

# **THE INTERNATIONAL PRISON TOUR COHORT: BRAZIL**

**By: Scott E. Peyton**

January 21-27, 2024

Sponsored by: ARrow Center for Justice, Arthur Rizer and Jessi Rizer

**July 2024**

# International Prison Cohort



The International Prison Cohort outside of the Penitenciária Feminina Da Capital (Women's Penitentiary in the Capital) in São Paulo, BR.

## The International Prison Cohort Members

Arthur Rizer, Arrow Center for Justice (organizer), Jessi Rizer, ARrow Center for Justice, Marcus Bullock, Board Member – ARrow Center for Justice, Jesse Kelley, ARrow Center for Justice, Marc Levin, Council on Criminal Justice, Akua Amaning, Director of CJ at American Progress, Christopher Poulos, ED – Center for Justice and Human Dignity, Craig Waleed, Project Director, Disability Rights of North Carolina, Damon Hininger, CoreCivic, Daren Swenson, VP of Reentry, CoreCivic, Dennis Sukowski, Germany Ministry of Justice, Etienne Martins, Federal Judge – Brazil, Elizabeth Trejos, Professor at Texas Tech University, Gerard Robinson, University of Virginia, School of Law, Glenn E. Martin, GEMrealestate, Heather Rice-Minus, Executive Vice President – Prison Fellowship, Nina Hanssen, Norwegian Author, Journalist, Patrick Plein, Deputy Director, Nolan Center for Justice, Rachel Wilson, Arrow Center for Justice Reform, Stian Estenstad, Norwegian Red Cross, Scott Peyton, State Director – Louisiana & Mississippi – Right on Crime, and Marc M. Howard, Professor, Founder of the Frederick Douglas Project. Translator: Diego Duenas.



# The International Prison Cohort's Missions

The International Prison Cohort is a project of and sponsored by the ARrow Center for Justice. The following is an excerpt from the ARrow Center for Justice outlining the goals of the project:

## **ARROW CENTER FOR JUSTICE** Project on Human Dignity in Corrections

Why are American prisons failing to help prevent recidivism? Part of the reason is a negative feedback loop between the indignities and traumas heaped on American prisoners and how that impacts their attitudes and views. One of the sturdiest findings in social science is that everything gets paid forward: trauma, cynicism, and anti-social attitudes, as well as respect, dignity, and grace. The criminal justice system is the ultimate trickle-down economy—trickle-down justice if you will.

Unfortunately, the attitudes of correctional officers—who report some of the lowest job satisfaction of any profession and profound antipathy toward prisoners and who quit in droves during the COVID pandemic—is a key component of this vicious cycle. Negative attitudes and actions by COs spur the same response in prisoners (and vice versa), which spurs the cynicism that hardens into recidivism. This dynamic can extend to others who work in prison settings: medical professionals, teachers, administrators, and other program and operational staff.

This project has a different focus than the traditional emphasis on expanding programming opportunities for the incarcerated (valuable as that is). Instead, we want to look at ways to improve the correctional environment and thus reentry by understanding the attitudes of correctional officers and institution staff and providing greater support for inculcating attention to human dignity. We have decided to focus on international comparisons to learn what we can from other models of corrections and rehabilitation that differ from the American model.

More specifically, we will:

- Investigate how correctional officers understand the profession of corrections—and especially the rehabilitative function of prisons—and officers' understanding of their role in that function;
- Inquire how officers come to acquire this self-understanding and how it interacts with or is influenced by their belief in the human dignity of those in their charge and their perception of whether their own human dignity is respected (or not) by management and executives;
- Investigate how correctional officers think about current recruitment and training practices to determine whether respect for both officers' and incarcerated individuals' human dignity is prioritized in recruitment and training. [1]

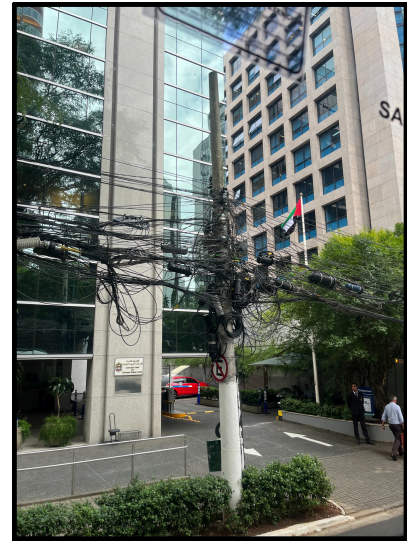
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[1] Reprinted with permission from ARrow Center for Justice, One Pager – Project on Human Dignity in Corrections

