounced through a video in social networks the mistreatment by the person in charge of the Retreat Center, and the conditions in which they were being held. In addition, they went on hunger strike. The response they obtained was the transfer of some people from the

aforementioned section to various illegal detention centers, installed in Ciudad Mujer, in the canton of Lourdes, in the municipality of Colón. No response was obtained regarding the location of other persons.

The situation of these persons constituted a clear violation of their human rights and an action of disobedience towards the mandate of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice which, by means of *Habeas Corpus* 205-2020 of April 25, 2020, had already decreed precautionary measures, ordering that these persons be taken to their place of residence to comply with mandatory quarantine.

In view of these and other situations, several calls were made to respect the established legal order, especially in relation to the resolutions of the Chamber. The State's response to these complaints was always to deny the facts, remain silent or discredit the work of the human rights organizations or the media that revealed the cases.

Press freedom and speech freedom under attack

One of the favorite scenarios of officials of the current administration has been and is the digital sphere, Twitter in particular. Since the beginning of his mandate, Nayib Bukele has ordered actions, dismissed officials, and attacked opponents through the mentioned platform.

In the context of the pandemic, he has "informed" about actions to contain the pandemic in the country, however, the main use of this communication channel has been to increase the attack on those who differ from the official discourse. One of the most attacked sectors has been the independent press.

The attacks have transcended from the virtual to the face-to-face in public events. On May 31, the Salvadoran president, during a press conference, issued stigmatizing statements towards journalists of the digital newspapers "Factum" and "El Faro", accusing them of responding to interests contrary to the citizenship and pointing out that "in their souls, in their lives will weigh what they tried to do to the country"¹⁹.

After this, digital harassment of journalists who question the official discourse increased. A similar case had already occurred on May 18, when journalist Nelson Rauda, also from El Faro, during a press conference, questioned Bukele about a meeting he held with a group of businessmen. The question generated discomfort in the governor, who did not hesitate to disqualify the question and mock in public. Users of social networks followed this logic and shared videos, images, criticisms,

¹⁹ (Gaitán, 2020)

threats and defamations against the information professional and even false accounts appeared with the name of the journalist.

The Association of Journalists of El Salvador -APES- reacted, denouncing this type of attacks, calling the Government to respect the journalistic exercise, regardless of the editorial line of each one.

The concern for this type of facts is due to the growing discrediting of the press, but also because the attacks at digital level can also transcend and occur against the physical integrity of journalists.

The onslaught of the central government against the journalistic exercise ranged from blocking social networks (a practice that we have detected in some officials and public entities in Africa and Latin America), which did not allow professionals to obtain information (being the favorite platform to release official data), to obstructing access to public events.

On the night of June 21, 2020, the Government announced the inauguration of the so-called "Hospital of El Salvador", located in the facilities of the International Center of Fairs and Conventions (CIFCO). However, staff of the Presidential House prevented the entry of journalists from various media and therefore there was no space for questions, nor to verify the status of completion of the inaugurated work²⁰.

The attack on the media and journalists has become a constant, and has become a kind of trademark for the current government administration.

Police Abuse: From Physical Assaults to Extrajudicial Executions

The security forces have been the main perpetrators of human rights violations during the COVID-19 emergency. Not only for obstructing the work of journalists or supporting unconstitutional actions, but also for carrying out acts of violence against citizens, exceeding their functions with fatal consequences.

A clear case was the aggression committed against a young man in San Julian. Alfredo Isaac Canesa Flores, 19 years old.²¹, was driving a motorcycle and, given the restrictions on mobility imposed by the Executive, was detained in the canton of Chilata, municipality of San Julián, department of Sonsonate.

The government's logic was that those who did not comply with the mandatory quarantine and were detained would be taken to the so-called containment centers,

²⁰ (Gaitán, 2020)

²¹ (Beltrán Luna, 2020)

however, in this case another factor intervened, a possible solution: to hand over \$50.00 in exchange for not being captured and sent to one of the aforementioned centers.

