



Comissão Pastoral da Terra – National Board  
Communication Office

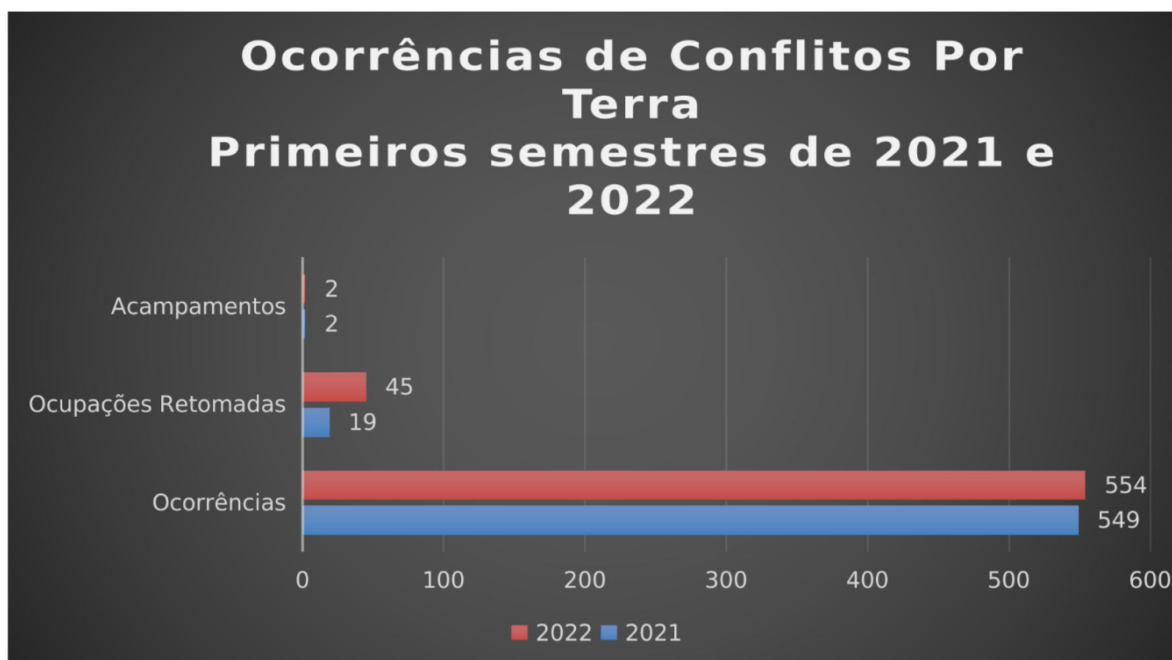
PRESS-RELEASE

### Partial Data: the occurrence of conflicts over land, rescued from slave labor and murders increases in 2022

*In the first half of 2022, the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) registered, through the Dom Tomás Balduino Documentation Center, 759 occurrences of conflicts in the countryside in Brazil, involving a total of 113,654 families. Such numbers correspond to 601 occurrences of conflicts over land, 105 occurrences of conflicts over water, 42 occurrences of labor conflicts (41 cases of slave labor and 1 case of overexploitation), 10 occurrences of conflicts in times of drought and 1 occurrence of conflicts in mining area. The Legal Amazon accounts for more than half of all rural conflicts recorded in the period. In addition, in 2022, so far, the CPT has recorded 33 murders, 25 of which in the first half of the year alone. Five women were murdered, the highest number recorded since 2016.*

In the first half of 2021, 765 occurrences of conflicts were recorded in rural areas, with 124,226 families involved, of which 570 were conflicts over land; 134 conflicts over water and 61 labor conflicts. In the Land Axis, the increase in the number of occurrences of conflicts is 5.44%, while the Water and Labor Axes show a decrease in the number of occurrences, of 21.64% and 31.14%, respectively. It is important to highlight that since 2013 there were no records of Conflicts in Times of Drought, being recorded again in the first half of 2022, mainly as a result of the drought that hit the southern region of Brazil.

From January to June 2022, of the 601 occurrences of conflicts over land, 554 were related to violence against families and/or people, 45 to occupations/repossessions and 2 to occurrences of encampments. In 2021, there were 549 occurrences of violence against families and/or people, 19 of occupations/repossessions and 2 of landless encampments.



It is possible to notice, in the graph, that in 2022 there was a significant increase in the occurrence of occupations/repossessions, of 136.84%. With the cooling of the pandemic, the peoples of the countryside, waters and forests resumed, with intensity, the actions of resistance and struggle for land and permanence in it.

