September 23, 2026

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
National Benefits Center
P.O. Box 25920
Overland Park, KS 66225

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

MSC2690174028

A242-888-322

ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO
c/o OTAVIO HAVERROTH SILVA
HS LAW CORP
PO BOX 90487
SAN DIEGO, CA 92169

RE: ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO
I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant

REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE (FORM I-360)

Dear ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO:

Why We Are Writing You

On March 11, 2026, you submitted your I-360. We are writing to inform you we need more information from you to make a decision on your case. Please read this letter carefully and follow all of the instructions below.

What You Need To Do

You must provide the following information in order for us to make a final decision on your case. **Please include a copy of ALL pages of this letter with your response.**

USCIS' consent determination is an acknowledgment the request for SIJ classification is bona fide, which means a primary reason the required juvenile court determinations were sought was to obtain relief from parental abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis under State law. See 8 CFR 204.11(b)(5). In exercising its consent function, USCIS therefore looks to the juvenile court's determinations, the factual basis supporting those determinations, and the relief provided or recognized by the juvenile court. Such relief may include custodial placement, dependency on the court for the provision of child welfare services, and/or other court-ordered or recognized protective or remedial relief. See 8 CFR 204.11(d)(5)(i)(A) and (B).

You have provided USCIS with a copy of *Order Regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings* from the State of Utah. The court order found, among other things, that it would not be in your best interest to return to Brazil. However, the documents submitted do not show by a preponderance of the evidence that DHS consent is warranted as they do not provide the factual basis for the court's determination of why it would not be in your best interest to be returned to your country of nationality or last habitual residence. Without the factual basis for the juvenile court's findings, we are unable to determine whether the primary reason you sought the juvenile court order was to obtain relief from parental maltreatment.

USCIS does not require specific documents to establish the factual basis for the judicial determinations, nor does it require the entire record considered by the court. However, the burden is on the petitioner to show USCIS consent is warranted. INA 101(a)(27)(J)(iii); 8 CFR 204.11(b)(5). Please provide USCIS with documentation which demonstrates the factual basis for the juvenile court's determinations. Examples of acceptable documentation include, but are not limited to:

- Any supporting documents submitted to the juvenile court, if available,
- The petition or complaint for dependency or custody or other documents which initiated the juvenile court proceedings,
- Court transcripts,
- Affidavits summarizing the evidence presented to the court or records from the judicial proceedings, and
- Affidavits or records consistent with the determinations made by the court.

When You Need To Do It

You must send the requested information by mail to the address shown below by October 26, 2026. You must submit all of the requested evidence at one time. If you submit only part of the evidence, we will make a decision based on the evidence you submit. We will not consider any evidence submitted after the due date. If you do not respond to this request by the date shown above, we will deny your case.

If you submit a document in any language other than English, you must provide: (1) a copy of the original document in its foreign language; and (2) a full English translation of the document. The translator must certify the translation is complete and accurate, and he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language to English.

We strongly recommend you keep a copy of all documents you submit to USCIS in response to this request.

The issuance of this notice does not toll, restart, or suspend the adjudicative processing time required under Section 235(d)(2) of the TVPRA 2008. While you must respond before the due date indicated on this notice, USCIS can issue a final decision on your petition more promptly if you respond sooner.

Please include a copy of ALL pages of this letter with your response.

Submit your response with requested document(s), information, etc. to this address:

Regular Mail	Express Mail or Courier Deliveries
U.S. Department of Homeland Security	**National Benefits Center, USCIS**
PO Box 25920	7600B West 119th Street
Overland Park, KS 66225	Overland Park, KS 66213

Please do not forget to include a copy of ALL pages of this letter with your response.

Sincerely,



Rose M. Kendrick
Acting Director

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
P.O Box 25920
Overland Park, KS 66225

RE: Response to the Request for Evidence
Petitioner: Rosana da Silva Araujo (A242-888-322)
Receipt Number of Form I-360: MSC2690174028

Dear Sir or Madam,

This office represents the Petitioner, **Rosana da Silva Araujo**, in connection with her Form I-360 Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification. Enclosed please find Petitioner's timely response to the Request for Evidence (RFE) issued on September 23, 2026.

I. Procedural Context and Applicable Legal Standard

On January 26, 2026, the Fourth District Juvenile Court of Utah County, State of Utah, issued an Order Regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings. The state court determined that: (1) Petitioner is dependent on the juvenile court; (2) Reunification with Petitioner's father is not viable due to abuse, neglect, and abandonment, and reunification with her mother is not viable due to neglect; (3) It is not in Petitioner's best interest to return to her country of nationality, Brazil. ***See Exhibit 1.***

In the Request for Evidence dated September 23, 2026, USCIS requested additional evidence establishing the factual basis for the juvenile court's determination that returning to Brazil is not in Petitioner's best interest.

II. Legal Standard and Scope of USCIS Consent Review

Under 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(d)(5) and controlling USCIS policy, USCIS's consent function requires reviewing the juvenile court order and supporting evidence to conclude that the request for SIJ classification is bona fide, establishing that a primary reason the determinations were sought was to obtain relief from parental abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis under state law. In exercising this function, USCIS relies on the expertise of the juvenile court in making child welfare decisions and does not reweigh the evidence to determine if the child was subjected to maltreatment. Furthermore, USCIS defers to the juvenile court in making best interest determinations and does not require the court to conduct any analysis other than what is required under state law.

With respect to the best-interest determination, USCIS policy explicitly instructs that where the juvenile court places or recognizes the child under the care of a caregiver in the United States under state law governing dependency proceedings, and the record reflects that the caregiver provides a safe, loving home and is best suited to care for the child, this constitutes a sufficient factual basis to warrant DHS consent.

As affirmed in *Matter of D-E-X-C-*, Adopted Decision 2022-01 (AAO Oct. 12, 2022), where a state court order synthesizes its ultimate judicial findings, petitioners establish the requisite factual basis by submitting the supplemental state court record, including initiating pleadings and supporting affidavits

considered by or consistent with the court's findings. Petitioner explicitly preserves all administrative claims and statutory rights under the INA, 8 C.F.R. § 204.11, and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. § 706, noting that substituting the state court's child-welfare evaluation with an administrative re-assessment would exceed federal consent limits. ***See Exhibits 2-4.***

II. Factual Basis for the Juvenile Court's Best Interest Determination

The Utah Juvenile Court Order independently contains the requisite factual basis required by 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(d)(5). Nevertheless, and without conceding that any additional evidence is legally required, Petitioner submits the underlying state-court record and corroborating documentation out of an abundance of caution to eliminate any question regarding the evidentiary foundation considered by the Juvenile Court:

1. Safe Placement with Caregiver in the United States

As specifically found in Finding of Fact No. 6 of the Utah Juvenile Court Order, Petitioner resides in the United States under the care of her cousin, Larissa Araujo Santos. Under her cousin's care, Petitioner is provided with a secure home, emotional support, and the environment needed to complete her education safely. Under USCIS policy, this safe placement in the United States independently provides a sufficient factual basis for the court's best-interest finding. ***See Exhibit 1; See also Exhibit 4.***

2. Severe Paternal Abuse and Lack of Parental Protection in Brazil

As set forth in the initiating state-court dependency petition ***(See Exhibit 2)*** and corroborated by Petitioner's personal declaration ***(See Exhibit 3)*** and her caregiver's statement ***(See Exhibit 4)***, Petitioner was subjected to prolonged physical and psychological abuse by her biological father due to his chronic alcoholism and drug addiction. Finding of Fact No. 3 of the Utah Juvenile Court Order further confirms that Petitioner's biological mother maintained no consistent relationship or contact with her, providing no protection or maternal care.

3. Absence of Safe Custodial Placement or Support in Home Country

Petitioner has no fit parent in Brazil able or willing to provide shelter, care, or protection. As recognized in Conclusion of Law No. 4 of the Utah Juvenile Court Order, returning Petitioner to Brazil would expose her to credible, ongoing threats to her safety without adequate protection. **See Exhibit 1.** The enclosed declarations are explicitly framed as corroborative evidence of pre-existing historical facts already recognized by the State Court. ***See Exhibits 3-4.*** This record directly addresses the RFE and demonstrates that the Juvenile Court's order is supported by an ample factual foundation.

Conclusion

The submitted record establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the Utah Juvenile Court's determinations are supported by a reasonable factual basis and that DHS consent is fully warranted under INA § 101(a)(27)(J) and 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(d)(5). Petitioner respectfully requests that USCIS grant DHS consent and approve her Form I-360 Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Please find enclosed all requested documentation:

I. **Order Regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings;**
II. **State Court Pleadings: Petition for Adjudication of Dependency & Utah Juvenile Court SIJ Order;**
III. **Rosana Da Silva Araujo Declaration with English Translation;**
IV. **Larissa Araujo Santos Declaration with English Translation;**

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me using the information listed below.

Sincerely,



_____ 10/14/2026

Otavio Haverroth Silva
SBN#343486
(510) 241-9336

Exhibit list

Exhibits:	Pages:
Exhibit 1 - Order Regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings	
Signed Utah Juvenile Court Order Regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings	1-2
Exhibit 2 - Copy of Initial State Court Pleadings: Petition for Adjudication of Dependency and Request for Special Findings	
Copy of Initial State Court Pleadings: Petition for Adjudication of Dependency and Request for Special Findings	3-85
Exhibit 3 - Rosana Da Silva Araujo Declaration with English Translation (Dated: October 7, 2026)	
Rosana's Personal Declaration	86-91
Exhibit 4 - Larissa Araujo Santos Declaration with English Translation (Dated: October 15, 2026)	
Larissa's Personal Declaration	92-96

Exhibit 1 - Order Regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings

FOURTH DISTRICT JUVENILE COURT
FOR UTAH COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

STATE OF UTAH, in the interest of	ORDER REGARDING SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE FINDINGS
Da Silva Araujo, Rosana 03-15-2008	Case No. 1258731
A person under the age of 18 years	Judge Jared Anderson

This matter having come before the Court on the Petition for Predicate Findings in Support of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status filed on behalf of ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO, and the Court having reviewed the pleadings, affidavits, and other materials submitted, and having considered the best interests of the Minor, hereby makes the following FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. The Minor, Rosana Da Silva Araujo, was born on March 15, 2008, in Brasilia - Federal District, Brazil.

2. The Minor currently resides at 3613 W 2740 N, Lehi, Utah 84043, within the jurisdiction of this Court.

3. The Minor has had no consistent relationship or contact with her biological mother, Raquel Aparecida Da Silva, except for limited financial support.

4. The Minor was subjected to prolonged and severe physical and psychological abuse by her biological father, Ronaldo Araujo Martins.

5. The Minor?s father struggles with drug addiction and severe alcoholism that has caused serious health issues.

6. The Minor fled Brazil in fear for her life and currently resides in the United States under

Continued on next page

the care of her cousin, Larissa Araujo Santos.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. This Court has jurisdiction under Utah Code §§ 78A-6-103 and 78A-6-117 and authority to make the findings set forth herein pursuant to 8 U.Sx.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J) and 8 C.F.R. § 204.11.

2. The Minor is dependent upon this Court and has been placed under its jurisdiction.

3. Reunification with the Minor's father is not viable due to abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Reunification with the Minor's mother is not viable due to neglect.

4. It is not in the best interest of the Minor to return to Brazil due to the credible and ongoing threats to her safety and the failure of the government there to provide adequate protection.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. The Minor is declared dependent upon this Court.

2. Reunification with one or both of the Minor's parents is not viable due to abandonment, neglect and abuse.

3. It is not in the Minor?s best interest to return to her country of nationality, Brazil.

4. These findings are made to enable the Minor to petition the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for classification as a Special Immigrant Juvenile pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J).

SIGNED BY THE COURT

/s/ Judge Jared M Anderson

and filed on 01-26-2026 09:02 AM

Exhibit 2 - Copy of Initial State Court Pleadings: Petition for Adjudication of Dependency and Request for Special Findings

JOSE A. LOAYZA
Jose A. Loayza & Associates
231 E 400 S, Ste. 310
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Telephone: (801) 883-9129
Email: jose@loayzalaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner

4th DISTRICT JUVENILE COURT
75 East 80 North, Suite 201, American Fork, UT 84003

IN THE INTEREST OF: **ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO,** a minor	**PETITION FOR ADJUDICATION OF DEPENDENCY AND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL FINDINGS PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE § 80-3-505**

PETITION FOR DEPENDENCY

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, **Rosana Da Silva Araujo,** a minor child, by and through her undersigned attorney, **Jose A. Loayza**, and respectfully petitions this Court for an adjudication of dependency and special findings pursuant to **Utah Code § 80-3-505** to establish eligibility for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) under **8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J)**. In support of this Petition, the Petitioner states as follows:

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has **jurisdiction** over this matter pursuant to **Utah Code § 78A-6-103** and **§ 80-3-102**, as it is a juvenile court case concerning a child found in the state of Utah.
2. Venue is proper in **Utah County, Utah**, as Petitioner **resides in Lehi, Utah** with her older **cousin, Larissa Araujo Santos**, and is under the care and custody of said family member.
3. This Court has authority to make findings regarding dependency and special immigrant juvenile findings under Utah law.

II. CHILD'S BACKGROUND

4. Petitioner, Rosana, is a 17-year-old minor, born on March 15, 2008, in Brasilia – Federal District, Brazil.
5. Petitioner currently resides at:
6. 3613 W 2740 N, Lehi, Utah 84043, under the guardianship of her older cousin, Larissa.

7. Petitioner's biological mother, Raquel Aparecida Da Silva, resides in Brazil, and has neglected, and failed to provide care for Petitioner, making reunification with her not viable.

8. Petitioner's biological father, Ronaldo Araujo Martins, resides in Brazil and is unable to provide a safe and stable home for Petitioner due to his drug addiction, severe alcoholism and serious health issues.

9. **Exhibit A – Identity & Immigration Status**

    - **Copy of Petitioner's Brazilian Passport**
    - **Copy of Petitioner's Visa**
    - **Copy of Petitioner's Birth Certificate with Accompanying Certified English Translation**
    - **Copy of Petitioner's I-94**

III. BASIS FOR DEPENDENCY

10. Petitioner was born and raised in Brazil, where she experienced extreme hardship due to her father's drug addiction, alcoholism, and prolonged physical and psychological abuse. On top of lack of parental protection from her mother.

11. **Exhibit B –Rosana's Personal Statement (Affidavit)**
    - **Affidavit of Rosana Da Silva Araujo**

12. Petitioner has feared for her life and knew that **returning to her father or staying in Brazil was not an option**, as she had no parental protection.