Upon refusal of this proposal, the young man received a bullet in each of his legs, causing indignation and repudiation in the witnesses of the event, and later in the population who learned of the complaint in social networks and the media. The Police argued that this situation was an "accident" and even published that the victim had not been offended, in addition, both the police corporation and government officials dismissed, through Twitter, the publication of the newspaper that publicized the case. These tweets were subsequently deleted.

However, although this is an example of the arbitrary actions of the National Civil Police (PNC), another even more serious case is the extrajudicial execution of a young woman in the same locality. Zulma Yamileth Valencia Sisco, 22 years old, was shot and killed very close to her home, in Finca San Joaquín, in the canton of Peña Blanca, municipality of San Julián, Sonsonate. The incident occurred when the young woman went shopping to celebrate Mother's Day (May 10 in El Salvador), but the case was handled as a gang confrontation ²².

Family, friends and acquaintances have denied the young woman's links to gang structures and, on the contrary, have defended the integrity of the victim, who left behind two orphaned children. Although the family's fear of reprisals from the security forces has meant that the denunciations in this case have not been as intense as in the case of Alfredo Canesa.

Neglect of vulnerable populations. The case of chronic diseases.

During the year 2020, in the midst of efforts to learn about and palliate the effects of COVID-19, hydroxychloroquine was at times an alternative to being considered. The World Health Organization, in its report "Solidarity" proposes four types of treatments for COVID-19, among them hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine. This has had serious consequences for one of the most vulnerable populations in El Salvador. People suffering from chronic, slowly progressing diseases, such as Lupus, for example.

It is known that this drug is used for people with lupus, the foundation of patients with Lupus (Fundalupus) mentions that the lack of hydroxychloroquine was due to the fact that the drug was restricted in order to treat patients with COVID-19. Therefore, the possibility of a culture of self-care and self-medication emerges. This

²² (Beltrán Luna, 2020)

is not a new phenomenon in countries such as El Salvador; however, the pandemic status and the measures adopted tend to aggravate the situation.