# Introduction

Welcome to the photo review of my recent visit to Brazil with the members of the international prison cohort sponsored by ARrow Center for Justice. A special thanks to Arthur and Jessi Rizer for their vision and initiative in assembling this cohort and igniting a spark to enact positive changes to the criminal justice system.

My journey into the depths of Brazil's prison system unfolded as a tapestry of profound experiences, spanning from January 21, 2024, to January 27, 2024. Setting foot in São Paulo, the heart of Latin America, I embarked on an exploration that aimed not just to witness, but to understand the complexities of incarceration in Brazil. As with much of the criminal justice system throughout the world, this picture on the right, taken outside of my hotel in São Paulo, may best sum up the complexities and challenges faced by the corrections system in Brazil and beyond.



As I reflect upon this experience and those from Germany and Norway, my goals extend beyond the accumulation of knowledge. I hope to take what works, what motivates those working within correctional systems and bring these concepts and best-practices back to the United States to foster a better working environment for those in corrections and a transformative encounter for those incarcerated. Public safety depends on what happens inside the walls of our prisons to effect positive changes for those incarcerated.

## Reuniting with the Cohort: Sunday, January 21, 2024



My journey began with an overnight flight from Lafayette, Louisiana, to Atlanta, and eventually arriving 12 hours later in São Paulo, Brazil.

In 2023, the metropolitan area of São Paulo contains approximately 22.6 million people (nearly 5 times the population of Louisiana) with an estimated 12 million people living inside the city limits of São Paulo, making it the largest city in Latin America, the Caribbean and the fourth most populated city in the world.



It was great to see the members of the cohort again with members from all over the world including Germany, Norway, Columbia and the United States.

## Day 1: Monday, January 22, 2024

### Guest Speaker: Juan Guillermo Sepúlveda



The cohort gathered for dinner and to listen to our guest speaker, Juan Guillermo Sepúlveda, from Bogota, D.C., Colombia. He is the founder of Fundación Colombia Restaurativa whose mission is to disseminate, promote and implement culture and restorative justice in Colombia.

Juan tearfully recounted the story of his father being murdered, stabbed in the back, by a worker on their farm. He has a unique perspective as someone who has been a victim, a prosecutor, and now someone looking to bring peace and justice back to his country.

As a prosecutor in Columbia, in 1991, Juan negotiated the surrender of Pablo Escobar, and he recounted how Pablo Escobar “told me in the cathedral, in a tone of warning and threat at the same time: I leave Medellin with 500 armed bands (youth gangs), with 10,000 boys, for whatever they are: for the good or the bad.”

Juan has implemented two courses inside prisons in Columbia: Restorative Dialogues for Urban Reconciliation and Social Peace from Prisons.

“Latin America urgently needs to start making interventions in restorative justice, in order to demonstrate the advantages of this new paradigm of justice in the region. Restorative justice humanizes justice, contributes to coexistence and improves citizen security, in short, it contributes to democracy.” [2]



[2] [Quote from Prison Insider, January 27, 2021](#)

## Background

Our trip to Brazil included visits to facilities within the city of São Paulo and Pouso Alegre, a city in the state of Minas Gerais. These states are number one and two with the largest incarcerated populations in Brazil. The following chart provides background information on the civilian and prison populations for the areas we visited in comparison with the United States, highlighting the states where Right On Crime currently has state directors. Louisiana and Mississippi are the number one and two in incarceration rates per capita in the United States.