13. Petitioner **fled Brazil** and entered the **United States on August 18, 2023**, seeking safety and protection.

14. Since arriving in Utah, Petitioner has been under the care of **her older cousin, Larissa,** who provides her with a safe and stable environment.

15. Petitioner has **no criminal record,** has complied with all **immigration proceedings,** and is seeking **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) to lawfully remain in the United States.**

Exhibit C – Sworn Affidavits from Family

- Affidavit from Rosana's Cousin and Caretaker
    - Larissa Araujo Santos

IV. REQUEST FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE FINDINGS

16. Under **Utah Code § 80-3-505**, the Court may make factual findings that a minor **cannot reunify with one or both parents due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment**, and that it **is not in the minor's best interest to return to their home country.**
17. Abuse and Neglect by Petitioner's Father:

- Petitioner's father, **Ronaldo Araujo Martins**, has **never provided financial, emotional, or parental support.**
- Petitioner was left to **fend for herself** in an environment where she was targeted by her own father through physical and psychological outbursts caused by his drug addiction and severe alcoholism.
- Reunification with her father is **not viable due to abuse, abandonment and neglect.**

18. **Reunification with Petitioner's Mother is Not Viable:**

- Petitioner's mother, **Raquel Aparecida Da Silva**, is **unable to protect her from the abuse and violence from her father** in Brazil as Rosana has always been **left** alone to fend for herself.
- Given the widespread threats and lack of security in Brazil, reunification is **not in Petitioner's best interest.**

19. **Best Interests of the Child:**

- Petitioner has **a stable and safe home** with her cousin in Utah.
- Returning to Brazil would **expose Petitioner to life-threatening danger.**
- Remaining in the United States under the protection of SIJS would allow Petitioner to **continue her education and live in a safe environment.**

Exhibit D – Evidence of Persecution & Threats in Brazil

- Country Conditions Reports (U.S. State Dept.)

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Exhibit E – Evidence of Residency & Best Interests in Utah

- Proof of Petitioner's address

WHEREFORE, Petitioner, through counsel respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

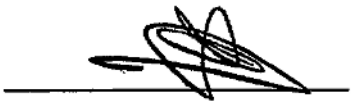
- **Adjudicate Petitioner as a Dependent Child** pursuant to **Utah Code § 80-3-505.**, as remaining in the United States is in Petitioner's best interest due to the stability, safety, and familial support available in Utah.
- Make **the following Special Findings** necessary for SIJS eligibility under **8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(J):**
  a. **Petitioner is a dependent of the juvenile court** under Utah law.

b. **Reunification with one or both parents is not viable** due to **abuse, abandonment and neglect.**

c. **It is not in Petitioner's best interest** to return to Brazil.

- Grant any other relief that this Court deems just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



JOSE A. LOAYZA, Esq. (07925)
Jose A. Loayza & Associates
231 E 400 S, Ste. 310
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 519-2555
Attorney for Petitioner

Table of Contents

Exhibit A – Identity & Immigration Status
Exhibit B –Rosana's Personal Statement (Affidavit)
Exhibit C – Sworn Affidavit from Petitioner's cousin
Exhibit D – Evidence of Persecution & Threats in Brazil
Exhibit E – Evidence of Residency & Best Interests in Utah

EXHIBIT "A"


Rosana da S. Araújo
Assinatura do titular / Signature du titulaire
Bearer's signature / Firma del titular
GG389025
Este passaporte deve ser assinado pelo titular, salvo em caso de incapacidade.
Ce passeport doit être signé par le titulaire, sauf en cas d'incapacité.
This passport must be signed, except where the bearer is unable to do so.
Este pasaporte debe ser firmado por el titular, salvo en caso de incapacidad.
REPÚBLICA FEDERATIVA DO BRASIL
PASSAPORTE
PASSPORT
P
BRA
GG389025
DA SILVA ARAUJO
ROSANA
BRASILEIRO(A)
15 MAR/MAR 2008
F
BRASÍLIA/DF
RONALDO ARAUJO MARTINS
RAQUEL APARECIDA DA SILVA
O titular, enquanto menor, está autorizado pelos genitores, pelo prazo deste documento, a viajar desacompanhado ou apenas com um dos pais, indistintamente. Res. CNJ 131/11, Art. 13.
08 MAR/MAR 2023
SR/DPF/DF
07 MAR/MAR 2028
P<BRADA<SILVA<ARAUJO<<ROSANA<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<
GG389025<5BRA0803153F2803076<<<<<<<<<<<<<<00


VISTOS VISAS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VISA
Issuing Post Name
BRASILIA
Surname
DA SILVA ARAUJO
Given Name
ROSANA
Passport Number
GG389025
Entries
M
Annotation
Sex
F
Issue Date
14AUG2023
Control Number
20232223910002
Visa Type /Class
R B1/B2
Birth Date
15MAR2008
Nationality
BRZL
Expiration Date
09AUG2033
1001
T4750076
VNUSADA<SILVA<ARAUJO<<ROSANA<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<
GG389025<5BRA0803153F3308095B3BRA0UDJD542451

FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
CIVIL REGISTRY OF NATURAL PERSONS

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

NAME
ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

CPF
083.284.241-93

REGISTRATION
021006 01 55 2008 1 00179 078 0086478 59

DATE OF BIRTH IN FULL	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
MARCH FIFTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND EIGHT	15	03	2008

TIME OF BIRTH	CITY OF BIRTH
11:15 PM	Brasília/ Federal District

CITY OF REGISTRATION AND FEDERATION UNIT	PLACE, CITY OF BIRTH AND STATE	SEX
Sobradinho- Federal District	REGIONAL HOSPITAL OF SOBRADINHO - Brasília, Federal District	female

FILIATION
RONALDO ARAUJO MARTINS, born in Brasília/ Federal District, residing and domiciled in Sobradinho/Federal District
RAQUEL APARECIDA DA SILVA, born in Patos de Minas/MG, residing and domiciled in Sobradinho/ Federal District

GRANDPARENTS
Jonas Martins Filho and Francisca Elvira Araujo Martins;
Júlio Eduardo da Silva and Gertrudes Peres da Silva.

TWINS	NAME AND REGISTRATION OF THE TWIN(S)
NO	----------

DATE OF REGISTRATION IN FULL	NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTH CERTIFICATE
MARCH SEVENTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND EIGHT	39117971

ANNOTATIONS/NOTES TO BE ADDED
Note No. 01: In accordance with CNJ Provision No. 63/2017, Article 6, I proceed with the annotation of the CPF of the registered person No. 083.284.241-93

REGISTRATION NOTES

Zip Code	No record		Blood Type	No record

The registration notes above do not exempt the interested party from presenting the original document when required by the requesting agency or when necessary for the identification of the holder.

2nd Notary Office, Civil Registry, Deeds and Documents, Protest of Titles and Legal Entities of the Federal District
Sobradinho Registry Office
Registrar: Geraldo Felipe de Souto Silva
City: Sobradinho/DF
Email: contato@cartoriosobradinho.com.br **Seal: TJDFT20230180081805VHBV**
ZIP Code: 73010-720 Phone: (61) 3298-3300 To consult, visit: **www.tjdft.jus.br**
Address: QUADRA CENTRAL - BLOCK 07 - STORE 05 - SYLVIA BUILDING

The content of this certificate is true. I certify.
Sobradinho / Federal District, March 08, 2023

----//signature//----

Priscilla Oliveira Boaventura Silva
Authorized Clerk

Certificate: R$ 10.00 – Annotation: R$ 0.00 – Search: R$ 0.00 – Mail: R$ 0.00 – Correction: R$ 0.00 – ISSQN: R$ 0.50 — Total: R$ 10.50

FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL – 2ND NOTARY OFFICE, CIVIL REGISTRY, DEEDS AND DOCUMENTS, PROTEST OF TITLES – SOBRADINHO / FEDERAL DISTRICT – PRISCILLA OLIVEIRA BOAVENTURA SILVA – CLERK

[unreadable] - 0056045 - BRP

I, Carolina Favero da Silva, telephone number 415 425-2508, mailing address P.O. Box 90487, San Diego, CA 92169, certify that the professional translation of this document from Portuguese to English has been performed by myself, a qualified translator fluent in both languages, and that the following is an accurate and complete translation of the document.



Date: June 16, 2025.

REPÚBLICA FEDERATIVA DO BRASIL
REGISTRO CIVIL DAS PESSOAS NATURAIS

CERTIDÃO DE NASCIMENTO

NOME

ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

CPF
083.284.241-93

MATRÍCULA
021006 01 55 2008 1 00179 078 0086478 59

DATA DE NASCIMENTO POR EXTENSO	Dia	Mês	Ano
QUINZE DE MARÇO DE DOIS MIL E OITO	15	03	2008

HORA DE NASCIMENTO	NATURALIDADE
23:15	Brasília/DF

MUNICÍPIO DE REGISTRO E UNIDADE DE FEDERAÇÃO	LOCAL, MUNICÍPIO DE NASCIMENTO E UF	SEXO
Sobradinho- DF	HOSPITAL REGIONAL DE SOBRADINHO - Brasília/DF	feminino

FILIAÇÃO
RONALDO ARAUJO MARTINS, natural de Brasilia/DF, residente e domiciliado em , Sobradinho/DF
RAQUEL APARECIDA DA SILVA, natural de Patos de Minas/MG, residente e domiciliada em , Sobradinho/DF

AVÓS
Jonas Martins Filho e Francisca Elvira Araujo Martins;
Júlio Eduardo da Silva e Gertrudes Peres da Silva.

GÊMEOS	NOME E MATRÍCULA DOS GÊMEOS
NÃO	----------

DATA DO REGISTRO DE NASCIMENTO (POR EXTENSO)	Nº DA DNV/DECLARAÇÃO DE NASCIDO VIVO
DEZESSETE DE MARÇO DE DOIS MIL E OITO	39117971

AVERBAÇÕES/ANOTAÇÕES A ACRESCER
Anotação nº 01: Conforme provimento do CNJ nº 63/2017 no art. 6º, procedo a averbação do CPF do(a) registrado(a) nº 083.284.241-93

ANOTAÇÕES DE CADASTRO

CEP Residencial	Não informado	Grupo Sanguineo	Não Informado

As anotações de cadastro acima não dispensam a parte interessada da apresentação do documento original, quando exigido pelo orgão solicitante ou quando necessário para identificação de seu portador.

2º Ofício de Notas, Registro Civil, Títulos e Documentos, Protesto de Títulos e Pessoas Jurídicas do Distrito Federal
Cartório de Sobradinho
Oficial Registrador: Geraldo Felipe de Souto Silva
Município: Sobradinho/DF
Email: contato@cartoriosobradinho.com.br Selo: TJDFT20230180081805VHBV
Cep: 73010-720 Fone: (61) 3298-3300 Para consultar acesse :www.tjdft.jus.br
End.: QUADRA CENTRAL - BLOCO 07 - LOJA 05 - ED. SYLVIA

O conteúdo da certidão é verdadeiro. Dou Fé.
Sobradinho / DF, 08 de março de 2023

Priscilla Oliveira Boaventura Silva
Escrevente Autorizada

Certidão: R$ 10,00 - Averbação: R$ 0,00 - Busca: R$ 0,00 - Correio: R$ 0,00 - Retificação: R$ 0,00 - ISSQN R$ 0,50 - Total: R$ 10,50

REPÚBLICA FEDERATIVA DO BRASIL
REGISTRO CIVIL E PROTESTO DE TÍTULOS
2º OFÍCIO - DISTRITO FEDERAL
PRISCILLA OLIVEIRA BOAVENTURA SILVA
ESCREVENTE

BRP

For: **ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Securing America's Borders

Most Recent I-94

Note to employers, local, state or federal agency granting benefits:
Please visit the CBP I-94/I-95 Website and click on the tab for "Get Most Recent I-94/I-95" to perform a search for the applicant to confirm that the biographic and travel information displayed on this I-94/I-95 printout matches the "Get Most Recent I-94/I-95" returned results for this applicant. Reference the CBP I-94/I-95 Website FAQs.

Admission I-94 Record Number: 502067107A3

Arrival/Issued Date: 2023 August 18

Class of Admission: B2

Admit Until Date: 2024 February 17

Details provided on the I-94 information form:

Last/Surname: DA SILVA ARAUJO

First (Given) Name: ROSANA

Birth Date: 2008 March 15

Document Number: GG389025

Country of Citizenship: Brazil

- Effective April 26, 2013, DHS began automating the admission process. An alien lawfully admitted or paroled into the U.S. is no longer required to be in possession of a preprinted Form I-94/I-95. A record of admission printed from the CBP website constitutes a lawful record of admission. See 8 CFR § 1.4(d).
- What to do if someone requests your admission info: If an employer, local, state or federal agency requests admission information, present your admission (I-94/I-95) number along with any additional required documents requested by that employer or agency.
- For security, close your browser after retrieving your I-94/I-95 number.

OMB No. 1651-0111
Expiration Date: 06/30/2025

View Travel History

Travel history includes up to 100 arrivals and departures spanning the last ten years

Travel History Results

Document Number: **GG389025**

Document Country of Issuance: **Brazil**

Row	DATE	TYPE	LOCATION
1	2023-08-18	Arrival	FTL

OMB No. 1651-0111 Expiration Date: 06/30/2025

EXHIBIT “B”

SWORN DECLARATION – ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

SWORN DECLARATION - ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

I, Rosana Da Silva Araujo, born on March 15, 2008, in the Federal District of Brasília, Brazil, and currently residing at 3613 W 2740 N, Lehi, Utah 84043, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that the following is true and correct:

I. Family Background

I was born in the Federal District of Brasília, Brazil, and I was raised by my parents, Raquel Aparecida Da Silva and Ronaldo Araujo Martins, in an environment filled with trauma and instability.

I am the youngest sibling and have three older half-brothers on my father's side. I grew up feeling that I did not receive the love, attention, or support that a child needs to thrive. My parents were never very affectionate, and this made me feel alone most of the time. My father had an explosive temper and a history of alcoholism. He would leave home at night and return only the next day, often drunk and frequently aggressive. My mother, on the other hand, was almost always absent, working all day or simply away from home, even when she had time off.

I was constantly placed in the middle of my parents' arguments and emotional tensions. My mother would speak ill of my father to me, and my father would do the same about her, forcing me to take sides between the two. This caused me intense anxiety and confusion, as I was just a child trying to survive in an environment without emotional safety.

I even had to care for my father's health when he became ill due to years of addiction. One of the scariest experiences I ever had was when he got into a bar fight. He

Rosana da S. Araújo

assaulted a man, and the next day, that man came to our house, shouting and threatening me and my mother in front of our home. We had to hide inside while my mother cried in fear. My father, as usual, was nowhere to be found.