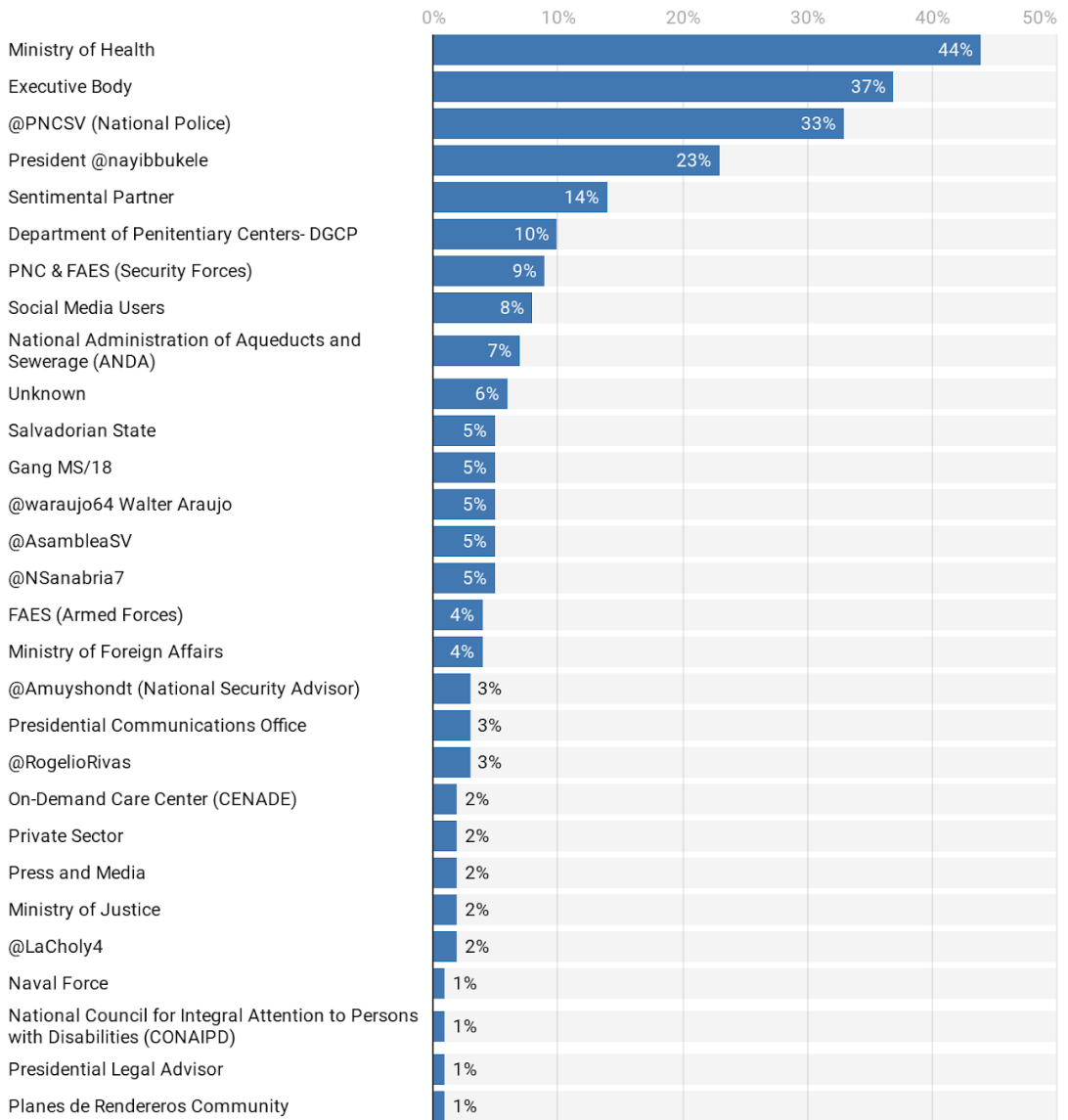
The same foundation expressed through social networks and a journalistic note that only two pharmacies had the drug (private), despite the fact that a large amount of hydroxychloroquine arrived in the country. Through a Tweet from the official account of the press secretary of the presidency of the republic, it is expressed that, "The distribution is part of the 55 thousand 800 units of hydroxychloroquine that the government of President Nayib Bukele received from Novartis laboratories. Yesterday a shipment of 2 million 2 thousand units was received to attend to the emergency".

It was not until late 2020 and early 2021 that some public consultations for patients with chronic diseases were reestablished, this population saw their condition aggravated throughout the pandemic, further exacerbating their invisibility because, despite the fact that the number of deaths from chronic, degenerative, and slow progressing diseases is quite high, the priority revolved around COVID-19.

It is important to emphasize that the main cause is not the pandemic, although it may seem so. Rather, it is a deficient social health system, the result of medicalization, commoditization, hierarchization, and now, a militarization of health. A health system that is dissociated from cultural health systems and far from aspiring to be part of universal health coverage.

Highest Prevalence of Complaints Against Victimizers

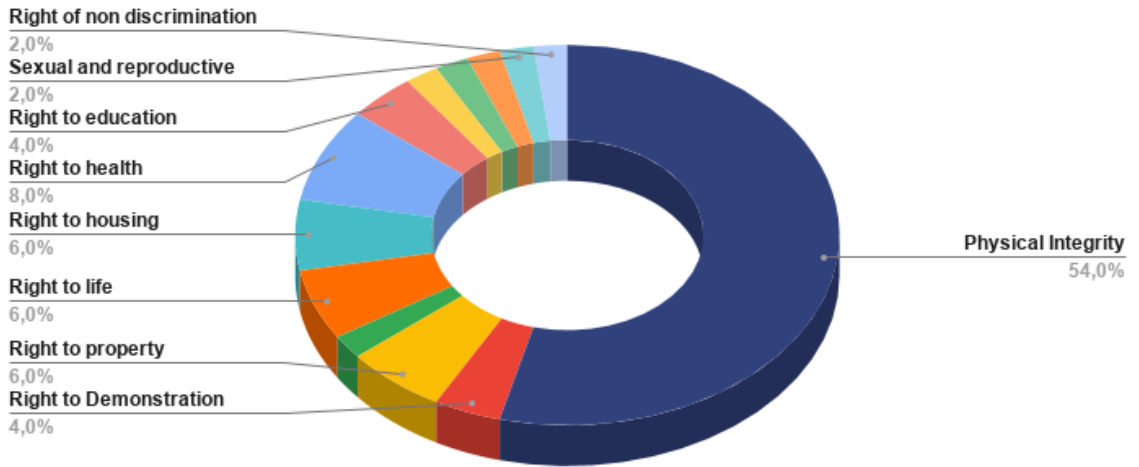
Percentage of complaints registered with the highest frequency in El Salvador.