### United States & Brazil Population Data

	Population (millions) <sup>3</sup>	Prison Population <sup>4</sup>	Incarceration Rate / 100K <sup>5</sup>
<b>United States (50 states)</b>	331	1,900,000	583
--U.S. Bureau of Prisons		158,000	
--Arizona	7.1	34,000	868
--Florida	21.5	80,000	795
--Idaho	1.8	8,900	761
--Kentucky	4.5	19,000	930
--Louisiana	4.6	26,000	1094
--Mississippi	2.9	17,000	1031
--New Mexico	2.1	5,200	733
--North Carolina	10.4	29,000	617
--Oklahoma	3.9	22,000	993
--Tennessee	6.9	22,000	838
--Texas	29.1	134,000	840
--Utah	3.2	5,900	435
--Virginia	8.6	30,000	749
--West Virginia	1.7	5800	731
<b>Brazil (26 states)</b>	214	840,000 <sup>6</sup>	390
--Sao Paulo (State)	46.6	197,000 <sup>7</sup>	422
--Minas Gerais (State)	20.7	70,595 <sup>8</sup>	327

[3] <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/apportionment/population-change-data-table.pdf>

[4] <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2024.html>

[5] Ibid.

[6] <https://www.prisonstudies.org/country/brazil>

[7] <http://www.sap.sp.gov.br/uni-prisionais/pen-.html>

[8] <https://www.gov.br/senappen/pt-br/servicos/sisdepen/paineis-antiores>

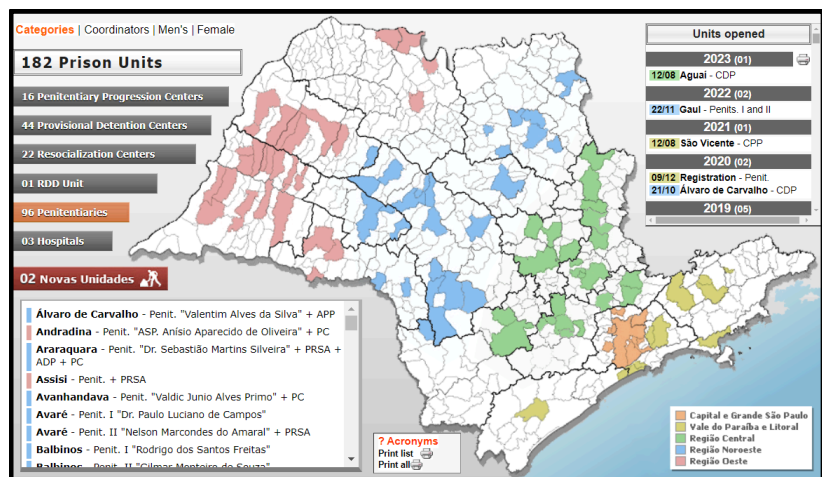


# Federal Prison System: Brazil

The National Secretariat for Penal Policies (SENAPPEN) is the executive body that is responsible for the Federal Penitentiary System.[9] It should be noted that we did not visit any federal prisons on this trip, but data was obtained for background information from this agency. The Dados Estatísticos do Sistema Penitenciário (SISDEPEN) is the data collection tool for the Brazilian penitentiary system, it reports on information regarding the prison population in the 26 Brazilian states.[10]

## São Paulo

The Secretariat of Penitentiary Administration (SAP) oversees the management of 182 facilities spread across the state of São Paulo, housing a staggering 197,000 detainees.[11]



In Brazil, there are three types of correctional facilities: closed facilities (prison); (151,035 population) semi-open facilities (44,509 population), which include agricultural and industrial; and open facilities (956 population), half-way houses.[12] The closed facility, reserved for serious crimes or sentences over eight years, involves strict confinement in cells with close supervision and minimal access to work and educational opportunities. The semi-open facility applies to those sentenced to four to eight years or inmates who have served at least one-sixth of their closed regime sentence. In this regime, inmates can work or study outside during the day but must return to a dormitory-like facility at night, with the possibility of temporary leave for special occasions. The open facility is the most lenient, for sentences up to four years or those who have completed one-sixth of their semi-open regime sentence. Inmates in the open regime do not stay in a prison facility but must adhere to rules such as regular reporting to a judge, participating in social service programs, and not leaving their city of residence without permission.