Since I was young, I have always relied on my cousin Nyna for emotional support and companionship, because we faced very similar situations at home. My father is her mother's cousin, and both he and her mother have histories of mental health issues and addictions. This created a strong bond between my cousins and me, as we shared the same pain.

When my cousin Larissa Araujo Santos left the country, I felt as if I had no sane family member left; I feared greatly for my life and well-being. I rarely saw my mother, as she worked constantly, and when she wasn't working, she was everywhere except home. I understand that this was probably due to my father's erratic behavior and addiction, but I still had to endure it as a child.

Besides emotional instability in my life, our financial situation was even worse. We lacked structure, food, and peace. I lived in an environment of shouting, tension, insults, and constant insecurity. I could not maintain a normal school routine and lived in fear of what might happen the next day.

When I learned that my cousin Nyna was visiting the United States, I realized that this was my chance. I knew that if I stayed in Brazil, I would continue living in the same cycle of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. I would have no one to support me or help me escape that situation.

My parents are still in Brazil and cannot guarantee my safety or well-being. They cannot protect me from the dangers I faced there. In fact, many of the dangers I fear in Brazil stem from their lack of education, their neglect, and my father's abuse.

Rosana da S. Araújo

I have no parental support in Brazil; on the contrary, I have been the one supporting them, even as a child. For as long as I can remember, I have relied on my cousin Larissa for every kind of support, and even more so now, since arriving in the United States.

I arrived in the United States in August 2023 on a tourist visa, which I have renewed twice since my arrival. I did not want to return to Brazil because of my fear of what would happen to me if I went back. If I return to Brazil, I would have no safe place to live and would be alone. My mother continues to work nonstop and is rarely home, and my father continues his drug and alcohol addiction. I would still have to endure the abuse and neglect I experienced in Brazil, with no one to rely on. I fear ending up alone on the streets.

Here in the United States, I feel safe and loved. I am cared for and no longer fear what might happen to me at any moment. I live in peace, protected and happy with my cousin Larissa. Larissa treats me with love, patience, and respect. She offers me emotional support, stability, and encouragement to move forward. For the first time, I can study in peace, care for my mental health, and think about a better future. I feel that I belong in a place where I am truly valued, heard, and cared for.

Rossana da S. Araújo

I, Marina Viana Silva, telephone number 415 425-2508, mailing address P.O. Box 90487, San Diego, CA 92169, certify that the professional translation of this document from Portuguese to English has been performed by myself, a qualified translator fluent in both languages, and that the following is an accurate and complete translation of the document.

Marina Viana

Date: August 12, 2025.

DECLARACAO JURAMENTADA - ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

DECLARACAO JURAMENTADA - ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

Eu, Rosana Da Silva Araujo, nascida em 15 de marco de 2008, no Distrito Federal de Brasilia, Brasil, e atualmente residindo em 3613 W 2740 N, Lehi, Utah 84043, declaro, sob pena de perjurio, que o seguinte e verdadeiro e correto:

I. Historico Familiar

Nasci no Distrito Federal de Brasilia, Brasil, e fui criada por meus pais, Raquel Aparecida Da Silva e Ronaldo Araujo Martins, vivendo com eles em um ambiente repleto de traumas e instabilidade.

Sou a irma cacula e tenho tres irmaos mais velhos por parte de pai. Cresci sentindo que nao recebia o amor, atencao ou apoio que uma crianca precisa. Meus pais nunca foram muito afetuosos, e isso me fazia sentir sozinha a maior parte do tempo. Meu pai tinha um temperamento explosivo e um historico de alcoolismo. Saia de casa à noite e voltava so no dia seguinte, geralmente bebado, e muitas vezes agressivo. Minha mae, por outro lado, estava quase sempre ausente, trabalhando o dia inteiro ou simplesmente longe de casa, mesmo quando estava de folga.

Fui constantemente colocada no meio das brigas e tensoes emocionais dos meus pais. Minha mae falava mal do meu pai para mim, e meu pai fazia o mesmo sobre ela, me forcando a tomar partido entre os dois. Isso me causava muita ansiedade e confusao, pois eu era apenas uma crianca tentando sobreviver num ambiente sem seguranca emocional.

Tive ate que cuidar da saude do meu pai quando ele adoeceu devido aos anos de vicio. Uma das experiencias mais assustadoras que vivi foi quando ele se envolveu em uma briga de bar. Ele

Rosana da S. Araujo

agrediu um homem, e no dia seguinte esse homem apareceu gritando e ameacando a mim e minha mae na frente de casa. Tinhamos que nos esconder dentro de casa enquanto minha mae chorava com medo. Meu pai, como sempre, estava desaparecido.

Desde pequena, sempre contei com minha prima Nyna para apoio emocional e companheirismo, porque enfrentavamos situacoes muito parecidas dentro de casa. Meu pai e primo da mae dela, e tanto ele quanto a mae dela tem historicos de problemas com saude mental e vicios. Isso criou um laco muito forte entre mim e meus primos, pois compartilhavamos a mesma dor.

Quando minha prima Larissa Araujo Santos deixou o pais, senti como se nao tivesse mais nenhum familiar sao; temi muito pela minha vida e bem-estar. Raramente via minha mae, pois ela trabalhava muito e, quando nao estava, estava em todos os lugares, menos em casa. Sei que isso provavelmente se devia ao comportamento esporadico e ao vicio do meu pai, mas eu mesma tive que suportar isso quando crianca.

Alem da estabilidade de vida, a estabilidade financeira era ainda pior. Faltava estrutura, comida e paz. Vivia em um ambiente de gritos, tensao, insultos e inseguranca constante. Eu nao conseguia manter uma rotina escolar normal, e vivia com medo do que poderia acontecer no dia seguinte.

Quando soube da visita da minha prima Nyna aos Estados Unidos, entendi que essa era minha chance. Sabia que, se ficasse no Brasil, continuaria vivendo no mesmo ciclo de abuso, negligencia e abandono. Nao teria ninguem para me apoiar, ninguem que me ajudasse a sair daquela situacao.

Meus pais ainda estao no Brasil e nao podem garantir minha seguranca ou bem-estar. Eles nao podem me proteger dos perigos que enfrentei no Brasil. Alem do fato de que muitos dos perigos que temo no Brasil se devem à falta de educacao deles, à negligencia e aos abusos do meu pai.

Rossana da S. Araújo

Nao tenho o apoio dos meus pais no Brasil; pelo contrario, sou eu quem os sustenta, mesmo quando crianca. Desde que me lembro, sempre contei com a minha prima Larissa para todo tipo de apoio, e ainda mais agora, desde que cheguei aos Estados Unidos.

Cheguei aos Estados Unidos em agosto de 2023 com um visto de turista e o renovei duas vezes desde que cheguei aqui. Nao queria voltar ao Brasil com medo do que me aconteceria se voltasse. Se voltasse ao Brasil, nao teria um lugar seguro para morar e ficaria sozinha. Minha mae continua trabalhando sem parar e raramente esta em casa, e meu pai continua com seu vicio em drogas e alcoolismo. Eu continuaria tendo que suportar o abuso e a negligencia que vivi quando estava no Brasil, sem ter com quem contar. Temo ficar sozinha nas ruas.

Pelo contrario, aqui nos Estados Unidos me sinto segura e amada. Sou cuidada e nao tenho mais medo do que pode me acontecer a qualquer momento. Vivo em paz, protegida e feliz com minha prima Larissa. Larissa me trata com amor, paciencia e respeito. Ela me oferece apoio emocional, estabilidade, e me encoraja a seguir em frente. Pela primeira vez, posso estudar com tranquilidade, cuidar da minha saude mental e pensar em um futuro melhor. Sinto que pertenco a um lugar onde sou valorizada, ouvida e cuidada de verdade.

Rosana da S. Araújo

EXHIBIT "C"

Sworn Statement - Rosana da Silva Araújo

I, Larissa Araújo Santos, residing at 3613 W 2740 N, Lehi, Utah, phone number +1 (385) 471-8809, make this statement voluntarily, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, to support the petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) on behalf of my cousin, Rosana.

My Relationship with Rosana:

I am Rosana's cousin, and we have always maintained a close and affectionate family relationship. Although we are not sisters, we grew up close, and I have been closely involved in her story and struggles. I have deep affection for her and consider her protection and well-being a personal responsibility.

Experience with Rosana's Parents:

Rosana's father is a drug user, which severely affects his ability to fulfill the role of a father with responsibility, safety, and stability. Rosana's mother leads an inconsistent and unstable life, which is reflected in the way she cares for (or fails to care for) her daughter. Rosana grew up in an environment lacking proper structure, marked by emotional neglect and insecurity, which directly impacted her well-being.

Ability to Provide Support and Care in the U.S.:

I currently reside legally in the United States, where I live with my husband, Arthur Pontes, an American citizen with a stable income. I also work remotely for a company in Brazil, which allows me to have a continuous source of income.

Together, we are prepared to support Rosana and provide her with a loving, safe, and stable environment. We have the resources and structure to ensure housing, food, education, medical care, and emotional support for her full development.

I am deeply committed to Rosana's well-being and ready to be her guardian and family support here in the United States, offering her the chance for a safe, dignified life full of opportunities.

I declare that all the information provided here is true

Larissa Araújo Santos

and reflects my personal experience and my intention to protect and care for my cousin.

Signed:

Larissa Araújo Santos

3613 W 2740 N

Lehi, Utah

+1 (385) 471-8809

Larissa Araújo Santos

I, Carolina Favero da Silva, telephone number 415 425-2508, mailing address P.O. Box 90487, San Diego, CA 92169, certify that the professional translation of this document from Portuguese to English has been performed by myself, a qualified translator fluent in both languages, and that the following is an accurate and complete translation of the document.



Date: September 1, 2025.

Declaração Juramentada – Rosana da Silva Araújo

Eu, Larissa Araújo Santos, residente em 3613 W 2740 N, Lehi, Utah, telefone +1 (385) 471-8809, faço esta declaração de forma voluntária, sob pena de perjúrio conforme as leis dos Estados Unidos da América, para dar suporte à petição de Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) em nome de minha prima, Rosana [Sobrenome].

Meu Relacionamento com Rosana:

Sou prima de Rosana e sempre mantivemos um relacionamento familiar próximo e afetuoso. Apesar de não sermos irmãs, crescemos próximas e compartilhei de perto sua história e suas dificuldades. Tenho profundo carinho por ela e considero sua proteção e bem-estar uma responsabilidade pessoal.

Experiência com os Pais de Rosana:

O pai de Rosana é usuário de drogas, o que afeta severamente sua capacidade de exercer o papel de pai com responsabilidade, segurança e estabilidade. Já a mãe de Rosana leva uma vida inconstante e instável, que se reflete na forma como cuida (ou deixa de cuidar) da filha. Rosana cresceu em um ambiente sem estrutura adequada, com negligência emocional e falta de segurança, o que afetou diretamente seu bem-estar.

Capacidade de Sustento e Apoio nos EUA:

Atualmente, resido legalmente nos Estados Unidos, onde moro com meu esposo, Arthur Pontes, cidadão americano com renda estável. Eu também trabalho remotamente para uma empresa no Brasil, o que me permite ter uma fonte contínua de renda.

Juntos, estamos preparados para sustentar Rosana e prover a ela um ambiente amoroso, seguro e estável. Temos recursos e estrutura para garantir moradia, alimentação, educação, assistência médica e apoio emocional para seu pleno desenvolvimento.

Estou profundamente comprometida com o bem-estar de Rosana e pronta para ser sua guardiã e referência familiar aqui nos Estados Unidos, oferecendo-lhe a chance de uma vida segura, digna e cheia de oportunidades.

Declaro que todas as informações aqui prestadas são verdadeiras

Larissa Araújo Santos

e refletem minha vivência e intenção de proteger e acolher minha prima.

Assinado:

Larissa Araûjo Santos
3613 W 2740 N
Lehi, Utah
+1 (385) 471-8809

Larissa Araújo Santos



Larissa Araújo Santos

Assinatura do titular / Signature du titulaire
Bearer's signature / Firma del titular

GB378651

Este passaporte deve ser assinado pelo titular, salvo em caso de incapacidade.

Ce passeport doit être signé par le titulaire, sauf en cas d'incapacité.

This passport must be signed except where the bearer is unable to do so.

Este pasaporte debe ser firmado por el titular, salvo en caso de incapacidad.

REPÚBLICA FEDERATIVA DO BRASIL

PASSAPORTE
PASSPORT

TIPO / TYPE: P
PAÍS EMISSOR / ISSUING COUNTRY: BRA
PASSAPORTE Nº / PASSPORT No.: GB378651

SOBRENOME / SURNAME
ARAÚJO SANTOS

NOME / GIVEN NAMES
LARISSA

NACIONALIDADE / NATIONALITY
BRASILEIRO(A)

DATA DO NASCIMENTO / DATE OF BIRTH
25 JUN/JUN 2001

IDENTIDADE Nº / PERSONAL No.

SEXO / SEX
F

NATURALIDADE / PLACE OF BIRTH
BRASÍLIA/DF

FILIAÇÃO / FILIATION
GEANE ARAÚJO DE CARVALHO ROCHA

LUIZ RENATO DA SILVA SANTOS

DATA DE EXPEDIÇÃO / DATE OF ISSUE
31 JAN/JAN 2020

AUTORIDADE / AUTHORITY
SR/DPF/DF

VÁLIDO ATÉ / DATE OF EXPIRY
30 JAN/JAN 2030

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EXHIBIT "D"

Brazil 2023 Human Rights Report

Executive Summary

There were no significant changes in the human rights situation in Brazil during the year.

Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: unlawful or arbitrary killings, including extrajudicial killings; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by the government; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest or detention; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including violence or threats against journalists; serious government corruption; extensive gender-based violence, including domestic or intimate partner violence, sexual violence, femicide, and other forms of such violence; crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting Afro-Brazilians and Indigenous peoples; and crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex persons.

The government did not always take credible steps to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights abuses.

Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person

a. Arbitrary Deprivation of Life and Other Unlawful or

Politically Motivated Killings

There were numerous reports that state-level civil and military police committed arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings, during the year.

The Rio de Janeiro Institute of Public Security reported that as of July, 651 persons died from incidents involving police violence, an 18 percent decline compared with the same period in 2022. According to the Rio de Janeiro Public Attorney's Office, as of May police conducted 612 raids in the state. Rio de Janeiro City was the focus of more than one-half of these operations. There was a persistent pattern of impunity for police operations, which often resulted in significant fatalities, accusations of excessive force, extrajudicial killings, and denial of medical care for injured criminal suspects, with accusations involving several different law enforcement entities.