### **Violence against occupation and possession**

Also stands out the growth in the number of families who suffered Threat of Expulsion (4,981 families) and Destruction of Swiddens (1,964 families) in the first half of 2022, compared to the same period in 2021. The growth was 46.54% and 21.33%, respectively. Regarding the Destruction of Swiddens, there is a progressive increase in the number of families affected by this type of violence in the comparison of the first semester of the last four years.

Regarding expulsion data, it is important to highlight the positive impact of the decisions of the Federal Supreme Court (STF) and the National Council of Justice (CNJ) to suspend evictions during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic, starting in March 2020. Threats of eviction gradually decreased in the first half of the three years after 2019, with the same period in 2022 recording a 69.3% lower number of families affected by this violence (4,068 compared to 13,259 in 2019). Evictions had, in the first half of 2021, a number of evicted families 81.75% (1,265) higher than in the same period of 2020 (696), but even so, 71.89% lower than in the first half of 2019 (4,500). In 2022, the first six months of the year had a number of evicted families (436), 90.31% lower than in the same period of the year before the pandemic.

Some violence against occupation and possession started to be recorded from 2019, one of them being Contamination by Agrochemicals, which had the highest percentage of increase in families affected in relation to the first semesters of 2021 and 2022, with an index of 161.34% (2,157 in 2021 and 5,637 in 2022). Then we have Omission/Connivance (31,380 families) with an increase of 108.96%, and Illegal Deforestation (17,672 families), with 7.64%. Contamination by Agrochemicals has been progressively reaching families since 2019, reaching the record in the first six months of 2022, a number 376.50% higher than the same period of 2019 (1183 families).

It is noteworthy how serious the increase in conflicts over agrochemicals contamination is, because, in addition to directly harming the health of rural peoples and communities, it also causes contamination of water and healthy foods that supply the tables of Brazilian society. The Santa Rita de Cássia II settlement, in Nova Santa Rita, in the metropolitan region of Porto Alegre (RS), for example, has been suffering constant losses in its agroecological production because it borders Granja Nenê, which uses aerial spraying of pesticides in their crops. The settlement even discarded 70% to 100% of its production due to contamination. The certification of organic production of their food was also lost. This conflict has been going on since 2020, and even with the decision of the Federal Regional Court of the 4th Region (TRF4), of 2021, prohibiting farms in the region from spraying poison, and with municipal law 1.680/21 sanctioned by the local city hall determining the same, the families of the Santa Rita de Cássia II settlement continue to be victims of this type of crime.

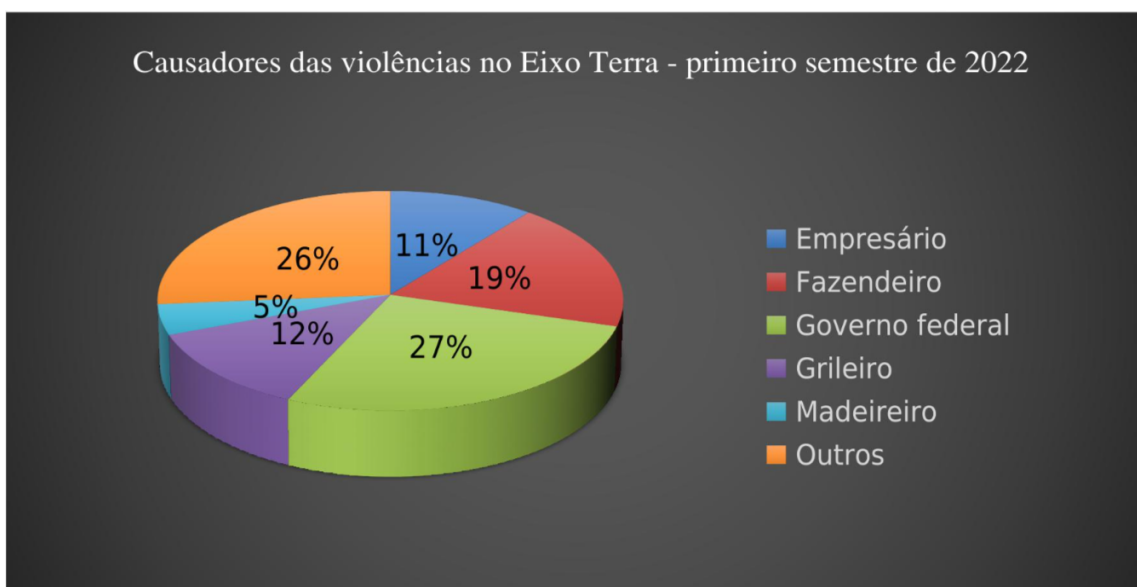
In the case of violence identified as Omission/Connivance, the main causative agent of these are, almost exclusively, the governments of the three spheres of power, with the Federal Government being responsible for 78.65% of the occurrences, the state government for 8.99% and the municipal government by 6.74%. Of the types of violence caused by the Federal Government, the occurrences of Omission/Connivance represent 94% of the total, and mainly affected quilombolas and indigenous people.

