

OBSERVATORY
OF POLITICAL AND
ELECTORAL VIOLENCE
IN BRAZIL (UNIRIO)

SPECIAL REPORT



Overview of political and electoral violence in the first and second rounds of the 2024 brazilian municipal elections

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INTRODUCTION

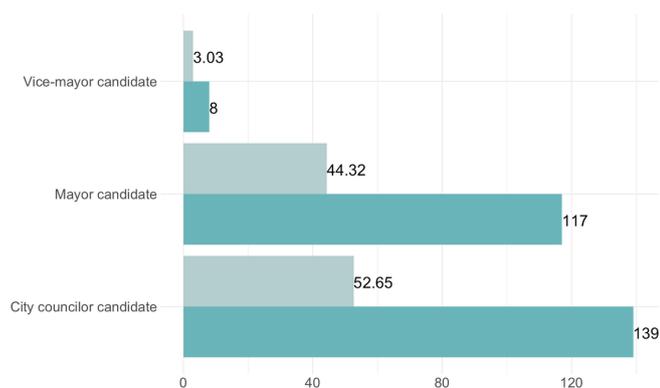
The goal of this OVPE report is to present observations of political and electoral violence seen in the 2024 Brazilian municipal elections. We will work with cases from August 16th (formal start to campaigning) and October 27th (second round of elections).

Throughout our monitoring, which first started in 2019, we have been able to observe that municipal elections appear to concentrate higher rates of violence towards the political leaders involved with them. Since a case-by-case evaluation of the motivations for violence is beyond our exploratory capacity, we will highlight the occurrences that took place within the electoral campaign cycle, as well as on election days.

VIOLENCE IN NUMBERS

From the beginning of campaigning to the second round of the 2024 elections, OVPE registered 328 cases of violence against political leaders and/or their families. Out of those, 264 (80.5%) were linked to politicians with active candidacy.

Figure 1. Distribution of cases by political office in dispute

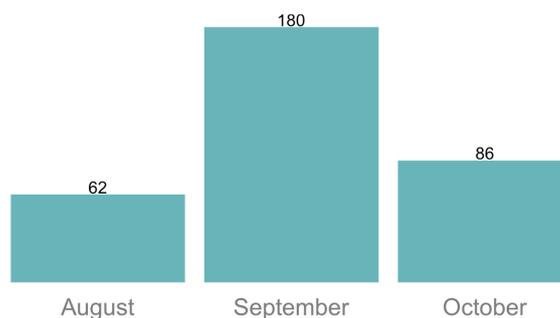


Source: OVPE

Candidates were the most targeted category within our period of analysis. Figure 1, seen above [1], shows the distribution of violent cases among political offices in dispute. We can observe a balance in the

records involving City Council candidates (52.7%) and mayoralty (47.3%).

Figure 2. Distribution of cases by month



Source: OVPE

Figure 2 shows the distribution of violence cases throughout the entire period of campaigning and voting turns (August-October). We can see a higher concentration of cases in September, which is the month preceding the first voting round in the municipal elections.

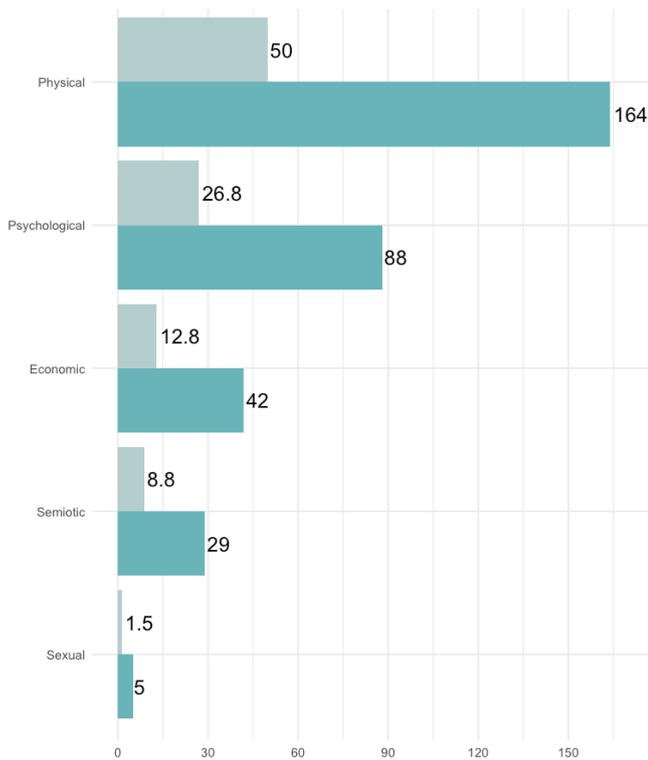
TYPES OF VIOLENCE

This section analyzes the most common types of violence used against political leaders during the most acute period of the electoral cycle. Based on the typology seen in our codebook, we adopted five main categories: physical, psychological, sexual, economic and semiotic violence. Figure 3 shows that physical violence stands out with 164 observations (50%), from which most represent assaults. We also registered 62 attempted homicides, and 26 completed homicides. The most violent states are São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, with 19 and 13 cases, respectively.