[9] <https://www.gov.br/senappen/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/institucional>

[10] <https://www.gov.br/senappen/pt-br/servicos/sisdepen>

[11] <http://www.sap.sp.gov.br/uni-prisonais/pen-.html>

[12] <https://www.brazilcounsel.com/blog/brazils-three-types-of-prison-regimes>

## São Paulo Prison Population Statistics

The top three convictions for those serving sentences in São Paulo are: [13]

- Drug Trafficking (37.29%)
- Theft (36.33%)
- Homicide (11.87%)

Less than 2% of those serving sentences are over the age of 61, with 35-45 years old accounting for the largest age group incarcerated at 28.34% of the population. Males make up the majority of those incarcerated at 96%.

## Day 2: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

### Governo Do Estado De São Paulo - Escola De Administracao Penitenciaria (School of Penitentiary Administration) (EAP)



Our initial destination for the day was the Escola De Administracao Penitenciaria (School of Penitentiary Administration), EAP, where we were warmly received by Secretary Marcello Streifinger, Secretariat of Penitentiary Administration (SAP), Director Gisele Silveira Rodrigues and a group of staff members who generously provided us with coffee and a taste of Brazilian

desserts. The EAP is the training department for the SAP.

There are over 197,000 individuals incarcerated across the state of São Paulo. This significant responsibility is handled by a workforce of almost 30,000 correctional officers. Notably, the monthly cost to house an inmate amounts to \$400.00, while the starting salary for correctional officers is \$600.00 per month. The annual budget for corrections operations stands at \$1 million, drawing parallels to the Louisiana Department of Corrections, which operates on a comparable budget with an incarcerated population of 27,000.

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[13] <http://www.sap.sp.gov.br/sap-dados/dados-estatisticos.html>



Within the EAP there is a staff of 50 employees responsible for training 1,100 officers annually, utilizing seven classrooms. Correctional officers, referred to as agents, undergo an extensive 408-hour training program and participate in a three-year probationary period.

The primary objectives of the EAP are to persuade detainees to engage in educational and occupational pursuits, emphasizing the need for society to provide employment opportunities for those transitioning out of prison. The overarching goal is reintegration, with the administrator emphasizing the role of correctional officers as "reintegration officers." A notable challenge faced by the education department is ensuring that correctional officers comprehend the intricacies of the reintegration process and are equipped to assist individuals they may not be acquainted with. Additionally, there is an ongoing effort to underscore the importance of presenting detainees with "another life opportunity."

## Day 2: Penitenciaria Feminina Da Capital



Our next destination on this day was the Penitenciaria Feminina Da Capital, the largest and oldest women's prison in São Paulo with a 50-year history. With a designed capacity of 627, it currently houses 682 women. Our tour guide for this facility was the director, who has 18 years of experience in corrections, serving as the director for the past three years.

The tour encompassed numerous areas, including the hospital dorms, worker dorms, a lunch experience with the staff (serving the same food as the incarcerated individuals), the maternity ward, and workspaces.

During our visit, we engaged in conversations with several women who were proudly holding their babies, showing the young children to our group. Notably, in the maternity ward, women have the opportunity to stay with their babies for up to six months. After this period, efforts are made to relocate them to homes, preferably with family members. The part of the visit was one of mixed emotions for members of our group. In São Paulo, there are 58 pregnant women serving sentences, and 31 women serving time with their infants.[14]

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[14] <http://www.sap.sp.gov.br/sap-dados/dados-estatisticos.html>

Additionally, we toured an area where women were crafting specialty linens for hospital use and a sewing section where plastic carrying bags for baby items were being produced. We had the opportunity to talk with one of the women who spoke English. She was excited as she was nearing her release date.

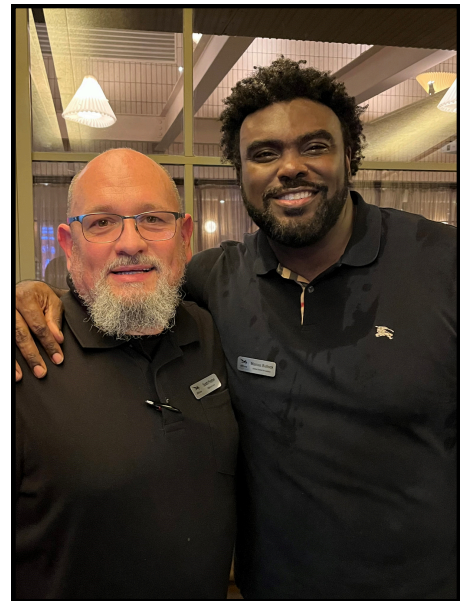
Towards the end of our tour, we visited a sizable kitchen that was currently under construction, with an expected completion later in the year. Once operational, this kitchen is anticipated to provide food for more than 2,500 incarcerated individuals.

