

SUMMARY OF DATA

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# ON THE FRONT LINE

Violence against  
human rights  
defenders in Brazil

2023 and 2024



Terra de Direitos  
Justiça Global

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# PRESENTATION OF

**A**t a time when Brazil is positioning itself as a leader in climate debates by hosting the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 30, the second edition of the study *Na Linha de Frente* (On the Front Line), conducted by the organizations Justiça Global and Terra de Direitos, points to a contradiction: the country remains dangerous for human rights and environmental defenders.

Between 2023 and 2024, 486 cases of violence against human rights defenders were recorded – 80.9% of them against those working in environmental and territorial defense. In practice, it is the defenders who are fighting to preserve the environment and combat the intensification of the climate crisis who are most at risk.

Based on data collection and news analysis, the new edition reveals a reduction in the number of cases compared to the previous period (2019-2022). Still, it shows that violence persists and reinvents itself, with more than 55 murders and new forms of violence and attacks.

This research is a wake-up call and a call to action. May your data and analysis strengthen the fight against violence and the protection of those who defend human rights and the planet's future.

# VIOLENCE IN NUMBERS

## Total data for the period analyzed

Between 2023 and 2024, **486 cases** of violence against human rights defenders were mapped, recorded in **318 episodes**\*. \*

**298** cases per year  
**188** cases per year



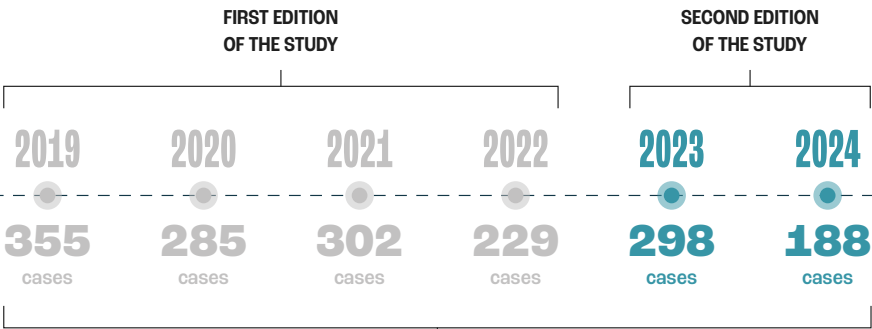
2023 2024

grand total  
**486**



\* Each incident represents an occurrence (for example, an attack) that can result in more than one case/victim of violence.