Psychological violence comes next with 88 cases (26.8%) that represent different forms of threats and intimidation. Economic violence is observed in 42 cases (12.8%), semiotic violence in 29 cases (8.8%), and sexual violence in 5 cases (1.5%).

[1] In the Brazilian municipal elections, three main political offices were disputed: councilor ("vereador"), mayor ("prefeito") and vice-mayor ("vice-prefeito"). The councilors are elected by a proportional election (PR electoral system) in a single turn. The mayors and vice-mayors are elected by a majority election (SM electoral system), which could occur in one or two turns.

Figure 3. Types of Violence



Source: OVPE

In 2024, OVPE began cataloging whether violence was conducted via digital/online interactions. Within the municipal elections period, we registered 60 (18.3%) cases of violence that took place in the digital/online environment.

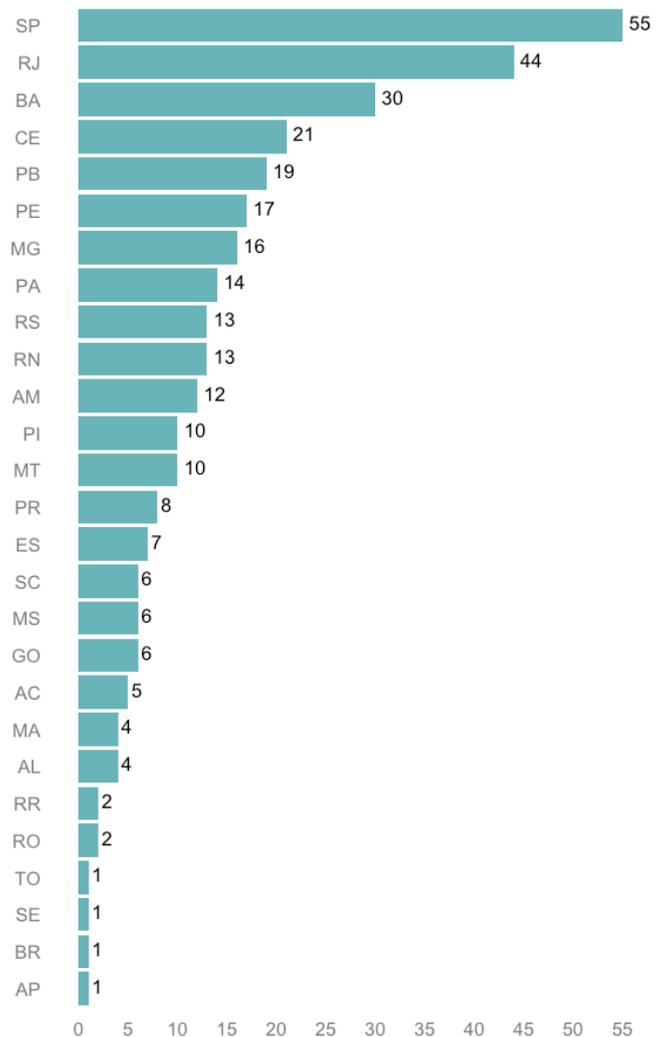
THE GEOGRAPHY OF VIOLENCE

Looking at the spatial distribution of cases [2], we were able to see that violence occurs in all five regions of the country and especially in the Southeast (122 cases; 37.2%) and the Northeast (119 episodes; 36.3%). Figure 4 shows that 26 Brazilian states

[2] Brazil has 26 states, in five geographical regions: Southeast ("Sudeste", composed of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Espírito Santo), Northeast ("Nordeste", composed of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe), North ("Norte", composed of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima and Tocantins), Midwest ("Centro-Oeste", composed of Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and the Federal District) and South ("Sul", composed of Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina).

reported cases, in addition to one episode related to the overall national sphere (BR), in which the victim was linked to the federal government. São Paulo leads the ranking with 55 cases (16.8%), followed by Rio de Janeiro (44 cases; 13.4%), Bahia (30 cases, 9.1%), Ceará (21 cases, 6.4%) and Paraíba (19 cases; 5.8%).