Noteworthy is the terminology used within this facility; the women incarcerated are referred to as Reeducanda, loosely translated "those to be re-educated," rather than the conventional term "inmates."

## **Day 2: Dinner with Guest Speaker Marcus Bullock**

After eating a great dinner with the cohort at Rascal Conjunto Nacional, a local São Paulo restaurant, we heard a powerful testimony from Marcus Bullock, board member of ARrow Center for Justice.

As told on his company's website, [www.flikshop.com/about-us](http://www.flikshop.com/about-us), and heard in person over dinner in Brazil: When Marcus was 15 years old he was arrested and sentenced to spend 8 years in adult maximum security prisons for carjacking a man in a shopping mall parking lot. By the time he served the first two years he became very dark and depressed, so his mom made a promise to him in a prison visiting room. "Marcus, I'm going to write you a letter or send you a picture every day for the remaining 6 years of your sentence.", his mom, Ms. Bullock, told Marcus. "Those letters saved my life!", claims Marcus. "I was able to see the world through my mother's lens and gave me a clear vision to what my life would look like after prison." [15]



Marcus went on to explain that after serving 8 years in prison, 42 job applications later, he would eventually land a job at a paint store. This opportunity along with his motivation and his desire to succeed, catapulted

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[15] <https://www.flikshop.com/about-us>



him to bigger and greater opportunities. Today, he is a champion for those who are incarcerated and for the men and women who return home each year. Marcus currently serves on the board of directors for ARrow Center for Justice and is the CEO of Flikshop. Flikshop keeps family members and those incarcerated connected by simplifying the process of sending mail to those incarcerated.

## **Day 3: Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

### **Presidio DA Policia Militar “Romao Gomes” PMRG**



On Day 3 we visited the Presidio DA Policia Militar “Romao Gomes” PMRG, which is a prison that houses former police officers who have committed crimes. This facility served as a school until 1939. It now houses 150 men and 2 women, with 101 serving in the closed portion, 51 semi-closed. There are

three classification stages. In the first, individuals are in the closed system with two per cell, or 10 per dorm. The second and third stages are housed in dorms. Out of these 152 individuals, 35 are in the first stage, 40 in the second stage, and 26 in the third stage.

Unlike other prisons in São Paulo, the staff of 150 at this facility are all police officers that have been selected through an internal process. They wear police uniforms, berets and some are armed.

Remarkably, recidivism stands at a mere 3% after five years, a stark contrast to the nationwide Brazilian rate of 70%. Staff attribute this success to stringent control, discipline, and diverse rehabilitative activities. Also surprising is that 70% of those incarcerated at this facility are serving sentences for a family related homicide. Robbery is the second most common offense. In Brazil, murder carries a 13–30-year sentence.

We started our visit by having a presentation from the facility’s staff followed by a Q&A session. The goals of this facility are social re-integration and to help create opportunities for those incarcerated when they leave. According to the staff, the objective of the facility is both noble and difficult.

They must motivate the staff to provide opportunities for those who are incarcerated, and that means putting each individual at the center of the process. This is accomplished by focusing on three major points: dignity, work and humanity. To address these needs, the facility provides religious, psychological, health, dental and public defense resources for those who are incarcerated, and all are afforded the opportunity to have a psychological evaluation.

Incentives are provided for everyone to work and study. For those who work, for every three days served, they receive a day reduction in their sentence. Additionally, by reading books and taking an exam regarding what was read, individuals can earn 4 days off of their sentence each month.

The facility director, commander, captains, and social worker make decisions regarding discipline within the facility. Strict adherence to discipline ensures safety for both officers and incarcerated and ensures adherence to tasks assigned. There is a disciplinary process for rule violations which allows for three levels of appeals. The process considers human rights and allows for a defense to be prepared by the accused. The sanctions are graduated and may include loss of visitation and privileges and in extreme cases solitary confinement. Solitary confinement is limited to 10 days maximum. The disciplinary officer advised that solitary confinement has not been used as a punishment in over two years.