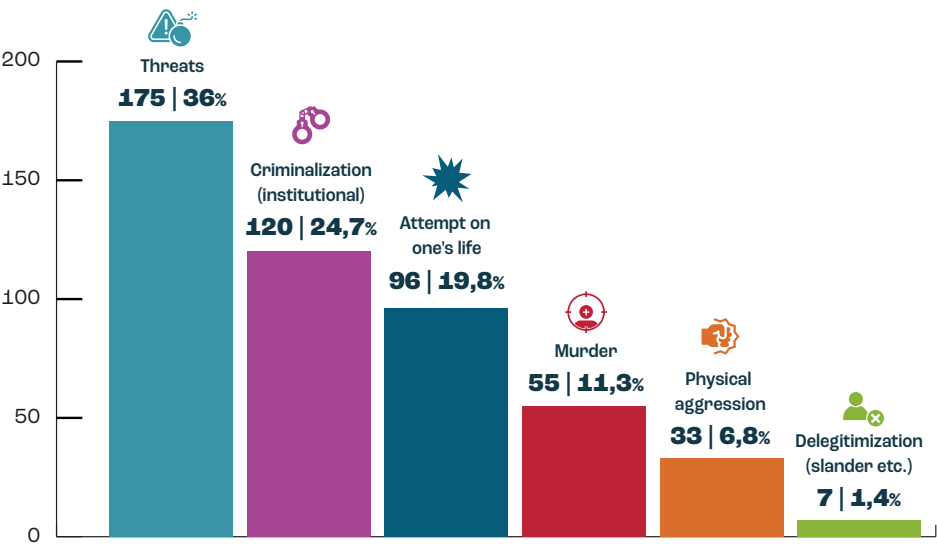
# Historical series data



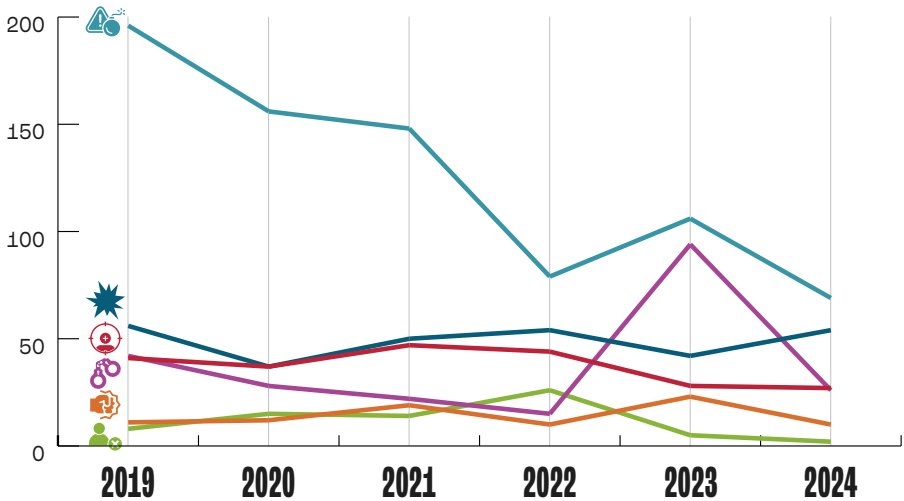
In six years, **1,657 human rights defenders** have suffered violence in the country

## VIOLATIONS BY TYPE OF VIOLENCE AND YEAR

Types of violence recorded between 2023 and 2024



## Evolution of violence against human rights defenders, by type of violence



Physical aggression



Murders



Criminalization



Threats



Attempt on one's life



Delegitimization



**Threats** remain the most frequent type of violence, but there was a 40% drop in the annual average number of cases compared to the first edition

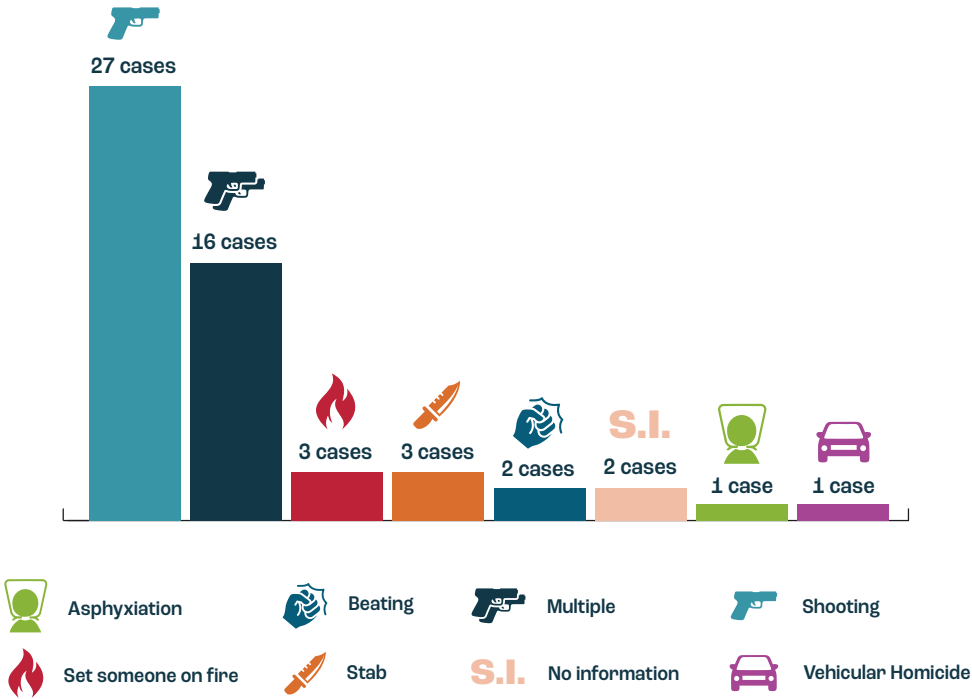
**Criminalization**, which previously ranked 4th among the most common types of violence, has moved up to 2nd place, jumping from an average of 26.75 cases to 60 cases per year;



# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MURDERS



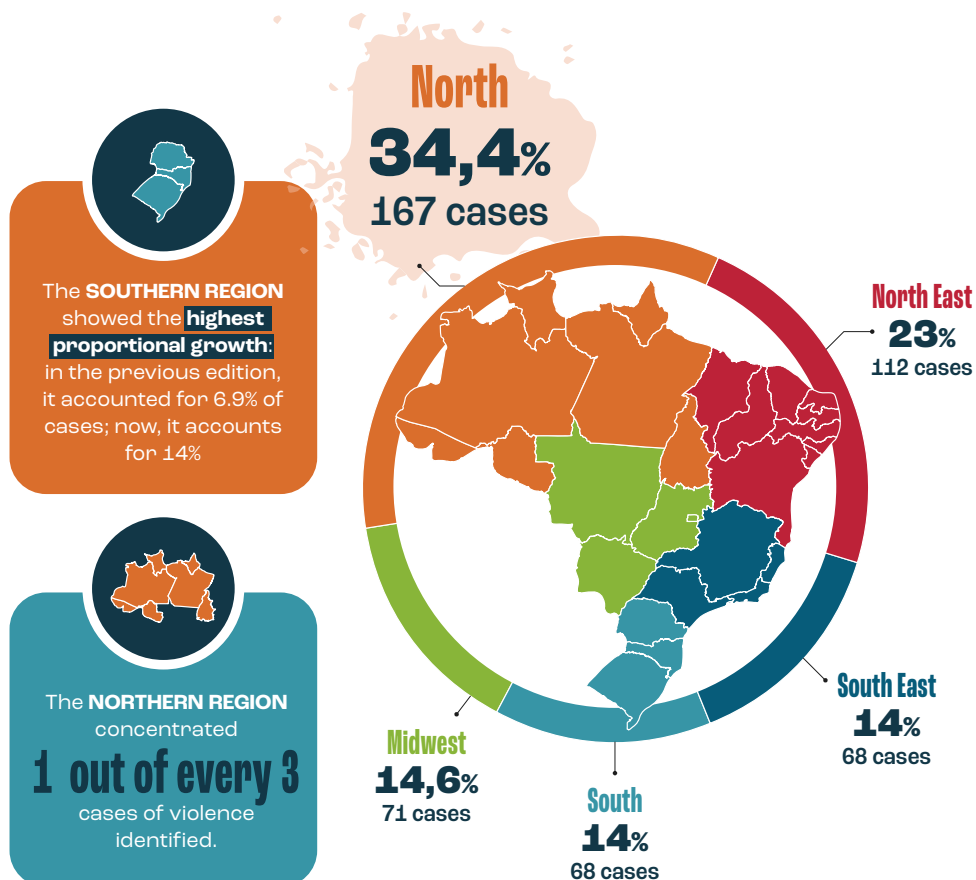
## Method used for murder



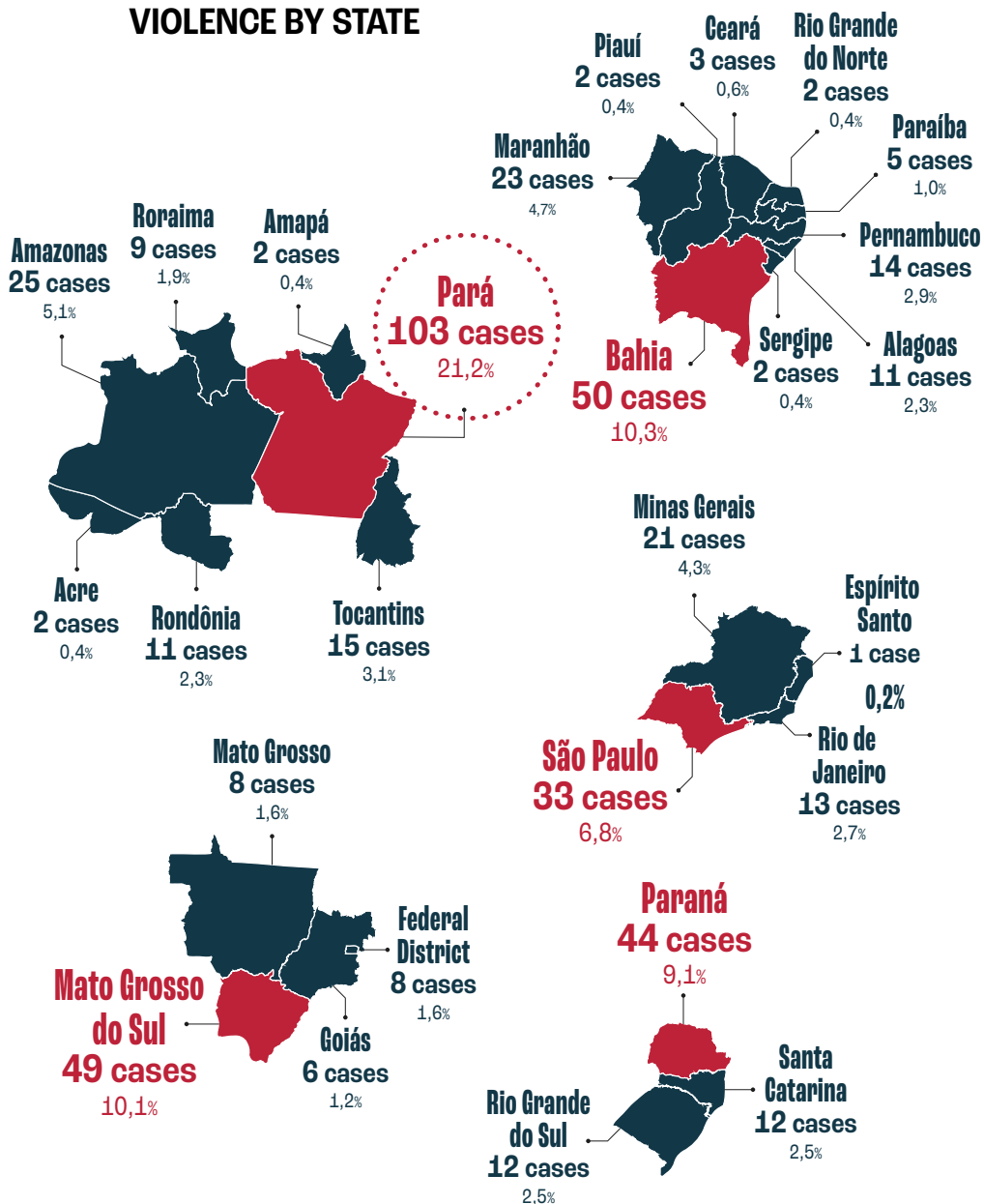
## Profile of murdered victims

- **78,2%** were men;
- **34,5%** were indigenous people;
- **36,4%** were black;
- **87,3%** were defenders of land, territory, and the environment;