### **Increase in the occurrence of conflicts over land and the number of victims of these conflicts**

The number of occurrences of Land Conflicts in the first half of 2022 increased by 5.44%, based on the same period last year. In relation to the social subjects who suffered actions of violence and who caused the violence, we have the following graphics:



With more than a third of the percentage of violence suffered in Land Axis, there are indigenous people, followed by quilombolas (with almost a quarter of that percentage), landless, squatters and settlers. Among the causes of these conflicts, at the forefront of actions, is the Federal Government (with more than a quarter of the percentage of violence committed), followed by farmers, businessmen, land grabbers and illegal loggers.

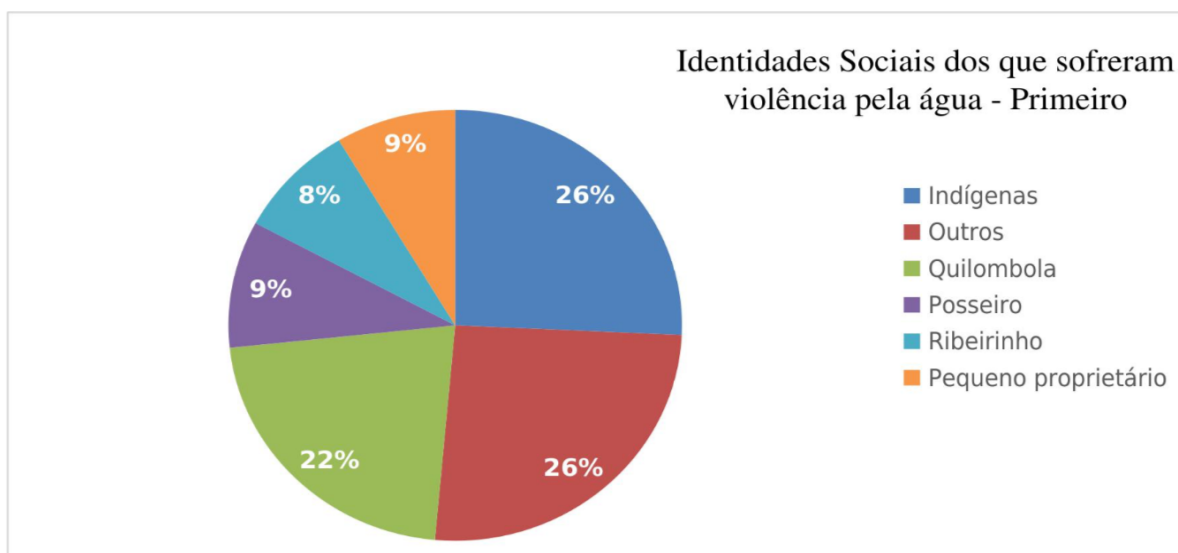


The Federal Government remains the main agent causing violence in Land Axis in the first half of 2022, after being the third in the proportion of violence committed in the first half of 2021. The peak of this agent's violent actions took place during the first half of 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