The staff also emphasized that the sentence handed down serves as both a punishment and an example to other police officers of the consequences of committing a crime.

Visitation is held weekly and may include conjugal visits. Conjugal visits must be with the spouse and this relationship must be proven.

Some of the work-related activities pay a salary and other activities are performed to keep the facility functioning. Like the women's facility we visited earlier in the week, outside companies have contracts with the facility to provide work for those who are incarcerated. At this facility in-house and company partnerships allow for building wheelchairs, cooking of bakery products, sewing shop, barber shop, and agriculture products, which include the raising of chickens and selling of eggs. There is a car wash within the prison that offers services to members of the community for a price of \$5.00, \$6.00, and \$8.00 dollars per vehicle.





*Wildlife was abundant on the prison grounds.*

The cohort ate lunch with staff members and the food prepared is the same meal that those who are incarcerated eat. The meal included salad, rice, beans, and a pork chop.

During our tour, we observed those incarcerated engaged in activities such as car washing, sewing police uniforms, and assembling

wiring harnesses. Agricultural initiatives, including beekeeping and chicken farming provide for work activities and generate revenue for those who are incarcerated and for the facility. The tour concluded with a presentation by one of the incarcerated individuals and a delightful assortment of desserts and snacks.



## Day 3: Football



After a long day of studying Brazilian prisons, we were treated to a wonderful dinner and a Brazilian football game. We visited the Allianz Parque Stadium along with 27,000 attendees to cheer on the home team, the Palmerias, as they played the Inter de Limeira. ARrow gifted each member of the cohort with our own football jersey promoting the Palmerias!

It was an exciting game with a “W” for the home team, beating the Inter de Limeira 3 - 2.

## Day 4: Background

On this day, we traveled outside of the state of São Paulo to Minas Gerais on a three hour bus ride through the beautiful Brazilian countryside. Data related to the Minas Gerais prison population is not as detailed as São Paulo. Data was obtained during our on-site visit and from the National Secretariat for Penal Policies (SENAPPEN) interactive website. The available information is outlined below as well as a brief overview of the Association for Protection and Assistance to Condemned (APAC).

### State - Minas Gerais – Prison Population [16]

	Total	Closed	Open	Semi-Open	Provisional	Incarceration Rate / 100K
Minas Gerais (State)	70,595	28,895	2,775	11,936	26,883	327
--Pousa Alegre (City)	1,077	285	3	128	661	742

### Association for Protection and Assistance to Condemned (APAC)

APAC was established in 1972 under the leadership of Dr. Mário Ottoboni, an attorney and journalist. It is a Christian based organization that focuses on evangelization and moral support for those incarcerated. Today there are 68 APAC facilities operating throughout Brazil.

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[16] <https://www.gov.br/senappen/pt-br/servicos/sisdepen/paineis-anteriores>



“APAC’s objective is to promote the humanization of prisons, without losing sight of the punitive purpose of the sentence. Its purpose is to prevent recurrence of crime and offer alternatives for the convicted person to recover.”[17]

## **Day 4: Thursday, January 25, 2024**

### **Centro de Reintegracao Social, Dr. Mario Ottoboni**

### **Pouso Alegre, Minas Gerais**



The APAC facility sits on 39.5 acres of land outside the city of Pouso Alegre. It is an agricultural and industrial facility that is run independent of the government. On the grounds there are over 5000 coffee plants. They also have banana trees, and they raise pigs. There are no prison guards here and the staff of 20 APAC employees along with a

resident council supervise the nearly 200 individuals serving sentences.

To be accepted at the APAC facility, a judge submits a request to the prison to assess an inmate for consideration. There is a waiting list of over 300 individuals to enter APAC with an average wait time of 1-1.5 years. The total capacity of the facility is 200 residents. Additionally, all residents at this APAC are either from Minas Gerais or committed a crime in the state. Everyone serving a sentence at APAC has spent time in the regular prison system before being transferred to APAC.