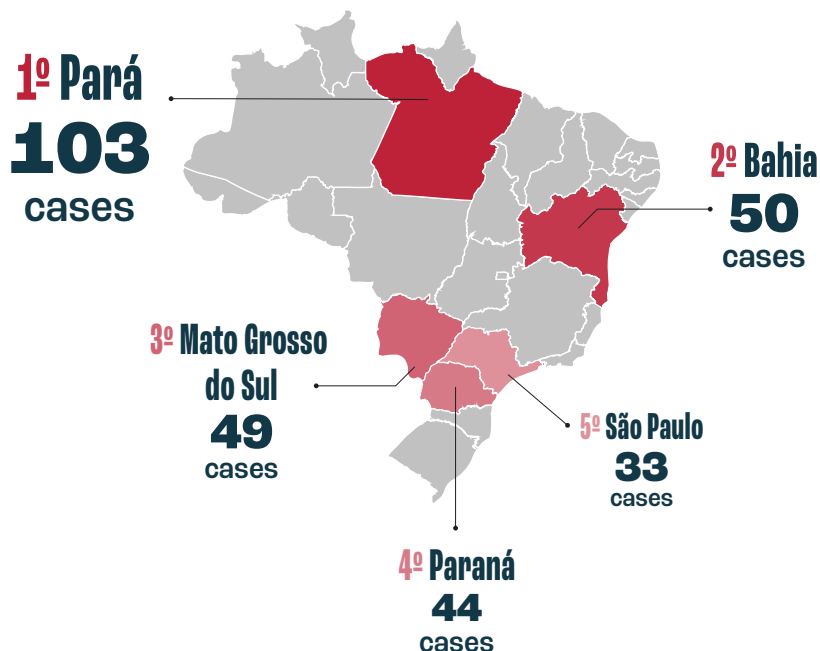
## VIOLENCE BY REGION



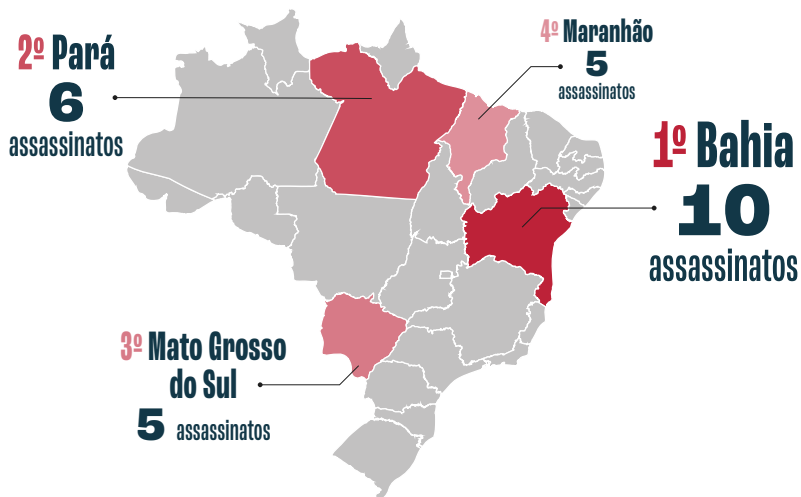
## VIOLENCE BY STATE



## Ranking of the most violent states for human rights defenders



## Ranking of the states with the highest number of murders





**In Pará, the host state of COP 30, 94% of the violence was committed against environmental and territorial defenders**

- **All** of Brazil's federal units recorded episodes of violence;
- The state of **Pará** accounts for 1 out of every 5 cases of violence identified;
- **40%** of the cases of violence occurred in the states of the **Legal Amazon**;
- In the southern region, **Paraná** experienced significant growth, increasing from an average of 6.75 cases per year (as reported in the first edition) to 22 cases per year.



**53,9% of the cases**

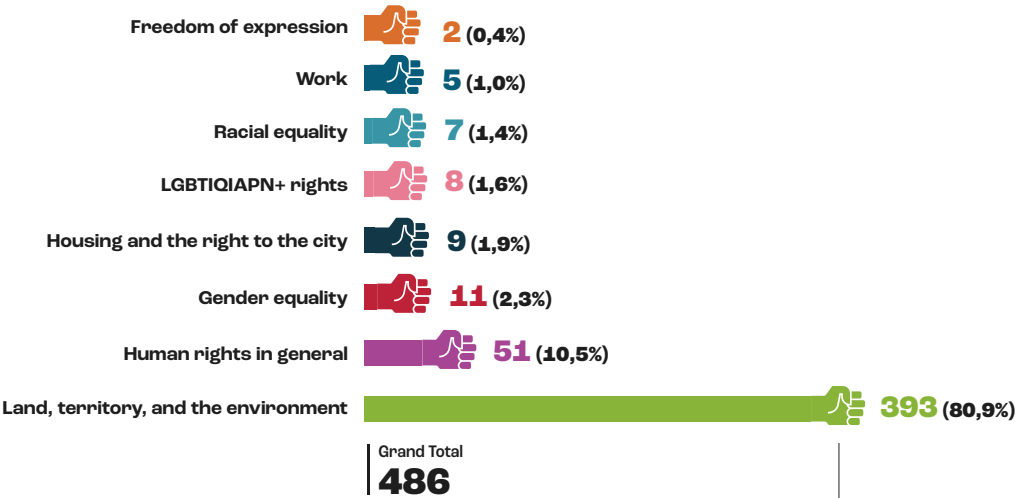
occurred within the  
victims' territory of  
reference or home;