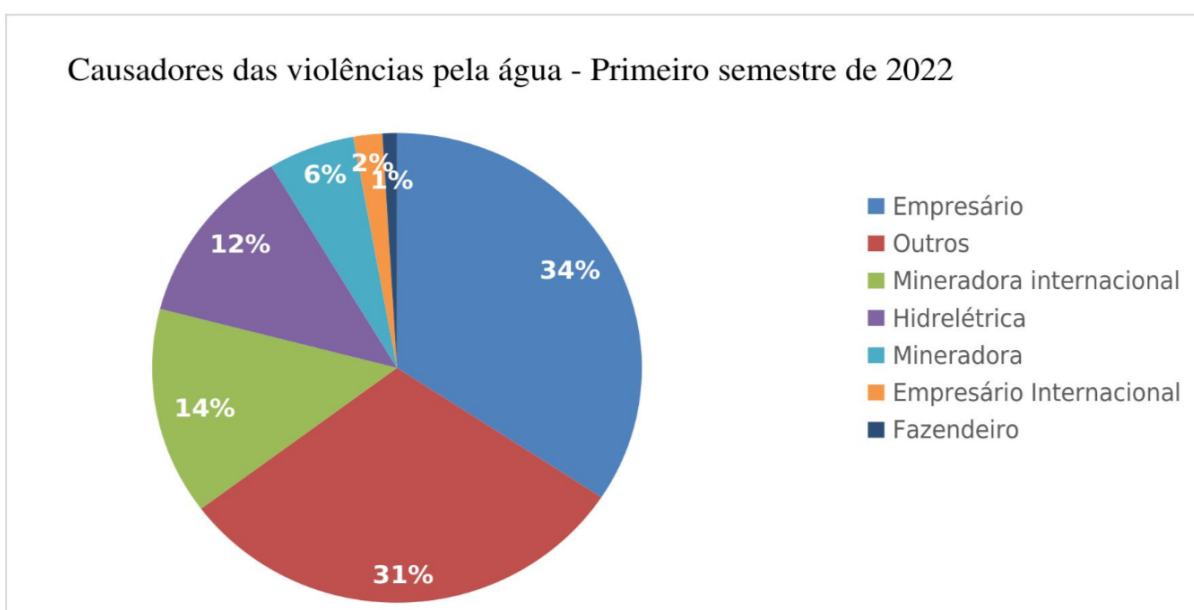
### Conflicts over Water

In the first half of 2022, CPT recorded 105 occurrences of conflicts over water, involving 29,163 families. In the same period of 2021, 134 occurrences were recorded with the involvement of 28,090 families. Thus, there was a decrease in the number of occurrences, but, on the other hand, an increase in the number of families involved.

The social identities that suffered the most from conflicts over water were the indigenous people (26%), followed by the quilombolas (22%) and the riverine people, squatters and small landowners.



The main agents that caused conflicts over water were entrepreneurs (34%), followed by international mining companies (14%) and hydroelectric plants (12%).



## **Violence against the person: children and adolescents in the crosshairs of death during the Bolsonaro government**

Violence against people is recorded in all Axes of conflict covered by CPT data - Land, Water and Labor - as well as in other forms of conflict that are part of the CPT's view of the countryside, such as drought and of illegal mining. Most of the violence against people data refers to conflicts over land.

The main types of violence against people that occurred in the first half of 2022 were arrests, representing 16.82% of the total, followed by assassination attempts, with 10.28%, intimidation, with 9.35%, and death threats with 9.35%.

### **In 2022, CPT recorded 33 murders (recorded up to 10/05/2022) due to conflicts in the Brazilian rural area, 25 of which occurred in the first half of the year.**