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[17] <https://fbac.org.br/o-que-e-a-apac/>





The director of the facility greeted our group and provided us with a general overview of how the facility is operated. The director served 19.5 years for armed robbery and since his release he has worked for APAC for 14 years. As he shared his journey from inmate to director with our group he ended with “God did not forget about us.”

As with the general prison system, this facility incorporates the three levels – close, semi-open and open. Everything at the facility is done by the residents. Everyone is expected to work and get an education.

## **Intake Process**

The transition from inmate to resident occurs once released from the regular prison system and assigned to APAC. The following statement written in Portuguese “Aqui entra o homem, o delito fica la fora” is above the entrance to APAC. “Here the man comes in, the crime stays there.”

The first stage at APAC, where all new residents enter is the closed stage. In this stage the residents are in a therapy ward and the time spent is considered a healing moment. This is a time for the resident to realize that the same hands that committed crimes, are also the same hands that can be creative. “Aqui as algemas vottaroo dos seus pulses por sua livre vontage” translated, “Here the handcuffs will come off your wrists at your own free will.”

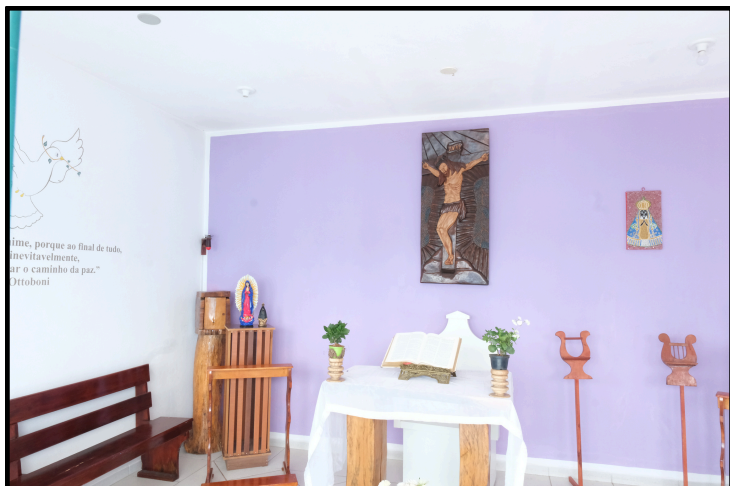
The second, or open stage, is where the resident begins to learn a profession. The third stage involves reintegration into society by being able to work outside the facility and in the community.

## **Discipline**

In addition to APAC staff, nine residents make up the “resident council” that serves to address disciplinary issues at the facility. The facility operates with the principles of honesty and solidarity. According to the staff, 85% of all disciplinary infractions are minor and major disciplinary infractions account for 5%. There are 23 infractions that are considered major. There is zero tolerance for possession of cell phones, drugs or escapes. Committing one of these infractions will result in a return to the regular prison system.

As part of the principle of solidarity, once a month the residents all stay in their cells in solidarity with those serving time in the regular prison system.

## Religion



Residents are expected to attend weekly religious services. Those that do not attend religious services have to spend time in their cells until the services are over. At the end of our visit, we were treated to testimonies and hymns sung by both residents and staff in the chapel. It was a moving service that ended with a

blessing from the residents for the cohort.

## Education Facilities

There were numerous classrooms and technology devices available to allow students online university access. In the hallway of the education area the words "No one escapes love" were painted on the wall. The following work opportunities are available for the residents:



- **Auto Body Shop**
- **Welding Shop**

§ Residents fabricate doors for businesses and other metal works that are used in construction.

- **Woodworking (Marcenaria) Shop**

§ All furniture for the facility are made inhouse.

§ Wood crafts and furniture Items sold to the public.





- **Bakery**

§ On average, 25 residents work in the bakery. The bakery produces over 9500 units of baked goods daily that are distributed to schools and to companies throughout the community.

§ "O Pão de hoje, se torna o padeiro do amanhã" translation – "Today's bread

becomes tomorrow's baker" is written on the wall outside of the bakery.

## Lunch

We were treated to a meal with the residents. We sat at tables, participated in the blessing of the meal, and had a great conversation with both staff and residents. Our meal included beans, rice, chicken and beef and a sweet, chocolate dessert. During my lunch conversations, it was the general consensus of the residents that they preferred



APAC to regular prison. One resident stated that the regular prison he had been before had 34 individuals in one cell.