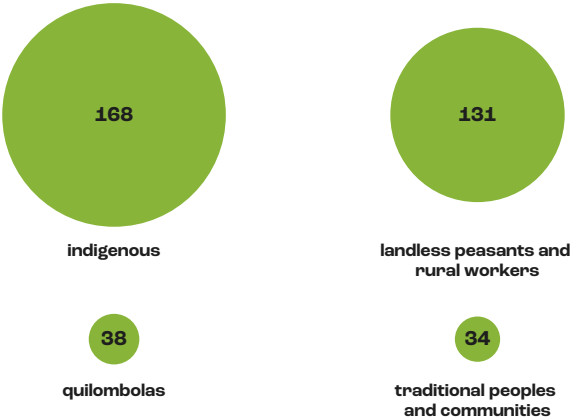
**67% of cases**

occurred in  
rural areas.

# Type of fight

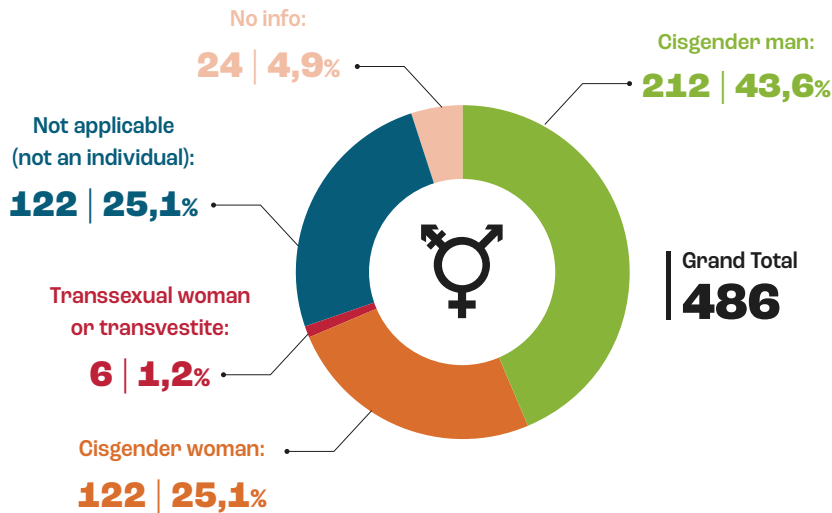


## Defenders of land, territory, and the environment, victims of some kind of violence

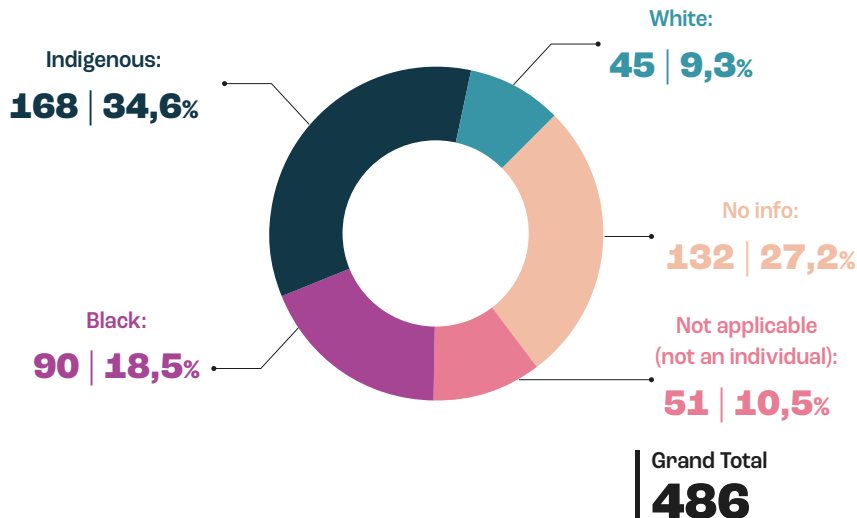


Between 2023 and 2024, **80.9% of the defenders** targeted by violence were working to defend land and territories, protect the environment, and tackle the climate crisis.