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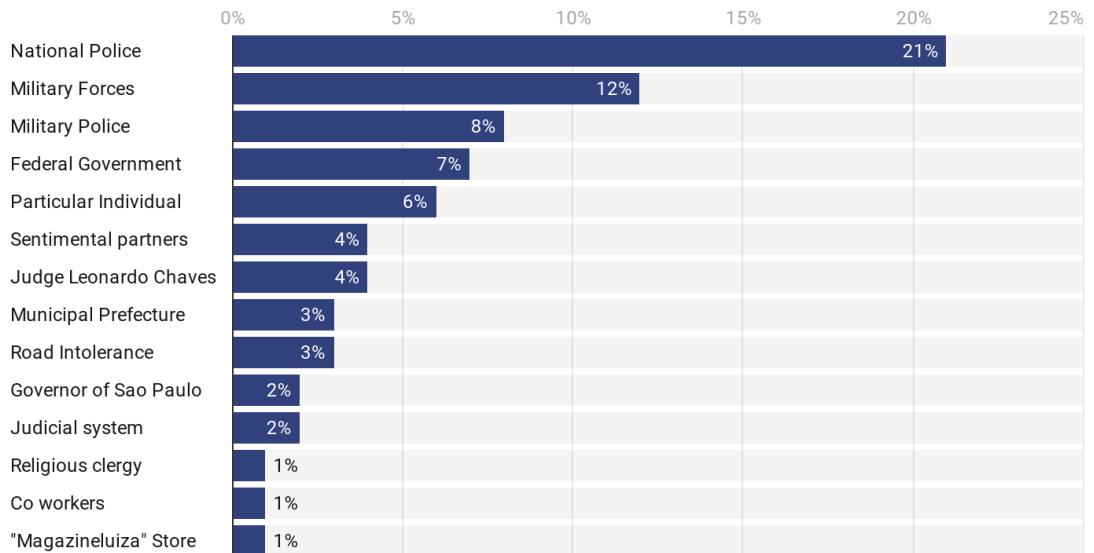
Some data concerning Brazil



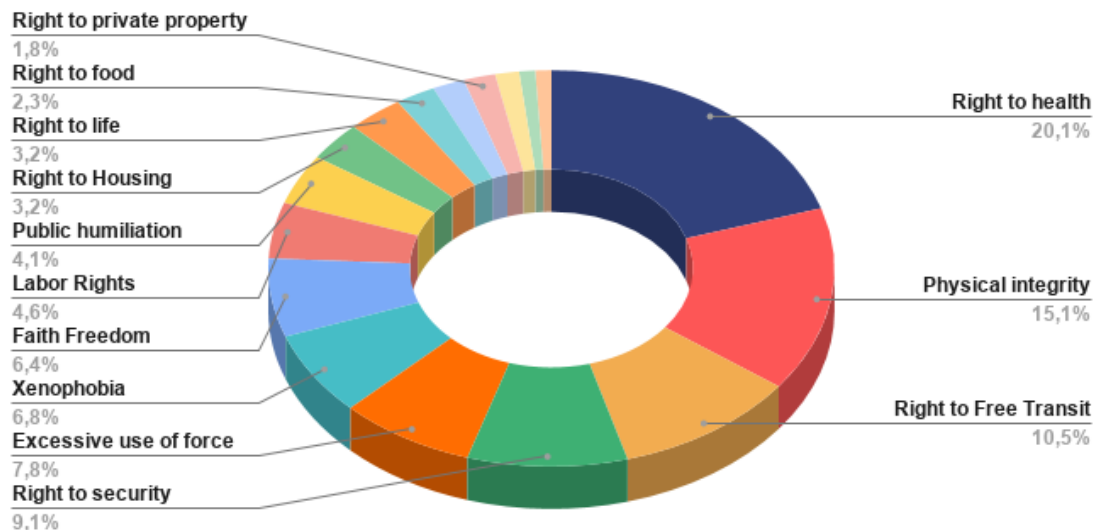
Human Rights Violations with more Prevalence detected in Brazil