In March the newspaper *O Globo* reported that a police raid conducted in the favela of Salgueiro, Niteroi, in Rio de Janeiro State, resulted in the death of 13 suspects. The raid was carried out by police officers, including from the Military Police Battalion of Special Operations and the Civil Police Coordination of Special Resources. There was no information regarding an investigation of the incident.

According to *O Globo*, on June 17, Federal Highway Police officers killed a woman while she and her husband were driving through a police checkpoint

on a highway in Rio de Janeiro State. The officer who fired the fatal shot was briefly arrested but later released.

Authorities stated the case regarding an operation in May 2022 to arrest Commando Vermelho gang members in the city of Rio de Janeiro remained open and no one had been charged or arrested. The joint operation, involving military police agents from Rio de Janeiro State's Special Operations Battalion and agents from the Special Operations Command of the Federal Highway Police, resulted in 23 deaths.

Investigations remained open, but no indictments or convictions were reported regarding the 2021 police operation in Rio de Janeiro City's Jacarezinho neighborhood. As of October, 10 of the 13 investigations into police abuses in the operation had been closed according to press reports, despite autopsy reports indicating at least four victims were shot in the back at less than three feet.

According to the São Paulo Public Security Secretariat, the number of deaths resulting from military and civil police operations in the state of São Paulo in the first semester of the year increased by 9 percent, compared with the same period in 2022. From 2020 to 2021, the total number of cases decreased by 30 percent, a result attributed by security experts in part to the use of body cameras by military police officers along with the implementation of new strategies and the use of nonlethal weapons, such as tasers.

In operations to combat criminal groups in the coastal area of Guarujá, São Paulo State, from the end of July to September 5, São Paulo military police killed 28 persons. Human rights organizations reportedly accused police of using excessive force, violating human rights, and committing extrajudicial killings. The Public Prosecutor's Office was investigating the deaths. On September 5, the São Paulo State Secretariat of Public Security, responsible for the operation, stated all deaths resulted from direct confrontations with criminals and added that two internal inquiries were underway.

On August 14, Minister of Justice and Public Security Flávio Dino announced that he had accepted the resignation of the three Federal Highway Police officers accused of asphyxiating and killing Genivaldo de Jesus Santos in Sergipe State in May 2022. The officers were to be tried for murder and torture. In September a court in Recife, Pernambuco State, authorized an indemnity of one million reais ($200,000), to be paid to Genivaldo's son.

In July the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Brazilian Public Security Forum reported that police (including federal, state, and municipal) killed 6,429 persons nationwide in 2022, an increase of 284 persons compared with 2021. Afro-Brazilians represented 83 percent of victims. According to some civil society organizations, victims of police violence throughout the country were overwhelmingly young Afro-Brazilian men.

On April 5, the NGO Forum for Justice reported that fewer than one-half of the investigations of police homicides resulted in an indictment. The study

analyzed more than 4,500 cases from 2011 to 2021, noting that 39 percent resulted in indictments, while the rest were archived due to self-defense claims or lack of evidence. The study also highlighted the length of the process, with an average of four years for charges to be filed and eight years for cases to be closed.

b. Disappearance

There were no reports of disappearances by or on behalf of government authorities.

c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and Other Related Abuses

The constitution prohibited torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, but there were reports government officials sometimes employed such practices.

According to the newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*, on June 23, during an inspection conducted by the State Public Defender's Office in the Elias Alves da Silva Prison Unit in Itaitinga, located in Fortaleza, Ceará State, inspectors identified signs of torture techniques used against prisoners, including physical and psychological torment in which inmates were forced to balance on their heads and were then beaten when they fell. On June 26, the judge ordered the suspension of the prison's leadership for 90 days.

In February Rio de Janeiro's Court of Justice sentenced Alisson Pires Barreto, a male guard at the juvenile correctional facility DEGASE, to 43 years in prison for raping and sexually abusing two teenage girls in 2021 at his workplace in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Authorities dismissed the director and replaced all male guards with women.

Civil society organizations said impunity and a lack of accountability for security forces, particularly at the local level, was a problem. Most examples of impunity involved the military police and civil police, with some also reported to occur in the armed forces and Federal Highway Police. The law mandated that special police courts exercise jurisdiction over state military police except those charged with "willful crimes against life," primarily homicide. Police personnel often were responsible for investigating charges of torture and excessive force carried out by fellow officers. Delays in the special military police courts allowed many cases to expire due to statutes of limitations.

Prison and Detention Center Conditions

Prison conditions were poor and sometimes life threatening, mainly due to overcrowding and violence, according to the NGO National Security Forum. Abuse by prison guards continued, and poor working conditions and low pay for prison guards encouraged corruption, according to the NGO.

Abusive Physical Conditions: According to the National Penitentiary

Department, as of 2021 the number of incarcerated persons exceeded 204,185, which indicated that nationally the system was 45 percent above capacity, a decrease from the 67 percent recorded in 2020.

Minister Rosa Weber, president of the Federal Supreme Court, visited the Curado Prison Complex in Recife, Pernambuco State in April and noted the poor infrastructure and chaotic environment. The Pernambuco prison system had approximately 35,000 inmates in facilities designed for 14,400. The overcrowding led the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to denounce the government of Pernambuco.

Conditions in most prisons were inadequate, according to the National Security Forum. Prisoners often lacked access to potable water, adequate nutrition, clothing, and hygiene items. Rats and cockroaches infested many cells. In the Federal District's prison system, observers said problems included poor quality of food and hygiene conditions, overcrowding, lack of access to health care, and inadequate infrastructure.

Reports of abuse by prison guards continued. Prisoners convicted of petty crimes frequently were held with murderers and other violent criminals, according to the National Security Forum. Authorities attempted to hold pretrial detainees separately from convicted prisoners, but lack of space often required placing convicted criminals in pretrial detention facilities. In many prisons, including those in the Federal District, officials attempted to separate violent offenders from other inmates and keep convicted drug

traffickers in a wing apart from the rest of the prison population. Multiple sources reported adolescents were held with adults in poor and crowded conditions.

According to the publication *Metropoles*, on May 12, the National Council of Justice reported 112,000 deaths in prisons between 2017 and 2021. The report concluded that diseases accounted for 62 percent of deaths. Some of the most cited diseases included heart conditions, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. The likelihood of inmates contracting tuberculosis was 30 times higher than in the general population. The study also indicated underreporting of deaths and concluded that many instances of so-called natural deaths were, in fact, the result of a long process of illness and lack of assistance.

According to the National Security Forum, prisons suffered from insufficient staffing and lack of control over inmates. Violence was rampant in prison facilities. Poor administration of the prison system contributed to the violence, as did overcrowding, the presence of gangs, and corruption, according to the National Security Forum. Media reports indicated that incarcerated leaders of major criminal gangs continued to control their expanding transnational criminal enterprises from inside prisons.

Prison riots were common occurrences, according to media reports. On January 7, the news publication *Bahia 190* reported that a clash between members of the drug faction Red Command in the Penitentiary Conjunto

Penal in the municipality of Feira de Santana, Bahia State, resulted in a riot of inmates and the death of three inmates.

Administration: Authorities monitored prison and detention center conditions and conducted investigations of credible allegations of mistreatment.

Independent Monitoring: The government permitted monitoring by independent nongovernmental observers.

d. Arbitrary Arrest or Detention

The constitution prohibited arbitrary arrest and detention and provided for the right of any person to challenge the lawfulness of their arrest or detention in court. The government generally observed these requirements.

Arrest Procedures and Treatment of Detainees

Police were required to advise persons of their rights at the time of arrest or before taking them into custody for interrogation. The law prohibited use of force during an arrest unless the suspect attempted to escape or resisted arrest. According to human rights observers, some detainees complained of physical abuse while being taken into police custody.

Authorities generally respected the constitutional right to a prompt judicial determination of the legality of detention, according to observers. The law

permitted provisional detention for up to five days under specified conditions during an investigation, but a judge could extend this period. Judges were also authorized to order temporary detention for an additional five days for processing. Preventive detention for an initial period of 15 days was permitted if police suspected a detainee might flee the area. Defendants arrested in the act of committing a crime were required to be charged within 30 days of arrest. The law required other defendants to be charged within 45 days, although this period could be extended. In cases involving heinous crimes, torture, drug trafficking, and terrorism, pretrial detention could last 30 days with the option to extend for an additional 30 days.

Often the period for charging defendants was extended because of court backlogs. The law did not provide for a maximum period of pretrial detention, which was decided on a case-by-case basis. Bail was available for most crimes, and defendants facing charges for all but the most serious crimes had the right to a bail hearing. Prison authorities generally allowed detainees prompt access to a lawyer. Detainees who were unable to pay for legal counsel had the right to a lawyer provided by the state. Detainees had prompt access to family members. If detainees were convicted, time in detention before trial was subtracted from their sentences.

Arbitrary Arrest: On April 11, the Niteroi Court of Justice acquitted Danillo Felix Vicente de Oliveira of all charges brought against him for a 2020 armed

robbery. The victims supposedly identified him from a photograph police obtained from Facebook. This was the third instance in which robbery victims wrongfully identified him for same crime through a photograph line-up.

On June 9, the Niteroi Court of Justice in Rio de Janeiro State acquitted Luiz Carlos da Costa Justino of all charges brought against him for a 2017 car theft. He was arrested in 2020 after, according to police, the robbery victim identified Justino from a photograph lineup in the police station. According to media outlets, Justino, an adolescent at the time of the robbery, had no criminal record and therefore police should not have had access to photographs of him. Video evidence showed that at the time of the crime, Justino, an Afro-Brazilian musician, was performing at an event four miles from the crime scene.

Pretrial Detention: Lengthy pretrial detention was a problem. The length of pretrial detention frequently equaled or exceeded the maximum sentence for the alleged crime, according to the National Security Forum. According to the Ministry of Justice's National Penitentiary, in 2021 there were approximately 900,000 incarcerated persons in the country, 25 percent of whom were awaiting trial.

e. Denial of Fair Public Trial

The constitution provided for an independent judiciary, and the government

generally respected judicial independence and impartiality. Local NGOs, however, argued that corruption within the judiciary, especially at the local and state levels, prevented fair trials.

Trial Procedures

The constitution provided for the right to a fair and public trial, and the judiciary generally enforced this right, although NGOs reported that in some rural regions – especially in cases involving land rights activists – police, prosecutors, and the judiciary were perceived to be susceptible to external influences, including fear of reprisals. Investigations, prosecutions, and trials in these cases often were delayed.

Although the law required trials be held within a set time, there were millions of backlogged cases at state, federal, and appellate courts, and cases often took many years to be concluded. While the law provided for the right to counsel, the Ministry of Public Security stated many prisoners could not afford an attorney. The court was required to furnish a public defender or private attorney at public expense in such cases, but staffing deficits persisted in all states, according to the National Security Forum.

Political Prisoners and Detainees

There were no reports of political prisoners or detainees.

f. Transnational Repression

Not applicable.

g. Property Seizure and Restitution

Authorities at times evicted persons from their places of residences or seized their properties without due process or adequate restitution, although this happened most frequently with traditional communities, such as Quilombolas (Afrodescendents of enslaved persons).

The government had no laws or mechanisms in place for Holocaust restitution, and NGOs and advocacy groups reported the government had not made progress on resolution of Holocaust-era claims, including for foreign citizens. The country endorsed the Terezin Declaration in 2009 and the Guidelines and Best Practices in 2010.

The Department of State's *Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act Report* to Congress, released publicly in July 2020, can be found on the Department's website: https://www.state.gov/reports/just-act-report-to-congress/.

h. Arbitrary or Unlawful Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence

The constitution prohibited arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy,

family, home, or correspondence, but there were reports that the government failed to respect these prohibitions. NGOs reported that police occasionally entered homes without judicial or other appropriate authorization to conduct police operations against criminal activity. Human rights groups, other NGOs, and media reported incidents of excessive searches in poor neighborhoods during the operations. Police stopped and questioned persons and searched cars and residences without warrants.

Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties

a. Freedom of Expression, Including for Members of the Press and Other Media

The constitution and law provided for freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media, and the government generally respected this right. An independent media, an effective judiciary, and a functioning democratic political system combined to promote freedom of expression, including for media members.

Violence and Harassment: The broad use of social media facilitated hate speech online against journalists, citizens, and institutions, and courts were dealing with cases that took place completely online and often convicted persons who used fake names. On May 3, the NGO Reporters Without Borders reported that press freedom improved. According to the

organization, the improvement was attributed to the departure of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who verbally attacked journalists and media outlets.

Censorship or Content Restrictions for Members of the Press and Other Media, including Online Media: National laws prohibited politically motivated judicial censorship, but there were reports of censorship.

Libel/Slander Laws: Libel, slander, and defamation were criminal offenses. Penalties ranged from three months to two years plus a fine. The laws were enforced.

Nongovernmental Impact: Nongovernmental criminal elements at times subjected journalists to threats or violence due to the journalists' reporting on their criminal activities.

Internet Freedom

The government did not restrict or disrupt access to the internet or censor online content. Nonetheless, according to news reports, the online environment remained constrained by threats of violence against independent bloggers and websites, as well as criminal defamation laws and restrictive limits on content related to elections.

The electoral law regulated political campaign activity on the internet. The law prohibited paid political advertising online and in traditional media.

During the three months prior to an election, the law also prohibited online and traditional media from promoting candidates and distributing content that deliberately caused offense to a candidate.

b. Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association

The law provided for the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, and the government generally respected these rights.

c. Freedom of Religion

See the Department of State's *International Religious Freedom Report* at https://www.state.gov/religiousfreedomreport/.

d. Freedom of Movement and the Right to Leave the Country

The constitution provided for freedom of internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, and the government generally respected these rights.

e. Protection of Refugees

The government cooperated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to refugees, returning refugees, or asylum

seekers, as well as other persons of concern.

Access to Asylum: The law provided for the granting of asylum or refugee status, and the government had established a system for providing protection to refugees. By law, refugees were provided official documentation, access to legal protection, and access to public services. The law codified protections for asylum claimants and provided for a humanitarian visa and residency status that served as an alternative to refugee claims for some categories of regional migrants, particularly from Venezuela.

As of June, according to UNHCR, there were more than 460,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country, the majority of whom arrived in the northern state of Roraima. According to the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR, the government continued the process of resettling Venezuelan refugees and asylum seekers and migrants, voluntarily relocating more than 100,000 individuals from the border states in the north to other states to relieve pressure on the resource-strapped state of Roraima and provide increased opportunities for education and work.