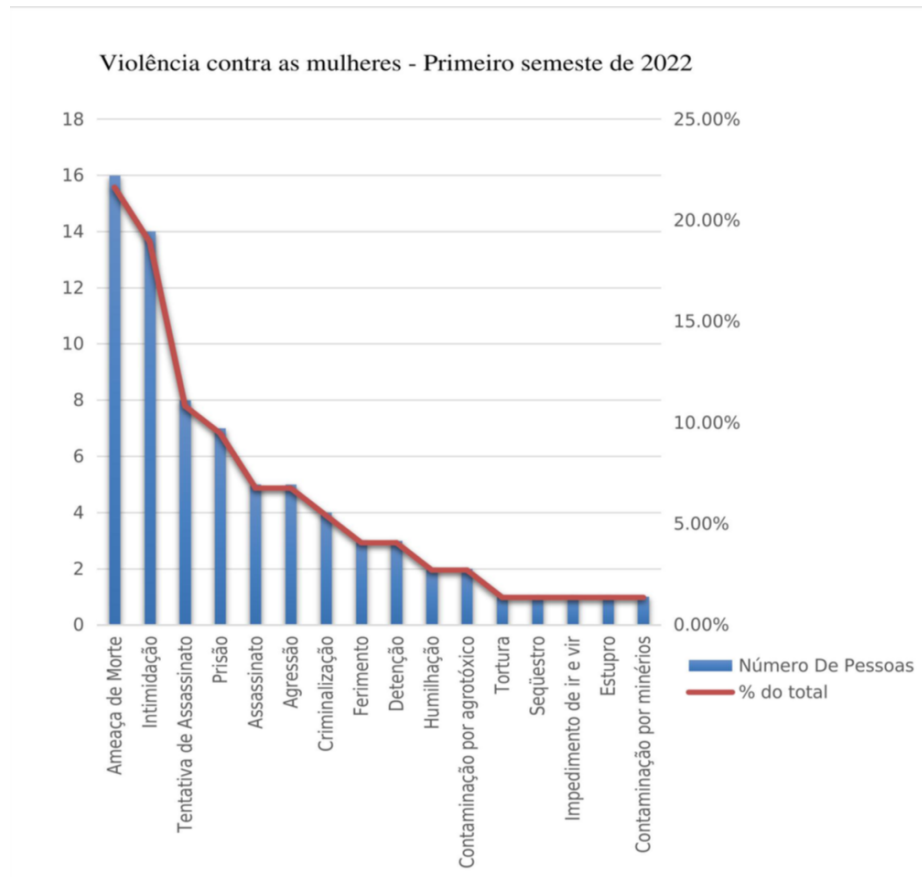
Compared to the first half of 2021, the increase for the current year was 150% in the number of murders, with the rate of 30.30% of murders recorded this year related to gunshot, the highest percentage since 2018. After the peak of 2020, when 60% of the murders were related to the invasion of territories, in 2022 this percentage reaches 16%, the second highest proportion of this time frame. Of the 158 territories where there were murders between 2016 and 2022, in at least 46% of the cases there was some occurrence of gunshots in the same period. In addition, nearly a quarter of recorded killings took place in territories where threats of eviction have occurred.

One specific piece of data draws attention when the murders in rural conflicts are analyzed. Children and adolescents became the target of this type of violence during the Bolsonaro government. From 2019 to 2022, 7 children and adolescents were killed in the Brazilian countryside, 4 of which were indigenous. In addition to the seriousness of the murder of children and young people, it is necessary to reflect, with a focus on these cases, on the attempt to murder the country's future. The future, in the same way, of the permanence of the traditional peoples and communities in their territories.

### **Violence against women**

In the first half of 2022, CPT recorded that 74 women were victims of violence in rural conflicts. The main types of violence against women in this period were death threats, with 21.62% of the total, followed by intimidation, with 18.92%, and attempted murder, with 10.81%.

**In the first half of 2022, five women were murdered, the highest number recorded since 2016.**



**In the Legal Amazon, more than half of the Conflicts in Rural Areas in Brazil were recorded in the first six months of 2022**

When analyzing the data referring to the Legal Amazon, it is noted that in the first half of 2022 there was a 33% increase in the registration of conflicts in rural areas compared to the same period last year. There were 425 occurrences of these conflicts, involving 65,974 families, which also represents 55.85% of all rural conflicts recorded in the country. Of these, there were 345 occurrences of conflicts over land, 63 occurrences of conflicts over water, 16 occurrences of labor conflicts (15 cases of slave labor and 1 case of overexploitation) and 1 occurrence of conflicts in an area of illegal mining. In the same period of 2021, 320 rural conflicts were registered in the Legal Amazon, involving 67,668 families, of which 251 were conflicts over land; 52 conflicts over water; and 17 labor disputes.

Of the total conflicts over land recorded in the Legal Amazon, 339 were occurrences of violence against occupation and possession and/or against people, in addition to 6 occupations, thus representing 57.40% of the total conflicts over land recorded in the country in the first half of 2022. The biggest victims of conflicts over land registered in the Legal Amazon were indigenous people (36%), followed by quilombolas (25%), and squatters (13%).

**Labor Conflicts/Rural Slave Labor**

Partial data for the first half of 2022 indicate a growth trend in people freed from the condition of work analogous to slavery, with the highest number of freed people in the last 10 years having been cataloged in this period (743). This number is 4.5% higher than that

recorded in the same period in 2021, which had the second highest number of people freed in the last ten years. Regarding the number of cases of slave labor, during the first half of 2022 (41) a 32.78% lower number was recorded compared to the same period of 2021 (61).

The main economic activities in which this type of conflict was identified in the first six months of 2022 were: eucalyptus, charcoal, sugar cane and soy. When comparing the number of workers reporting rural slave labor, an increase of 5.35% was verified comparing the first half of 2022 (850) with 2021 (807).

**More info:**

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