One resident who had been in a wheel chair from an early age told us that while he was in the regular prison he did not have a wheelchair and had to rely on other inmates to carry him around the regular prison.

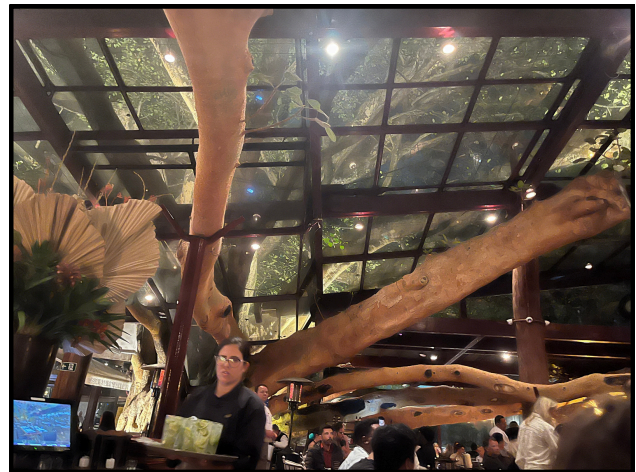


## Post Release

APAC has a 13% recidivism rate. The staff works with companies in the community to search and secure employment for individuals upon release. According to the staff, the stigma of prison is diminished for those who are residents of APAC.

### Day 4: Dinner

A few of us enjoyed dinner later that evening at The Figueira Rubaiyat which takes its name from the century old fig tree inside the restaurant. The branches extend throughout the restaurant.



### Day 5: Friday, January 26, 2024 “Cultural Day”



The previous five days were long, leaving little time to explore the culture of São Paulo. However, on this day we took time to explore and visit an area of São Paulo known as “Batman Alley.”

The alley is closed to traffic and locals sell crafts, food, and other goods in this area. The walls of the buildings are painted by local artists.

In the 1980's a drawing of Batman was found on one of the walls in the alley. Its origin is unknown and its original location is still a mystery. Since then, Beco do Batman (Batman Alley), has become one of the city's famous tourist attractions. It is located among the alleys of the Vila Madalena neighborhood and filled with ever changing graffiti.[18] The entire city of São Paulo appears to be filled with lively graffiti as well.



## Day 5: Salon Dinner



Before coming to the close of our journey of researching Brazilian prisons, we engaged in a salon dinner where cohort members were able to share, in confidence, their experiences, thoughts, concerns, and plan of action around what we saw and learned over the past few days.

It was very interesting to hear the perspectives of the diverse group of cohort members. The

dinner was at a local Brazilian steak house and in addition to the great conversation we shared a wonderful meal.

The trip would not have been a success without our faithful security detail. Pictured above are off-duty police officers who ensured our safety and acted as ex-officio tour guides. While they did not speak English, they were excited when I showed them photos from my time in law enforcement and probation and parole.

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[18] <https://cidadedeSãopaulo.com/places/beco-do-batman/>



## Day 6: Travel Day - Saturday, January 27, 2024

After clearing customs, I boarded a flight from GRU International Airport, São Paulo and headed back to Atlanta. After a 10-hour flight to Atlanta, I took a quick flight back to Lafayette, Louisiana.



**Next Stop: Denver, Colorado - July 2024**



# ABOUT RIGHT ON CRIME

Right On Crime is a national campaign of the Texas Public Policy Foundation that supports conservative solutions for reducing crime, restoring victims, reforming offenders, and lowering taxpayer costs. The movement was born in Texas in 2007 and has led the way in implementing conservative criminal justice reforms.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a nonprofit, non-partisan research institute promoting and defending liberty, personal responsibility, and free enterprise in Texas and the nation.



## **Scott E. Peyton, Right On Crime's Regional & Director of Correctional Leadership Network**

Peyton has over 12 years of work experience with the State of Louisiana: first as a child welfare specialist, then as a juvenile probation and parole officer. Prior to joining Right On Crime, he worked in adult probation and parole as a specialist supervising violent offender caseloads.

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