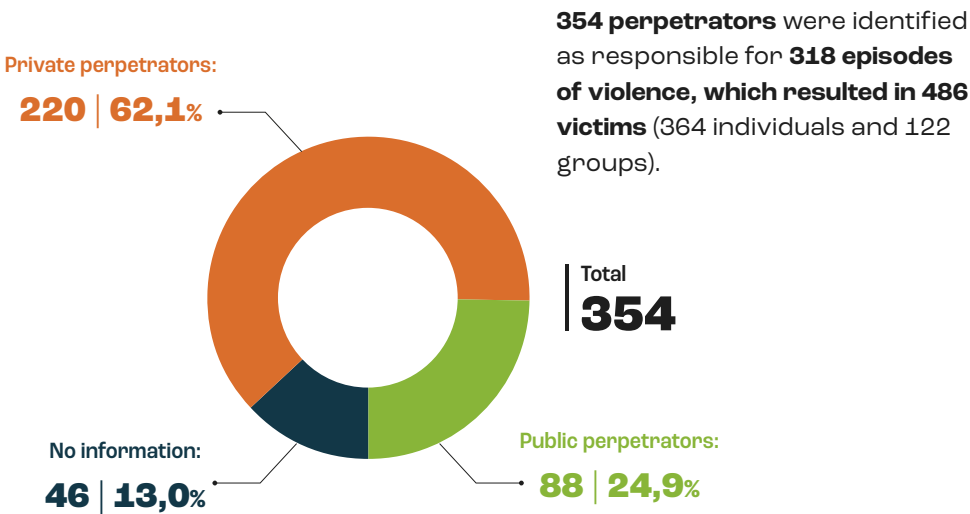
## Victims' gender identity



## Color or race of the victims



# Perpetrator of the violation

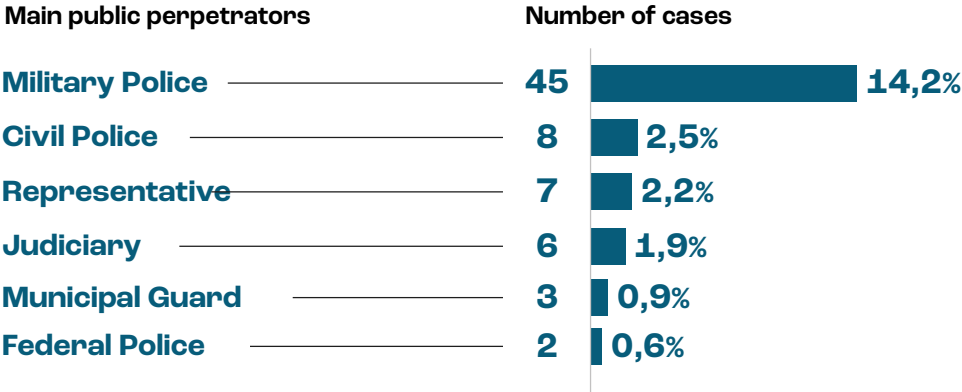


**354 perpetrators** were identified as responsible for **318 episodes of violence, which resulted in 486 victims** (364 individuals and 122 groups).

## Main private actors responsible for violence

| Main private perpetrators | Number of cases |       |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Jagunço(Thug)/Gunman      | 42              | 13,2% |
| Farmer                    | 35              | 11%   |
| Company                   | 18              | 5,7%  |
| Private security          | 14              | 4,4%  |
| Organized crime           | 12              | 3,8%  |

# Main public perpetrators responsible for the violence



**Police (Military, Civil and Federal) and the Municipal Guard**

participated in 18%  
of the registered cases of violence against  
human rights defenders

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# ABOUT THE STUDY

**J**ustica Global and Terra de Direitos are two leading organizations in the protection of human rights defenders in Brazil, with more than 20 years of experience. Together, they participated in the creation of the Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders in 2004 (CBDDH) and contributed to the development of the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (PPDDH).

Periodically, they publish the study *Na Linha de Frente – Violência contra Defensoras e Defensores de Direitos Humanos no Brasil* (On the Front Line – Violence against Human Rights Defenders in Brazil), which presents the situation faced by people who defend rights related to land, the environment, housing, education, health, and the fight against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, among other violations, always with recommendations to strengthen state and civil society protection.

**Check out  
the full  
survey on  
the website:**



[terradedireitos.org.br](http://terradedireitos.org.br) • [global.org.br](http://global.org.br)