Figure 4. Frequency of cases by state



Source: OVPE

VICTIMS' SOCIAL IDENTITIES

In this section, we seek to deepen our understanding of who are the leaders victims of violence. To achieve that, we focus on the gender and racial self-identification variables in our dataset, which are drawn from the Brazilian Superior Electoral Court (TSE) data on candidates.

Gender and race are declared by candidates to TSE at the moment of candidacy registration [3]. Table 1, seen below, shows a greater concentration of men (68.9%) as victims of political violence. This data is aligned to previous OVPE reports and largely illustrates the overrepresentation of men in public life. It is worth noting, however, that 102 (31.1%) women who were victims of political violence exceeds the total percentage of women in Brazilian politics, be it in registered candidacies or in formal political office positions.

Table 1. Victims' social identities

Gender	Victims	Percentage
Men	226	68.9
Women	102	31.1
Color/race	Victims	Percentage
Asian	2	0.6
Black	50	15.2
Brown/Mixed	105	32.0
Indigenous	1	0.3
Not available	12	3.7
White	158	48.2

Source: OVPE

In terms of racial distribution, we can see a balance between white people (48.2%) and black and brown/mixed (pardos) people (47.2%). The remainder of victims (4.6%) are Asian-Brazilian people, Indigenous peoples, or leaders whose racial identification is not available to TSE. The balance

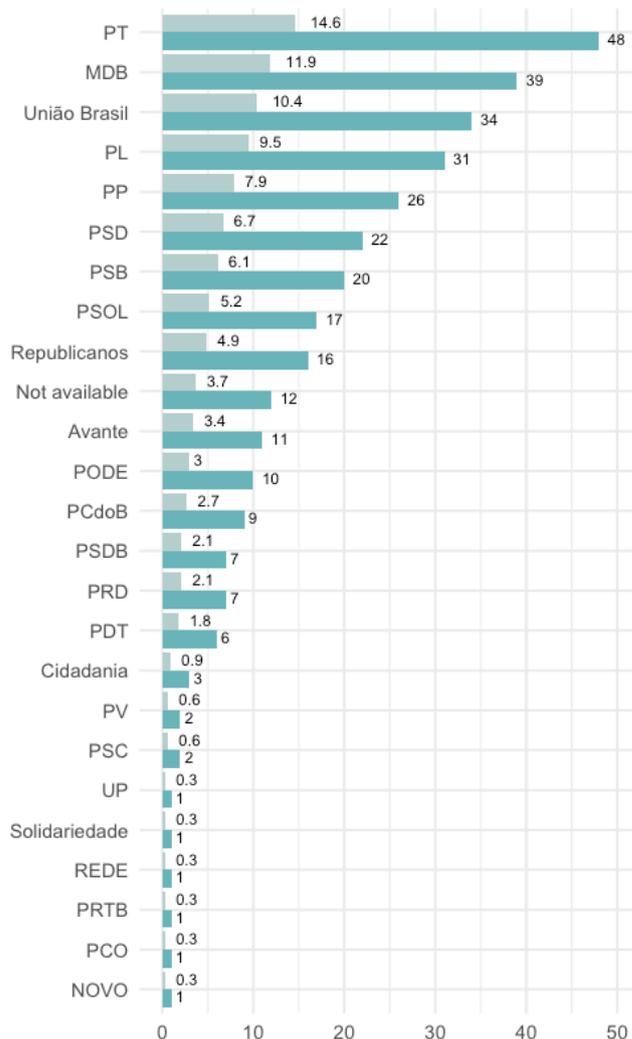
[3] Regarding the gender of the victims, the OVPE mobilizes the categories used by the Brazilian Superior Electoral Court (TSE), which organizes them in a binary manner: "female" or "male". There is no information about trans or cisgender people or even their sexual orientation. Regarding self-declared color/race, the OVPE also mobilizes the five categories TSE uses according to the Brazilian Institute of Geographical and Statistics (IBGE): Asian ("Amarelo"), Black ("Preta"), Brown/Mixed ("Parda"), Indigenous ("Indígena") and White ("Branca"). Moreover, in Brazil, brown/mixed ("pardo"), is a broad racial category to refer to people of mixed race.

between white and black/brown people does not reflect the rates of leaders of each race who are actually elected. In addition to the data on victims' gender, there is evidence that more in-depth studies must be conducted to investigate possible trends involving minority leaders in Brazil.

PARTY AFFILIATION

In our period of analysis, twenty four political parties had, at least, one member who was a target of violence. Figure 5, seen below, shows that Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) leads the ranking with 48 cases (14.6%), followed by Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (MDB), with 39 cases (11.9%), União Brasil, with 34 cases (10.4%) and Partido Liberal (PL), with 31 cases (9.5).

Figure 5. Victims' Political Affiliation



Source: OVPE

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