Abuse of Refugees and Asylum Seekers: NGOs reported that refugees were susceptible to human trafficking for the purposes of forced commercial sex and forced labor.

Temporary Protections: As of December 2022, UNHCR reported the

government provided temporary protection to approximately 350,000 individuals who may not have qualified as refugees.

f. Status and Treatment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

According to a report released in May by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the country had approximately 708,000 internally displaced persons, due in large part to natural disasters such as storms and floods. The government promoted the safe return and resettlement of affected persons to the areas they were forced to leave. Additionally, in 2022, 5,600 persons were displaced due to violence related to land ownership by land-grabbers and farmers, mainly in the state of Goiás.

For further information regarding internally displaced persons in the country, please see the materials of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center: https://www.internal-displacement.org.

Section 3. Freedom to Participate in the Political Process

The law provided citizens the ability to choose their government in free and fair periodic elections held by secret ballot and based on universal and equal suffrage.

Elections and Political Participation

Abuses or Irregularities in Recent Elections: National elections were widely reported to be fair and free of abuses and irregularities.

In 2020, the Superior Electoral Court ruled that publicly provided funds for campaign financing and advertising time on radio and television had to be divided proportionally between Black and White candidates in elections. The decision was in effect for the October 2022 elections. Electoral authorities reported instances of political parties failing to adhere to the legal requirements.

The Organization of American States Electoral Observation Mission report noted complaints regarding electoral harassment in which "business owners and other authority figures allegedly tried to influence, intimidate, or coerce employees and subordinates into voting for a particular candidate."

Observers also noted the Federal Highway Police increased inspections of public buses in the Northeast, causing voter delays and perceived harassment. Following meetings with the electoral authority, police ended the actions, and the electoral authority declared no voters had been prevented from voting because of the actions.

Voters shared on social media anecdotal accounts that militias and drug trafficking organizations interfered in electoral processes by using violence and intimidation to manipulate votes, influence candidate lists, and limit

rival candidates' ability to access and campaign in some neighborhoods. International and national observer missions, however, did not cite any negative trends in their reports.

On June 30, the Superior Electoral Court voted to bar former President Jair Bolsonaro from elected office until following the 2030 general election after determining statements he made in July 2022 to members of the diplomatic community suggesting electoral vulnerabilities violated electoral law.

Section 4. Corruption in Government

The law provided criminal penalties for convictions of corruption by officials and stipulated civil penalties for corruption committed by Brazilian citizens or entities overseas. There were numerous reports of corruption during the year at various levels of government, and delays in judicial proceedings against persons accused of corruption were common, often due to constitutional protections from prosecution for elected officials. This often resulted in de facto impunity for the accused.

Corruption: In May Rio de Janeiro's state attorney general alleged that from 2009 to 2018, Rio de Janeiro municipal Councilman Carlos Bolsonaro's chief of staff received payments of approximately two million reais ($400,000) from six of his staff. The report stated the payments were evidence of a staffing kickback scheme within Bolsonaro's office. Investigators were investigating whether Bolsonaro, son of former President Jair Bolsonaro,

participated directly in the scheme, according to local media. Carlos Bolsonaro was already facing several civil and criminal investigations for alleged improprieties in his office dating back to 2019.

According to the publication *NSC Total,* in April Santa Catarina state police continued serving arrest and search-and-seizure warrants to mayors and other high-level public servants involved in a widespread corruption network. Police arrested 15 mayors in five months on suspicion of fraud in bidding and contracting services, which included bribes to criminal organizations and money laundering in trash collection contracts in Santa Catarina cities. The Public Ministry of Santa Catarina planned to serve municipal secretaries, businessmen, and civil servants with warrants as part of the corruption scandal.

For additional information about corruption in the country, please see the Department of State's *Investment Climate Statement* for the country, and the Department of State's *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report,* which includes information on financial crimes.

Section 5. Governmental Posture Towards International and Nongovernmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights

Many domestic and international human rights groups generally operated

without government restriction to monitor or investigate human rights conditions or cases and publish their findings. Government officials were cooperative and responsive to the views of these groups. Federal and state officials in many cases sought the aid and cooperation of domestic and international NGOs in addressing human rights problems.

Government Human Rights Bodies: The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate had human rights committees and subcommittees that operated without interference and participated in several activities nationwide in coordination with domestic and international human rights organizations. Most states had police ombudsmen, but their independence and effectiveness varied, depending on such factors as funding and outside political pressure, according to human rights groups.

Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses

Women

Rape and Domestic Violence: The national law criminalized rape, including spousal rape and domestic or intimate partner rape and other forms of domestic and sexual violence. The law did not criminalize so-called corrective rape of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex (LGBTQI+) persons. The law criminalized physical, psychological, and sexual violence against women, as well as defamation and damage to property or finances by someone with whom the survivor had a marriage, family, or

intimate relationship. The law defined femicide as homicide of a woman due to her gender, including but not limited to homicide that escalated from other forms of domestic violence, discrimination, or contempt for women. The law stipulated a sentence of 12 to 30 years in prison. The government did not enforce the law effectively.

Gender-based violence persisted and increased, according to observers. A study released on March 2 by the Brazilian Public Security Forum reported that one-third of women older than 16 suffered physical or sexual violence from partners or former partners in their lives. Also, in 2022, there was an increase in all forms of violence against women, such as beatings and threats with a knife or firearm. In 2022, more than 1,440 women were victims of femicides; 80 percent were killed by a current or former partner or a relative.

Each state secretariat for public security had police stations dedicated exclusively to addressing crimes against women. In March a police operation resulted in the arrest of more than 300 suspects accused of domestic violence in the state of Espirito Santo. State and local governments also operated reference centers and temporary women's shelters, and many states maintained domestic violence hotlines.

On International Women's Day, President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva presented a series of measures regarding women's rights. Among the measures announced were salary equivalence to promote equal pay between men

and women who performed the same function, free distribution of sanitary pads, the donation of 270 vehicles to the Maria da Penha Patrol in all states to combat gender-based violence, an 8 percent quota of the federal government workforce for women survivors of violence, and a declaration that Marielle Franco Day be commemorated every March 14 to raise awareness of political violence based on gender and race. Maria da Penha became an activist who campaigned against domestic violence because her husband tried to kill her, and she survived. Marielle Franco was an activist and a councilwoman in Rio de Janeiro who advocated against police violence; she was killed in 2018, allegedly by police.

Other Forms of Gender-based Violence or Harassment: Sexual harassment was a criminal offense, punishable by up to two years in prison. The law included actions performed outside the workplace. Perpetrators were infrequently held accountable, according to *O Globo*.

Discrimination: The law provided for the same legal status and rights for women as for men in all circumstances. A law passed during the year required equal pay for equal work but was not yet enforced. According to the International Labor Organization, women not only earned less than men but also had difficulties entering the workplace; 78 percent of men held paid jobs, compared with 56 percent of women.

Reproductive Rights: There were no reports of coerced abortion or involuntary sterilization on the part of government authorities.

The government provided access to sexual and reproductive health services for sexual violence survivors, including emergency contraception and postexposure prophylaxis as part of clinical management of rape. According to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), persons in remote regions had trouble accessing reproductive health services. On March 2, a law came into effect allowing tubal ligation and vasectomy without the need for spousal consent. On April 20, President Lula sanctioned changes to the law to stipulate that emergency protective measures be immediately granted upon request. The law was not fully enforced or sufficiently funded.

The UNFPA reported that the adolescent birth rate per 1,000 girls between ages 15 to 19 averaged 53 births for the period 2003-18. The Ministry of Health reported the maternal mortality ratio was higher among Black women than among White women. Data published in 2021 by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation found that the risk of death of pregnant Brown and Black women from COVID-19 was almost twice that of White women and noted that Black women were less likely to have gynecological and prenatal care and had to travel farther to reach a maternity ward.

In 2021, UNICEF and the UNFPA published a report on menstrual poverty experienced by girls who lived in conditions of poverty and vulnerability, sometimes without access to basic sanitation services, hygiene resources, and minimal knowledge about the body. More than 700,000 girls had no access to a bathroom or shower in their homes. More than four million girls

experienced at least one type of hygiene problem in schools, including lack of access to feminine care products and basic facilities such as toilets and soap. Nearly 200,000 of these students were completely deprived of the minimum conditions to handle menstruation at school. A study from Girl Up Brazil, a network aiming to end menstrual poverty in the country, found that one in four girls had missed school due to lack of access to feminine products.

Systemic Racial or Ethnic Violence and Discrimination

The law prohibited racial discrimination, specifically the denial of public or private facilities, employment, or housing to anyone based on race. The law also prohibited the incitement of racial discrimination or prejudice and the dissemination of racially offensive symbols and epithets, and it stipulated prison terms for such acts. The government did not enforce the law effectively.

According to the Brazilian National Institute of Geography and Statistics, Black and Brown citizens represented an estimated 57 percent of the population. These populations encountered disproportionate discrimination, according to media reports such as in *Folha de São Paulo* and civil society organizations such as the National Coordination of Quilombo Articulation. They also experienced a higher rate of unemployment and earned wages below those of White persons in similar positions. In

addition, there was a sizeable education gap. Afro-Brazilians were disproportionately affected by crime and violence.

The law provided for quota-based affirmative action policies in higher education, government employment, and the military. Nevertheless, Afro-Brazilians were underrepresented in the government, professional positions, and middle and upper socioeconomic classes, according to media reports.

Many government offices maintained internal committees to validate the self-declared ethnicity claims of public service job applicants by using phenotypic criteria, assessing "Blackness" to reduce abuse of affirmative action policies and related laws. University administrators regularly conducted investigations and expelled students for fraudulently claiming to be Black or Brown to claim racial quota places in universities.

According to the General Comptroller's Office, in the first five months of Lula's administration, there was a 94 percent increase in the number of racism complaints against the federal government, compared with the same period in 2022.

For the first time, Quilombolas, one of the country's traditional communities, were included in the country's census, released in July. According to the 2022 census, Quilombolas numbered 1.3 million, corresponding to 0.65 percent of the total population. Almost 70 percent of the Quilombolas resided in the northeastern states and almost one-third

resided in the Legal Amazon region. Many Quilombolas lived in rural communities known as *quilombos* and practiced subsistence agriculture. Although Quilombolas self-identified as a distinct group, they faced many of the same obstacles as other Afro-Brazilians, including lack of access to quality education, health care, and employment.

On April 27, at the Inter-American Court of Justice, the government apologized and recognized it had violated the rights of Quilombolas by displacing them during the construction of the Alcântara Air Force Base in Maranhão State in 1983.

On August 17, prominent Quilombola leader Maria Bernadete Pacífico was killed by unidentified persons, according to media reports. In 2017, her son Fábio Gabriel Pacífico was shot and killed in Pitanga dos Palmares quilombo, in the state of Bahia. Pacífico's remaining son Jurandir Wellington alleged in a nationwide broadcast on August 19 that both his mother and brother were killed by local farmers and land speculators intent on seizing Quilombola lands.

Indigenous Peoples

The constitution acknowledged that Indigenous peoples were the original inhabitants of the country and provided for the exclusive possession of their territories and respect for their social organizations, customs, languages, beliefs, and traditional lands.

President Lula established the first Ministry of Indigenous Peoples in the country. The government also re-established the National Council for Indigenous Policy and restructured the National Foundation of Indigenous Peoples. Approximately 14 percent of the country's land area was designated as Indigenous territory. Requests to exploit mineral and water resources, including ones with energy potential, on Indigenous lands required approval by congress, in consultation with the Indigenous communities. Despite several proposals, congress passed no legislation to regulate these activities. Illegal land occupations often resulted in violence and even death, according to the annual report from Land Pastoral Commission.

According to the report *Violence Against Indigenous Peoples in Brazil*, by the Indigenous Missionary Council, between 2019 and 2022, 795 Indigenous persons were killed, most in the states of Roraima (208), Amazonas (163), and Mato Grosso do Sul (146). In 2022, the number of land invasions and conflicts increased in Indigenous territories, with 467 cases of violence against properties, 158 cases of territorial conflicts, and 309 records of land invasions, illegal exploitation of resources, and damage to property.

Violence against Indigenous peoples increased to 416 cases in 2022, almost 10 percent more than in 2021. On average, these incidences of violence rose during the four years of President Bolsonaro's administration, when cases numbered an average of 374. NGOs claimed a lack of regulation and

attempts to create new legislation or change existing legislation to promote economic development, along with impunity in cases of illegal land invasions, resulted in the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

Children

Child Abuse: The law prohibited child abuse and neglect, but the government did not enforce the law effectively. Sexual abuse against children increased, according to 2022 data from the federal government's human rights hotline, Dial 100.

On May 19, a presidential decree created a commission to address sexual violence against children and adolescents, including updating the national plan to confront sexual violence against children and adolescents. The commission also served as an advisory, research, and coordination body for the child and adolescent protection network and was responsible for developing guidelines for government action in addressing sexual violence against children and adolescents.

According to the publication *A Gazeta*, in April a girl, age 2, died in a hospital in the municipality of Guarapari, Espirito Santo State. According to the hospital, the child displayed signs that she had been raped. The father was arrested as a suspect.

Child, Early, and Forced Marriage: The legal minimum age of marriage was 18, or 16 with parental or legal representative consent. The government did

not enforce the law effectively. The practice of early marriage was common, according to UNICEF. A study of child marriage in the northeastern states of Bahia and Maranhão found that pregnancy was the main motivation for child marriage in 15 of 44 cases.

Sexual Exploitation of Children: The law prohibited the sale, grooming, or sexual exploitation of children and other vulnerable persons and such acts were punishable by four to 10 years in prison. The law defined sexual exploitation as child sex trafficking, sexual activity, production of child sexual abuse material, and public or private sex shows. The law set a minimum age of 14 for consensual sex, with the penalty for statutory rape ranging from eight to 15 years in prison. The government enforced the law unevenly, according to the judiciary and executive branches.

The country was a destination for child sex tourism, according to the government and media reports. While no specific laws addressed child sex tourism, it was punishable under other criminal offenses. Girls from other South American nations were also exploited in sex trafficking in the country.

The law criminalized child sexual abuse material. The creation of child sexual abuse material carried a prison sentence of up to eight years and a fine. The penalty for possession of child sexual abuse material was up to four years in prison and a fine.