Higher Prevalence of Complaints Against Victimizers

Percentage of complaints collected with higher prevalence in Brazil.



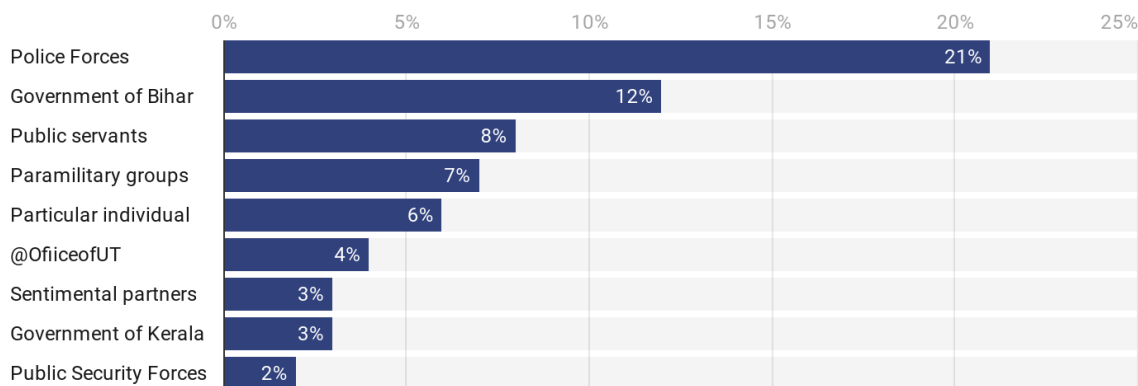
Some data concerning India



Human Rights Violations with more Prevalence detected in India

Higher Prevalence of Complaints Against Victimizers

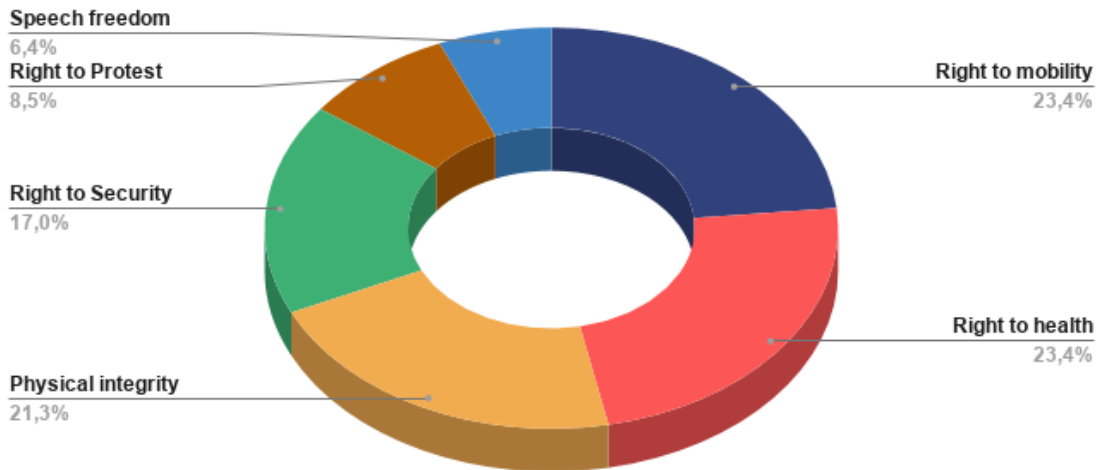
Percentage of complaints collected with higher incidence in India.