Antisemitism

According to the Brazilian Israelite Federation, there were approximately 120,000 Jewish citizens in the country, of whom approximately 70,000 lived in the state of São Paulo, according to 2021 data, and 34,000 in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

The law criminalized the manufacture, sale, distribution, or broadcast of symbols, emblems, ornaments, badges, or advertising that used the swastika for purposes of publicizing Nazism. The penalty was two to five years' imprisonment. Federal judge Claudia Dadico noted that legislation on hate speech lacked clarity and therefore made it difficult to enforce the law effectively.

On April 3, Santa Catarina Civil Police arrested 10 members of a neo-Nazi cell linked to the Hammerskins, a white supremacist and neo-Nazi group founded in the United States. Police alleged the individuals were responsible for recruiting and radicalizing youth online and in person in the state of Santa Catarina, where police made two additional arrests of men involved in organized crime and neo-Nazi activities.

For further information on incidents in the country of antisemitism, whether or not those incidents were motivated by religion, and for reporting on the ability of Jews to exercise freedom of religion or belief, please see the Department of State's *International Religious Freedom Report* at

https://www.state.gov/religiousfreedomreport/.

Trafficking in Persons

See the Department of State's annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* at https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/.

Acts of Violence, Criminalization, and Other Abuses Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Expression, or Sex Characteristics

Criminalization: No laws criminalized consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults.

Violence and Harassment: Violence against LGBTQI+ individuals was a concern. While such violence generally had declined since 2017, violence specifically targeting transgender individuals increased, according to Dial 100.

The Federal Public Ministry was responsible for registering reports of crimes committed based on gender or sexual orientation but reportedly was slow to respond. Transgender individuals were particularly at risk of being the victims of crime, including sex trafficking, or committing suicide.

Dial 100 registered 2,536 complaints from January to May, an increase of more than 300 percent compared with the same period in 2022. The states

of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais reported approximately one-half of the total registered in the country.

According to a survey by the NGO Gay Group of Bahia released on June 28, between January and June, 139 LGBTQI+ persons were victims of violent deaths. The survey recorded 256 deaths in all of 2022. Gay men and women were the main victims (48 percent), followed by transgender persons (42 percent). Half of the victims identified as Brown or Black, while White victims represented almost 12 percent.

In January a transgender woman was killed and her body dismembered in Vigario Geral neighborhood, Rio de Janeiro. The victim, a prostitute, left home to meet with a customer and disappeared. Her family discovered the customer's address, where they found the victim's body and the suspect, who escaped. Police were investigating the case.

Discrimination: The Federal Supreme Court criminalized discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Offenders faced sentences of one to three years' imprisonment and a fine, or two to five years' imprisonment and a fine if the offender disseminated the incident via social media, thereby exposing the victim. The law did not explicitly recognize LGBTQI+ couples. In 2022, the Superior Court of Justice unanimously ruled that protective measures through the Maria da Penha Law, which aimed to reduce gender-based and domestic violence, were valid for a transgender woman, the first time such a ruling had taken place.

Same-sex marriage was available; same-sex couples had the legal rights and benefits afforded to different-sex spouses, including monetary rights such as inheritance and survivor rights, and medical rights including hospital visitation and medical decision making.

NGOs cited lack of economic opportunity for LGBTQI+ persons as a concern. According to Grupo Gay da Bahia, 33 percent of companies avoided hiring LGBTQI+ employees, and 90 percent of transgender women engaged in commercial sex because they could find no employment alternative. Transgender women often paid human traffickers for protection and daily housing fees. When unable to pay, they were beaten and starved. Traffickers targeted transgender women, luring them with offers of gender reassignment surgery and later exploiting them in sex trafficking when they were unable to repay the cost of the procedure.

On April 6, the federal government created the National Council for the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transvestite, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and Other Persons. The council was a reformulation of the former National Council to Combat LGBT Discrimination, eliminated at the beginning of Jair Bolsonaro's government. The responsibilities of the council included monitoring legislative proposals that had implications for the LGBTQI+ population, promoting studies and debates, supporting campaigns, proposing ways to evaluate and monitor government actions, and collaborating with the national secretariat for the rights of LGBTQI+ persons

in the elaboration of parameters for actions and policies.

Availability of Legal Gender Recognition: A presidential decree standardized the use of a person's social name (versus the name given to the person at birth) by bodies and entities of federal public administration. In federal institutions, respect for the social name was mandatory; persons had the right to be respected by the name and gender by which they identified themselves. This also applied to health-care units and hospitals. Many of these institutions reserved a field in forms and documents intended for social names.

Individuals were able to change their gender identity marker on legal and government identification documents to align with their gender identity. There were no options available for "nonbinary/intersex/ gender nonconforming." Individual self-identification was usually sufficient, but sometimes judges required gender-affirming surgery.

Involuntary or Coercive Medical or Psychological Practices: The Federal Council of Psychology in Brazil prohibited any professional from applying so-called conversion therapy practices to LGBTQI+ persons. Nevertheless, there were many reports of conversion attempts conducted or recommended by evangelical and Catholic churches.

A 2022 report by All Out and Instituto Matizes identified 26 types of "gay cures" in the country, divided into four categories: religious,

medical/psychological, familial, and academic. Of the 365 persons interviewed, 193 had been subjected to an attempted "gay cure."

During the June Pride month, an evangelical pastor, André Valadão, from a church in the state of Minas Gerais, promoted "gay cure" practices through his cult entitled "God Hates Pride." This practice and speech were common in evangelical churches. On October 12, digital influencer Karol Eller committed suicide in São Paulo, one month after she announced she would undergo a "gay cure" and that she became an evangelical. In September Eller stated in a post on social media that she had "renounced homosexual practice."

Surgeries were commonly performed on newborns at the advice of medical doctors to "choose a gender." There were no reports that medically unnecessary and irreversible "normalization" surgeries were performed on nonconsenting adult intersex persons.

Restrictions of Freedom of Expression, Association, or Peaceful Assembly: There were no restrictions of freedom of expression, association, or peaceful assembly regarding LGBTQI+ matters.

Persons with Disabilities

The law provided the right to education, employment, health services, public buildings, and transportation. The law prohibited discrimination against persons with physical and mental disabilities, and the federal

government generally enforced these provisions. The law required private companies with more than 100 employees to hire 2 to 5 percent of their workforce from persons with disabilities. While federal and state laws mandated access to buildings for persons with disabilities, states did not enforce them effectively, according to Grupo Globo's news media organization G1 and others.

The lack of accessible infrastructure and school resources significantly limited the ability of persons with disabilities to participate in the workforce, according to observers and advocates.

On July 7, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics reported that persons with disabilities encountered barriers to accessing studies and the job market, and when employed, they received a lower wage than persons without disabilities. Civil society organizations acknowledged monitoring and enforcement of disability policies remained weak and criticized a lack of accessibility to public transportation, weak application of employment quotas, and a limited medical-based definition of disability that often excluded learning disabilities.

Other Societal Violence or Discrimination

Followers of Afro-Brazilian religions such as Candomblé and Umbanda faced more discrimination and violence than other religious groups, according to BBC Brasil. Although less than 2 percent of the population was affiliated

with Afro-Brazilian religions, most of the religious persecution cases registered by the human rights hotline involved victims who were practitioners of Afro-Brazilian religions.

Followers of Afro-Brazilian religions faced physical attacks on and in their places of worship and other forms religious intolerance. According to one religious leader, these attacks resulted from a mixture of religious intolerance and racism (called "religious racism" by civil society and Afro-Brazilian religious communities), systemic societal discrimination, media's perpetuation of harmful stereotypes, and attacks by public officials and members of other religious groups against these communities.

Drug-trafficking organizations and other groups contributed to societal violence, according to media reports and observers. There was evidence these heavily armed organizations participated in vigilante justice, holding "trials" and executing persons accused of wrongdoing. A victim was typically kidnapped at gunpoint and brought before a tribunal of gang members, who then tortured and executed the victim. In Rio de Janeiro City's favelas, the practice of police-affiliated criminal organizations, known as militias, using violence to extort payments for protection was a common occurrence, according to media reports and observers. Militia groups, often composed of off-duty and former law enforcement officers, penitentiary officials, and firefighters, reportedly took policing into their own hands. Many militia groups intimidated residents and conducted illegal activities,

such as extorting protection money and providing pirated utility services, according to media reports and observers. The groups also exploited activities related to the real estate market and the sale of drugs and arms.

Militias were the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the state of Rio de Janeiro, according to a recent study conducted by the Instituto Fogo Cruzado, in partnership with the Grupo de Estudos de Novos Ilegalismos (a group dedicated to studying new illegal practices) at the Universidade Federal Fluminense. The study showed that militias controlled an area of almost one thousand square miles, mostly in the western part of the city and the adjacent Baixada Fluminense area.

Civil society organizations and the press reported discrimination against persons with HIV or AIDS.

Section 7. Worker Rights

a. Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining

The law provided for freedom of association for all workers (except members of the military, military police, and firefighters), the right to bargain collectively with some restrictions, and the right to strike. The law prohibited antiunion discrimination, including the dismissal of employees who were candidates for, or holders of, union leadership positions, and it

required employers to reinstate workers fired for union activity.

New unions were required to register with the Ministry of Labor, which accepted the registration unless objections were filed by other unions. The law stipulated certain restrictions, such as *unicidade* (in essence, one union per occupational category per city), which limited freedom of association by prohibiting multiple, competing unions of the same professional category in a single geographical area. Unions that represented workers in the same geographical area and professional category could contest another union's registration.

The law stipulated that a strike could be ruled "disruptive" by the labor court, and the union could be subjected to legal penalties if the strike violated certain conditions, such as if the union failed to notify employers at least 48 hours before the beginning of a walkout or end a strike after a labor court decision. Employers were not allowed to hire substitute workers during a legal strike or fire workers for strike-related activity, provided the strike was not ruled abusive as defined in the law.

The law obliged a union to negotiate on behalf of all registered workers in the professional category and geographical area it represented, regardless of whether an employee paid voluntary membership dues. The law included collective bargaining rights, such as the ability to negotiate a flexible hourly schedule and work remotely. The law permitted the government to reject clauses of collective bargaining agreements that conflicted with government

policy.

Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining were generally respected, according to observers. Collective bargaining was widespread in establishments in the private sector.

In the view of NGO experts, the government usually effectively enforced applicable laws, and penalties were commensurate with those for other laws involving denials of civil rights, such as discrimination. Penalties were regularly applied against violators.

b. Prohibition of Forced or Compulsory Labor

See the Department of State's annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* at https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/.

c. Prohibition of Child Labor and Minimum Age for Employment

See the Department of Labor's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/findings/.

d. Discrimination (see section 6)

e. Acceptable Conditions of Work

Wage and Hour Laws: The law provided for a minimum wage, which was

higher than the official poverty income level. The law limited the workweek to 44 hours and specified a weekly rest period of 24 consecutive hours, preferably on Sundays. The law also provided for paid annual vacation, prohibited excessive compulsory overtime, limited overtime to two hours per workday, and stipulated that hours worked above the monthly limit had to be compensated with at least time-and-a-half pay; these provisions generally were enforced for all groups of workers in the formal sector. The constitution also provided for the right of domestic employees to work a maximum of eight hours per day and 44 hours per week, a minimum wage, a lunch break, social security, and severance pay.

According to *O Globo*, in March Federal Highway Police and the Labor Prosecutor's Office identified 82 persons in the state of Rio Grande do Sul working in unpaid and coerced labor harvesting rice. Those rescued included 11 children, ages 14-17, according to authorities. They were employed by BASF, a multinational company, which signed an agreement with the Ministry of Labor and Employment to compensate victims and pay fines.

Occupational Safety and Health: The Ministry of Labor set occupational safety and health (OSH) standards that were consistent with internationally recognized norms, although unsafe working conditions were prevalent throughout the country, especially in construction, according to media reports. The law required employers to establish internal committees for

accident prevention in workplaces. The government identified unsafe conditions and responded to worker complaints, but the number of inspections conducted was lower than necessary. It also provided for the protection of employees from being fired for their committee activities. Workers could remove themselves from situations that endangered their health or safety without jeopardy to their employment, although those in forced labor situations without access to transportation were particularly vulnerable to situations that endangered their health and safety.

Wage, Hour, and OSH Enforcement: The Ministry of Labor addressed problems related to nonpayment of wages and minimum wage, excessively long workdays, and OSH work conditions. In the view of NGO experts, officials effectively enforced OSH laws. Penalties for violations included fines that varied widely depending on the nature of the violation. Penalties were in general commensurate with similar crimes such as fraud or negligence. Penalties were regularly applied against violators. The number of labor inspectors was insufficient to enforce compliance, according to the Labor Inspectors Union. Inspectors had the authority to make unannounced inspections and initiate sanctions.

According to data collected by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, the informal sector represented almost 40 percent of the workforce. Part-time workers were covered by wage, hour, OSH, and other labor laws and inspections.

Gig workers were not considered employees, and food delivery and ride-share companies did not consider the workers who provided services through their platforms to be employees. These workers were not protected by labor laws.

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Back to Brazil

BRAZIL 2024

Poverty decreased but persisted for more than a quarter of the population. The child mortality rate decreased; maternal deaths disproportionately affected Black women. Deaths from dengue fever and tuberculosis increased. Unemployment decreased; forced evictions and homelessness remained concerning. The education budget was cut. Alarming police violence continued under the banner of the "war on drugs". Children continued to be at risk of violent death, particularly Black youths. Impunity persisted for human rights violations committed by state agents. Brazil remained one of the most dangerous countries for land rights defenders, especially Indigenous and *Quilombola* defenders. Trials for the killings of various human rights defenders were ongoing. Deforestation and wildfires continued unabated in the face of the government's inadequate response. Flooding in Rio Grande do Sul particularly affected vulnerable groups. Attacks against Indigenous and *Quilombola* communities remained frequent, mostly due to inefficient land demarcation policies. Gender-based violence increased against women and LGBTI people, including femicides and gender-based political violence. Proposed legislation threatened access to abortion.

Background

In June, the Federal Supreme Court (STF) decriminalized the possession of marijuana for personal use up to a limited amount. This was an important but limited step towards the decriminalization of drugs and the mitigation of the disproportionate impact of the drugs trade on vulnerable groups.

The 2024 Violence Atlas report documented 46,328 violent deaths in 2023, mostly by firearms. From 2012 to 2023, a Black person was killed every 12 minutes.

According to a 2024 report by the National Human Rights Council, there had been a staggering 270% rise in the number of neo-Nazi groups in the country between 2019 and 2021.

After being dismantled by the previous administration, memory and truth policies were partially resumed, including the Special Commission on Political Deaths and Disappearances.

The 2024 national budget showed limited investment in certain social policies, especially those of the Ministry of Racial Equality which are aimed at addressing racial inequalities.

Economic, social and cultural rights

The Getúlio Vargas Foundation released data in June showing that poverty had decreased, but 28% of the population were still experiencing poverty in 2023. The latest data from the National Observatory of Inequalities revealed that in 2022 Black people, especially women, earned substantially less than white people.

Right to health

Official data published in 2024 showed that in 2023 3,280 women suffered obstetric maternal deaths, of whom 66% were Black. Infant mortality in 2023 had dropped to the lowest rate in 28 years, with 32,006 deaths, the majority of which were Black children.

In 2024, dengue fever cases surged to 6.6 million, leaving 6,041 people dead, compared with 1.6 million cases and 1,179 deaths in 2023, according to the Ministry of Health. The same ministry reported that in 2023 the death rate from tuberculosis had increased for the second consecutive year.

Recent studies showed that the number of suicides increased by 43% between 2011 and 2022 despite a 36% reduction in suicides worldwide. The highest suicide rate by race/ethnicity was among Indigenous People at around 16.6 per 100,000.

Rights to housing and work

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics reported a decrease in unemployment, to 7 million unemployed and 3.1 million "discouraged workers" (unemployed workers who have lost hope of finding a job), by the third quarter of 2024. The Institute of Research on Applied Economics reported that employment included 48.3 million informal jobs.

The Zero Eviction ("Despejo Zero") civil society coalition claimed there were 1.5 million forced evictions between October 2022 and June 2024. No public data on this was available.

The latest data from the unified register database from federal government gave the number of 309,023 rough sleepers in 2024. The Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship only had disaggregated data available from 2023 about race – 68% of homeless people were Black people – and violence against this population, having 6,268 incidents, mostly physical violence.

Right to education

The country faced significant educational challenges. In September, the Ministry of Education's budget was cut by BRL 1.3 billion (approximately USD 230 million) for the remainder of the year.

Police operations had a significant impact on education. Redes da Maré, an organization based in a *favela* in Rio de Janeiro, reported that by August 38 police operations had taken place in the Maré area, disrupting 34 days out of 200 in the school year in that area.

After a spike in school violence with 16 episodes in 2023 and seven attacks by October 2024, the government announced new security measures and launched the School Violence Monitoring and Prevention System in April.

Freedom of expression, association and assembly

Data released in 2024 by the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism reported 330 attacks on journalists in 2023, including stigmatization, physical assault, and civil and criminal lawsuits. The majority of the aggressors were state actors, accounting for 55.7% of cases.

Excessive use of force

Alarming police violence persisted under the banner of the "war on drugs". According to information released in 2024 by the Brazilian Public Security Forum, from 2013 to 2023 there was a 188.9% increase in homicides committed by police, with 6,393 deaths in 2023. Most of the victims were Black and young people, accounting for 82.7% and 71.7% of cases, respectively. Racism was also present in violence against the police, with Black police officers accounting for 69.7% of police deaths by lethal violence.

This level of violence affected police officers' mental health. The Brazilian Public Security Forum reported that the suicide rate among police officers increased by 26.2% from 2022 to 2023, with a total of 118 cases.

The army was still deployed in Rio de Janeiro state, as it had been since 2010. The Ministry of Justice and Public Security outlined programmes to strengthen external control and oversight of the police.

Children's rights

Congress discussed proposals to reduce the minimum age of criminal responsibility and extend sentencing periods for children.

Recently released data from UNICEF revealed that between 2021 and 2023 at least 15,101 children were victims of violent deaths. Of these, 82.9% were Black children and adolescents. The mortality risk for Black young people was 4.4 times higher than that of white young people over the same period. In 2023, 900 children and adolescents were killed by police.

In Rio de Janeiro state, the freedom of movement of Black young people was further restricted by Operation Summer, which started in September and was planned to continue until March 2025, despite being suspended by a court ruling. The operation allowed police officers to conduct searches on children and adolescents in certain areas without clearly defined criteria and to refer them to social services.

In April, an important step was taken towards increasing the protection of the rights of children and adolescents. A resolution issued by the National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents prohibited the confinement of this group in "therapeutic communities" (organizations sheltering people with drug dependence). These institutions are known for several human rights violations.

Impunity

Accountability for human rights violations committed by state agents remained poor. A decade after 19-year-old Johnatha de Oliveira was shot during a police operation in the Manguinhos *favela* of Rio de Janeiro, the police officer suspected of criminal responsibility for his death was brought to trial before a jury. The jury decided that he had not intended to kill Johnatha, and the case was downgraded to be reviewed by a military court.[1] The jury was nullified on appeal. It was agreed that a new trial would take place.

A court acquitted three police officers for the murder of João Pedro Matos, an 11-year-old boy killed inside his home during a police operation in the Complexo do Salgueiro *favela* in Rio de Janeiro in May 2020.[2]

In the case of Davi Fiuza, who was forcibly disappeared in São Cristóvão, a neighbourhood in the city of Salvador in Bahia state in 2014, five military police officers were charged with abduction and false imprisonment, out of 17 who were indicted. In October, the Superior Court of Justice maintained the jury's jurisdiction despite the defendants' request to be brought to trial before a military court. The case was still awaiting trial.

Human rights defenders

Global Witness highlighted Brazil as the second most dangerous country for land and territorial rights defenders in 2023, particularly Indigenous Peoples. Despite a legal mandate from 2007, a national plan for human rights defenders was still not ready.

From 2020 to May 2024, the National Human Rights Ombudsman received 2,332 complaints regarding violations against human rights defenders. The Protection Programme for Human Rights Defenders operated in fewer than half (10) of the country's states. In 2024, 1,134 cases were under monitoring, with over half involving Indigenous and *Quilombola* individuals (traditional people who are descendants of Africans who escaped slavery). Most threats came from landowners, companies and public security agents.

In October, two men were convicted for the killing of councillor and human rights defender Marielle Franco and her driver Anderson Gomes in March 2018. The STF accepted the indictment of the individuals accused of ordering the crime, including a congressman and the former head of Rio de Janeiro's Civil Police, who were arrested. The Ethics Committee of the House of Representatives voted to revoke the mandate of the accused congressman. According to the media, in June the STF opened an investigation into the obstruction of justice targeting a former head of Rio de Janeiro's state civil police, a former homicide police station chief and a police commissioner in charge of conducting investigations into the crime.

An indictment against the alleged perpetrators of the 2022 murder of environmental activists Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips was pending appeal. An investigation into those who had ordered their killing was ongoing.

Justice progressed for the killings of *Quilombola* leaders Flávio Gabriel Pacífico dos Santo ("Binho do Quilombo") in 2017 and his mother Mãe Bernardete Pacífico in 2023. Binho's alleged killers were arrested and an indictment for Mãe Bernardete Pacífico's homicide was filed in court.

Right to a healthy environment

According to the National Institute for Space Research, Brazil accounted for 54.5% of South America's wildfires in 2024, and deforestation in the Cerrado and Amazon zones reached 8,237.9km², primarily on rural lands. Mining activities affected 66.2km², encroaching on protected areas and Indigenous lands.

The Ministry for the Environment was unable to provide Amnesty International with a list of mining companies responsible for environmental damage.

The government's response to wildfires and deforestation during the year was delayed, with major initiatives only starting in June and intensifying in September.

During the year, 58% of Brazil faced the worst drought in 75 years, with a third of the population experiencing severe conditions.

Flooding in Rio Grande do Sul state affected 2.3 million people and displaced 600,000, leading to a state of emergency in 27 cities. Official data reported 806 injuries, 183 deaths and 28 missing resulting from the flood. Vulnerable groups were especially affected, including 16,691 Indigenous People. By August, the state's health department had reported 788 confirmed cases of leptospirosis and 2,844 cases under investigation, resulting in 26 deaths, alongside 10 outbreaks of acute diarrhoeal disease.

Indigenous Peoples' rights

Data released in July by the Missionary Indigenous Council revealed that, in 2023, at least 208 Indigenous People were murdered. Additionally, 1,040 Indigenous children up to the age of four died from mostly preventable causes, and 180 suicides were reported.

The Ministry of Indigenous Peoples reported that 652 cases of land conflict were under review by the second half of 2024. In August, violent attacks increased against the Guarani Kaiowá community in Mato Grosso do Sul state and the Ava-Guarani in Paraná state. In September, Neri Guarani Kaiowá, a 23-year-old Indigenous man, was killed by police officers during an operation in Nhanderu Marangatu Indigenous land in Barra Farm, in the city of Antonio João, Mato Grosso do Sul state.

These conflicts largely stemmed from the lack of land demarcation, the demarcation process having been completed for 601 Indigenous lands and 731 still pending in 2024. Law 14.701 – approved at the end of 2023 – declared that only those lands occupied when the federal constitution of 1988 was promulgated could be demarcated, which undermined Indigenous rights. Despite previous court rulings deeming this unconstitutional, a conciliation mechanism between farmers, state agencies, and Indigenous groups was established by the STF. Indigenous People abandoned these meetings claiming they were not allowed meaningful participation.

According to the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, 537,941 Indigenous People faced food insecurity in 2024, one of the adverse effects of non-Indigenous exploitation of natural resources.

Quilombolas

Quilombolas continued to suffer violence and lacked state protection. According to a recent report from the National Coordination of the Articulation of Black Rural *Quilombola* Communities and the NGO Terra de Direitos, between 2018 and 2022 at least 32 *Quilombola* people were killed in 11 states, the main causes being land conflict and gender-based violence. According to the Ministry of Racial Equality, 126 *Quilombola* communities experienced conflicts during January and February. The Palmares Cultural Foundation reported that the land of 3,051 *Quilombola* communities had been certified, with 262 still being processed in 2024. According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, only 12.6% of the total *Quilombola* population were living in officially demarcated territories (a recognition stage prior to titling) and 4.3% living in titled territories.

Racism was prevalent, evidenced by the Ministry of Human Rights' reporting an 80% increase in human rights violations against Afro-Brazilian religious communities. In the first half of 2024, 342 violations were documented by the Ministry of Racial Equality.

Sexual and gender-based violence

Data from Brazil's Public Security Annuary highlighted an increase in violence against women. A report published in July stated that in 2023, Brazil recorded 1,467 femicides, an increase of 0.8% on the previous year, 63% affecting Black women and 64% occurring at home. There were 258,941 reports of physical assaults, a rise of 9.8%. There were 894,511 cases of psychological violence, threats and stalking, all of which had increased. A total of 540,255 emergency protective measures were granted, 26.7% more than the previous year. Sexual violence had also increased, with 83,988 rapes, a 6.5% increase, of which 88% were against women and girls, 52% against Black people, and 76% against children under 13 years old. Despite these numbers, National Gender Violence Map found that 61% of incidents go unreported.

LGBTI people faced severe threats, with 7,673 human rights violations reported to the human rights hotline last year. In a report published in 2024, the human rights group Grupo Gay da Bahia reported 257 violent deaths in 2023, mainly affecting young Black transgender people. At least 5,537 LGBTI people had been violently killed between 2000 and 2023. Transgender Europe confirmed in a report published in 2024 that Brazil had the highest number of transgender murders globally between October 2022 and September 2023.

In a year in which mayors and city councillors were elected across the country, gender-based political violence remained a concern, with official data showing 455 reported violations. The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office was actively monitoring 91 cases of gender-based political violence in 2023 and 2024.

Sexual and reproductive rights

Bill 1904/24 threatened the rights of people accessing abortion by proposing that abortions after 22 weeks of pregnancy would be considered murder and increasing penalties to 20 years' imprisonment for anyone involved, even for pregnancies resulting from rape. This bill and other similar propositions were still under discussion in parliament. The Ministry of Women reported that the prohibition of abortion disproportionately affected women living in poverty.

1. "10 years of fighting for justice for Johnatha", 6 March (Portuguese only) ↩
2. "João Pedro case: There is no self-defence when an unarmed child is killed inside their home by police action", 10 July (Portuguese only) ↩

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5/6/2025

Parents or Guardian of **Rosana Araujo**

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Exhibit 3 - Rosana Da Silva Araujo Declaration with English Translation (Dated: October 7, 2026)

SWORN DECLARATION OF ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

I, ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO, born on March 15, 2008, in the Federal District of Brasília, Brazil, and currently resident at 866 N Pugh Ln, Saratoga Springs 84045, Utah, declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct.

I was raised in the Federal District by my biological parents, Ronaldo Araujo Martins and Raquel Aparecida Da Silva. For as long as I can remember, I grew up under the shadow of constant trauma, in an environment dominated by a sense of unpredictable dread and deep emotional and physical insecurity. My father suffers from severe alcoholism and drug addiction, consuming substances daily and rarely remaining sober. Under the influence of these substances, he always exhibited extremely aggressive, violent, and explosive behavior inside the home.

Even though my father did not direct physical aggression directly against my body, I was a constant victim of psychological abuse and experienced episodes of extreme physical violence against my mother. The image of my mother falling onto the bathroom floor, covered in blood after being assaulted by him, remained etched in my memory like a nightmare from which I could not wake up. I was just a child trying to place my own body in front of hers to protect her, crying in despair and wondering if we would survive that night.

In another terrible moment, when I was between 10 and 12 years old, I do not remember the exact age, my father got involved in a street/bar fight because of his debts and addictions. Shortly after he arrived home in distress, a furious man appeared at our gate, pounding, screaming, and threatening to break into the house. Inside my home, I was paralyzed with terror over what would happen and at the same time watching everything with curiosity, as I was just a child, while my father exposed us to danger and went out to the garage to physically fight with them, leaving us completely unprotected.

In childhood and adolescence, instead of being cared for, I was forced to assume the role of the adult in the house. Due to excessive alcohol and drug consumption, my father developed liver complications, suffered cardiac arrest, and was intubated in terminal condition in the ICU. Being just a young girl, I spent days in the hospital caring for his health, witnessing intense scenes and having access to content on his cell phone that no daughter should ever see. It was a very heavy and difficult situation to go through, especially given my age at the time.

My mother, on the other hand, works independently (reselling merchandise) and spent days and nights away from home, without providing me with the slightest supervision or protection. Throughout my childhood and adolescence, I spent entire days alone in an empty house, not knowing when my mother would return or if my father would arrive home violent. No one asked me if I had eaten dinner, if I was in pain, or if I needed a hug. In the frequent fights where my father became aggressive, my mother was never able to intervene to guarantee my safety.

My decision to come to the United States in August 2023 was due to the absolute impossibility of continuing to live under this cycle of neglect, psychological abuse, violence, and lack of safety in Brazil. The desire to continue my studies was a positive outcome of seeking a safe environment, but the primary reason for my departure was escaping the neglect and risks of living with my parents.