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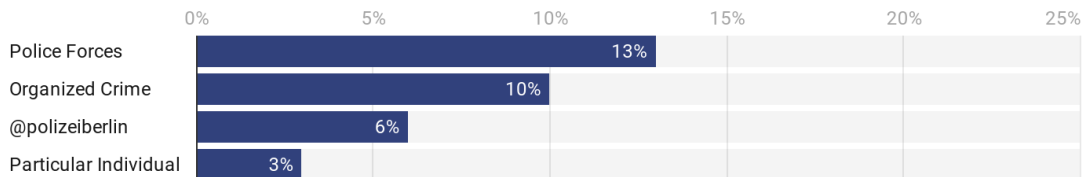
Some data concerning Germany



Human Rights Violations with more Prevalence detected in Germany

Higher Prevalence of Complaints Against Victimizers

Percentage of complaints collected with higher incidence in Germany



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Recommendations

The multidisciplinary team of international experts that has participated in the development of this report and in the monitoring of this observatory considers the following:

- ❖ Although the derogation of some human rights in circumstances of public emergency and the conditions of a derogation are legitimate in the context of COVID-19, **States must ensure that the general measures adopted to address the crisis do not disproportionately harm vulnerable populations.**
- ❖ It is necessary to **recognize that the exceptional situation resulting from the health emergency imposes an additional burden on State structures to deal with complaints, guarantee rights and expedite the judicial system.**
- ❖ Virtuality and teleworking should not be an excuse to justify the delay in the **digitalization of the mechanisms of access to public institutions.** The work of state officials and public comptroller structures should not be limited.
- ❖ It is worrying that the **exceptional situation has been taken advantage of by some States with totalitarian practices -and private groups- to suspend fundamental guarantees such as access to justice, press freedom, informed and previous popular consultation and the suspension of public works.** This situation should be monitored through intersectoral groups.
- ❖ It is necessary to provide adequate funding for entities that promote, defend or preserve human rights.
- ❖ States need to identify the needs for access to institutions and public attention through digital access by means of platforms that are effective, decentralized, open, efficient and immediate, also guaranteeing the proper secure handling of data.
- ❖ The existing gap in access to basic services and internet must be overcome. The health emergency has left rural communities around the world even more isolated. It is recommended that the deficiency of access to basic services, starting with water and electricity, including internet and the

technologies required for the most vulnerable communities, to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

- ❖ States should assume that People Who Use Drugs (PWUD) have been victims of stigmatization even during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - ❖ Overnight shelters should be available for the homeless, with a separation between those who are not infected and those who are infected and need to be quarantined, but do not need hospitalization.
 - ❖ Community centers, day shelters, and drug consumption rooms should counsel and support PWUD in preventing COVID-19 infections.
 - ❖ It is important to ensure access to treatment, continuity and sustainability of harm reduction and other easily accessible services for PWUD during the COVID-19 epidemic.
 - ❖ Provide adequate funding for treatment, harm reduction and other easily accessible service providers.
 - ❖ It is critical that mainly peripheral countries develop innovative policy mechanisms within their post-pandemic recovery plans to achieve progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals especially with regard to goals 10, 16 and 17 effectively.
 - ❖ There is a need to identify pragmatic policies hand in hand with the adoption of emerging technologies that can lead to affordable and humane progress.
-

Annexes

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Rome Consensus 2.0

- <https://romeconsensus.com/>
- COVID-19 Recommendations
 - EN: https://bit.ly/COVID19_EN
 - ES: https://bit.ly/COVID19_ES
 - IT: https://bit.ly/COVID-19_ITR

Berlin Document

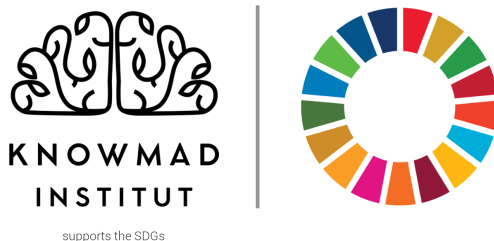
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