I currently do not have any financial assistance or support from my parents in Brazil, nor do I maintain contact with them. Returning to Brazil means returning me to this abyss of fear and helplessness. My parents do not have the financial, moral, or psychological stability to take me in; if I am forced to return, I will be left completely to fend for myself, with no one to turn to for a home, safety, and stability.

In the United States, I found in my guardian, Larissa Araújo Santos, the family and protection I never had in Brazil. For the first time in my life, I feel cared for as a young person should be, in fact, I even feel like a child again, because I can be vulnerable around Larissa, and she always takes care of me.

We have quality time, talk about my emotions, and live in a safe and loving home in Lehi, Utah. Under Larissa's guardianship, I regained my peace of mind, completed my studies with excellent grades, and have the opportunity to build a safe and dignified future.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that all of the above information is true.

Saratoga Springs, Utah, October 7, 2026.

Rosana S. Araújo

ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

I, André Vinícius Inacio Penna Mello, telephone number 415 425-2508, mailing address P.O. Box 90487, San Diego, CA 92169, certify that the professional translation of this document from Portuguese to English has been performed by myself, a qualified translator fluent in both languages, and that the following is an accurate and complete translation of the document.

_____ **Date: October 9, 2026.**

DECLARAÇÃO JURAMENTADA DE ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

Eu, **ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO**, nascida em 15 de março de 2008, no Distrito Federal de Brasília, Brasil, e atualmente residindo em 866 N Pugh Ln, Saratoga Springs 84045, Utah, declaro, sob pena de perjúrio conforme as leis dos Estados Unidos da América, que o seguinte é verdadeiro e correto.

Fui criada no Distrito Federal por meus pais biológicos, Ronaldo Araujo Martins e Raquel Aparecida Da Silva. Desde que me conheço por gente, cresci sob a sombra de um trauma constante, em um ambiente dominado por uma sensação de pavor imprevisível e profunda insegurança emocional e física. Meu pai sofre de alcoolismo severo e dependência de drogas, consumindo substâncias diariamente e permanecendo raramente sóbrio. Sob o efeito dessas substâncias, ele sempre apresentou um comportamento extremamente agressivo, violento e explosivo dentro de casa.

Mesmo que meu pai não tenha direcionado agressões físicas diretamente contra o meu corpo, fui vítima constante de abusos psicológicos e vivenciei episódios de extrema violência física contra minha mãe. A imagem da minha mãe caindo no chão do banheiro, ensanguentada após ser agredida por ele, ficou gravada na minha memória como um pesadelo do qual eu não conseguia acordar. Eu era apenas uma criança tentando colocar meu próprio corpo na frente do dela para protegê-la, chorando em desespero e me perguntando se nós sobreviveríamos àquela noite.

Em outro momento terrível, quando eu tinha entre 10 e 12 anos, não me lembro ao certo a idade, meu pai se envolveu em uma briga de rua/bar por conta de suas cobranças e vícios. Pouco tempo após ele chegar em casa transtornado, um homem furioso apareceu no nosso portão, esmurrando, gritando e ameaçando invadir a casa. Dentro da minha casa fiquei paralisada pelo pavor do que aconteceria e ao mesmo tempo vendo tudo com curiosidade, pois eu era só uma criança, enquanto meu pai nos expôs ao perigo e saiu para a garagem para brigar fisicamente com eles, nos deixando completamente desprotegidas.

Na infância e adolescência, em vez de ser cuidada, fui forçada a assumir o papel de adulta da casa. Devido ao consumo excessivo de álcool e drogas, meu pai desenvolveu complicações no fígado, teve uma parada cardíaca e ficou intubado em estado terminal na UTI. Sendo apenas uma jovem, passei dias no hospital cuidando da saúde dele, presenciando cenas fortes e tendo acesso a conteúdos do celular dele que nenhuma filha deveria ver. Foi uma situação bem pesada e difícil de passar, ainda mais pela idade que eu tinha na época.

Já a minha mãe trabalha de forma autônoma (revendendo mercadorias) e passava dias e noites fora de casa, sem me dar o menor acompanhamento ou proteção. Durante toda a minha infância e adolescência, passei dias inteiros sozinha em uma casa vazia, sem saber quando minha mãe voltaria ou se meu pai chegaria violento. Ninguém me perguntava se eu tinha jantado, se estava com dor ou se precisava de um abraço. Nas frequentes brigas em que meu pai ficava agressivo, minha mãe jamais conseguiu intervir para garantir a minha segurança.

A minha decisão de vir para os Estados Unidos em agosto de 2023 deu-se pela absoluta impossibilidade de continuar vivendo sob esse ciclo de negligência, abusos psicológicos, violência e falta de segurança no Brasil. O desejo de dar continuidade aos meus estudos foi uma consequência positiva de buscar um ambiente seguro, mas o motivo primário da minha saída foi a fuga da negligência e riscos de viver com meus pais.

Não tenho qualquer ajuda ou sustento financeiro dos meus pais no Brasil atualmente, nem mantenho contato com eles. Voltar para o Brasil significa me devolver a esse abismo de medo e desamparo. Meus pais não têm estabilidade financeira, moral ou psicológica para me acolher; se eu for forçada a retornar, ficarei completamente à própria sorte, sem ter a quem recorrer para ter uma casa, segurança e estabilidade.

Nos Estados Unidos, encontrei na minha guardiã, Larissa Araújo Santos, a família e a proteção que jamais tive no Brasil. Pela primeira vez na vida, me sinto cuidada como uma jovem deve ser, na verdade, me sinto até criança de novo, pois posso ser vulnerável perto da Larissa, e ela sempre cuida de mim. Nós temos tempo

de qualidade, conversamos sobre minhas emoções e vivemos em um lar seguro e amoroso em Lehi, Utah. Sob a tutela da Larissa, recuperei minha paz mental, concluí meus estudos com excelentes notas e tenho a oportunidade de construir um futuro seguro e digno.

Declaro, sob pena de perjúrio, que todas as informações acima são verdadeiras.

Saratoga Springs, Utah, 07 de outubro de 2026.

Rosana S. Araújo

ROSANA DA SILVA ARAUJO

Exhibit 4 - Larissa Araujo Santos Declaration with English Translation (Dated: October 15, 2026)

SWORN DECLARATION OF LARISSA ARAÚJO SANTOS

I, **LARISSA ARAÚJO SANTOS**, residing at 866 N Pugh Ln, Saratoga Springs 84045, hereby make this declaration voluntarily, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, to support the petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) on behalf of Rosana Da Silva Araujo.

My mother is a cousin of Rosana's father. I have always closely witnessed her family history in Brazil and was aware of her father's severe addictions to alcohol and drugs, as well as his aggressive, rigid, and unstable behavior. Seeing Rosana in Brazil broke my heart: she was not an ordinary child, she had a sad look, was emotionally destroyed, and lived in a state of abandonment and invisible suffering.

I constantly witnessed both of Rosana's parents consuming alcohol excessively and leaving their daughter without proper parental care or attention during family trips we took together, to Lago de Palmital, Goiás and to Rio Grande do Norte, where another part of our family lives. Since I was older, I ended up taking on the responsibility of caring for Rosana during these trips so she would not be left helpless.

One of the most memorable episodes about Rosana occurred approximately ten years ago (when I was about 17 years old and Rosana was about 8 years old), when Rosana's mother sent me a message asking for help because Rosana was deeply sad, unmotivated, and had poor academic performance. When I welcomed her into my home, I realized she was at the limit of her strength, without any spark or hope due to what she was experiencing at home. I talked to her and suggested that we do our makeup and get dressed up so she could feel happier and calmer, and distract herself from everything that was happening (the problems inside her house with her parents). From that moment on, I developed a bond of deep love and a protective responsibility toward her, upon realizing how neglected she was and how much she lacked a healthy family role model.

Regarding the proceedings in the Utah Court, upon realizing that Rosana was living without any adult protection in Brazil in an extremely dangerous and unstable environment, I decided that I would take over Rosana's care as soon as she arrived in the US. I took on the role of being responsible for her because I knew that if no one intervened, Rosana would be consumed by that family tragedy. We filed the dependency petition in the Utah Juvenile Court because I knew I had the moral, emotional, and structural conditions to provide her with the stability, peace, and support that her biological parents never provided.

Currently, my husband and I provide full financial support for Rosana in our home in Lehi, Utah. We guarantee her safe housing, food, clothing, transportation, and all necessary emotional support. Here with me, she finally has a home!

Since she began residing with me under my care, Rosana's development in school has been extraordinary. In Brazil, she constantly experienced performance and attendance issues due to the emotional overload she suffered at home. Here in Utah, she dedicated herself fully, earned excellent grades, and successfully completed high school in an environment of absolute peace.

As Rosana's current guardian, I affirm that Rosana's return to Brazil would be detrimental and would place her physical and emotional integrity at risk. Sending her back to Brazil means condemning a young woman, who has finally discovered what it means to have peace, love, and dignity, to return to an environment of absolute danger and abandonment. When Rosana was still a minor in Brazil, her parents already left her to her own and exposed her to episodes of violence and addiction-fueled outbursts. Now that they are no longer legally obligated to care for her due to her age, they would certainly abandon her completely to her own devices. But she is still a young girl who needs to have a structured and happy home to be able to build her life and career, and to become an incredible woman. I am certain that if she stays with me here in the United States, all of these good things will be possible!

For these reasons, I respectfully request that USCIS approve this petition, allowing Rosana to remain protected under my care in the United States.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that all of the above information is true.

Saratoga Springs, Utah, October 15, 2026.



LARISSA ARAÚJO SANTOS

I, Carolina Favero da Silva, telephone number 415 425-2508, mailing address P.O. Box 90487, San Diego, CA 92169, certify that the professional translation of this document from Portuguese to English has been performed by myself, a qualified translator fluent in both languages, and that the following is an accurate and complete translation of the document.



Date: October 15, 2026.

DECLARAÇÃO JURAMENTADA DE LARISSA ARAÚJO SANTOS

Eu, **LARISSA ARAÚJO SANTOS**, residente em 866 N Pugh Ln, Saratoga Springs 84045, faço esta declaração de forma voluntária, sob pena de perjúrio conforme as leis dos Estados Unidos da América, para dar suporte à petição de *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status* (SIJS) em nome da Rosana Da Silva Araujo.

Minha mãe é prima do pai da Rosana. Sempre acompanhei de perto o histórico da família dela no Brasil e tinha conhecimento dos graves vícios em álcool e drogas do pai dela, bem como do seu comportamento agressivo, rígido e instável. Ver a Rosana no Brasil me cortava o coração: ela não era uma criança comum, tinha um olhar triste, estava destruída emocionalmente e vivia em um estado de abandono e sofrimento invisível.

Durante viagens familiares que fazíamos em família, para o Lago de Palmital/GO e para o Rio Grande do Norte, onde temos outra parte da família, eu presenciava constantemente ambos os pais da Rosana consumindo álcool de forma excessiva e deixando a filha sem o devido cuidado ou atenção parental. Como eu era mais velha, acabava assumindo a responsabilidade de cuidar da Rosana nas viagens para que ela não ficasse desamparada.

Um dos episódios mais marcantes pra mim sobre a Rosana, foi aproximadamente há uns dez anos atrás (quando eu tinha cerca de 17 anos e a Rosana tinha cerca de 8 anos), a mãe da Rosana me enviou uma mensagem pedindo ajuda porque a Rosana estava profundamente triste, desmotivada e com péssimo rendimento escolar. Quando a recebi em minha casa, percebi que ela estava no limite das suas forças, sem qualquer brilho ou esperança por conta do que vivia em casa. Conversei com ela, sugeri que a gente se maquiasse e se arrumasse juntas, para que ela ficasse mais feliz e tranquila, e se distraísse de tudo que acontecia (os problemas dentro da casa dela com seus pais). A partir daquele momento, desenvolvi um laço de profundo amor e responsabilidade de proteção para com ela, ao perceber o quanto ela era negligenciada e carente de uma referência familiar saudável.

Com relação ao processo na Corte de Utah, ao constatar que a Rosana estava vivendo sem qualquer proteção de adultos no Brasil em um ambiente extremamente perigoso e instável, decidi que assumiria os cuidados da Rosana assim que ela chegasse aos EUA. Assumi o papel de responsável por ela porque sabia que, se ninguém interviesse, a Rosana seria consumida por aquela tragédia familiar. Ingressamos com a petição de dependência no Tribunal de Menores de Utah porque sabia que eu tinha condições morais, emocionais e estruturais de proporcionar a ela a estabilidade, a paz e o suporte que seus pais biológicos jamais forneceram.

Atualmente, eu e meu esposo mantemos o sustento integral da Rosana em nossa residência em Lehi, Utah. Garantimos a ela moradia segura, alimentação, vestuário, transporte e todo o suporte emocional necessário. Aqui comigo, ela finalmente tem um lar!

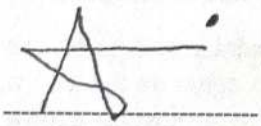
Desde que passou a residir comigo sob os meus cuidados, o desenvolvimento na escola da Rosana foi extraordinário. No Brasil, ela constantemente apresentava problemas de rendimento e frequência escolar por conta do sobrecarregamento emocional que sofria em casa. Aqui em Utah, ela se dedicou integralmente, tirou excelentes notas e concluiu o ensino médio com sucesso em um ambiente de absoluta tranquilidade.

Como atual responsável pela Rosana, afirmo que o retorno de Rosana ao Brasil seria prejudicial e colocaria sua integridade física e emocional em risco. Mandá-la de volta ao Brasil é condenar uma jovem que finalmente descobriu o que é ter paz, amor e dignidade a voltar para um ambiente de perigo e abandono absoluto. Quando a Rosana ainda era menor no Brasil, os pais dela já a deixavam entregue à sorte e a expunham a episódios de violência e surtos por vício. Agora que eles não são obrigados por lei, a cuidar dela, em função da idade, com certeza eles a abandonariam completamente à própria sorte. Mas ela ainda é uma menina, que precisa ter um lar estruturado e feliz, para poder desenvolver sua vida e carreira, e se tornar uma mulher incrível, e tenho certeza, que se ela ficar comigo aqui nos Estados Unidos, todas essas coisas boas serão possíveis!

Por tais razões, solicito respeitosamente que o USCIS defira a presente petição, permitindo que a Rosana permaneça protegida sob meus cuidados nos Estados Unidos.

Declaro, sob pena de perjúrio, que todas as informações acima são verdadeiras.

Saratoga Springs, Utah, 15 de outubro de 2026.



LARISSA ARAÚJO SANTOS