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Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Informal Economy: Input to the United Nations regarding Brazil

Henrique Napoleão Alves, Renan Bernardi Kalil

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and the Informal Economy:**

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Acronyms

CLT	Consolidação das Leis do Trabalho (<i>Brazilian Labor Code</i>)
CPT	Comissão Pastoral da Terra (<i>Pastoral Land Commission</i>)
CTPS	Carteira de Trabalho e da Previdência Social (<i>Work and Social Security Record</i>)
FAT	Fundo de Amparo ao Trabalhador (<i>Worker Support Fund</i>)
FNI	Facts and Norms Institute
GEFM	Grupo Especial de Fiscalização Móvel (<i>Special Mobile Inspection Group</i>)
IBGE	Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (<i>Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics</i>)
ILO	International Labor Organization
MPT	Ministério Público do Trabalho (<i>Labour Prosecution Service</i>)
MTE	Ministério do Trabalho e do Emprego (<i>Ministry of Labor and Employment</i>)
PF	Polícia Federal (<i>Federal Police</i>)
PRF	Polícia Rodoviária Federal (<i>Federal Highway Police</i>)
Sine	Sistema Nacional de Emprego (<i>National Employment System</i>)
SIT-MTE	Secretaria de Inspeção do Trabalho do Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (<i>Labor Inspection Secretariat of the Ministry of Labor and Employment</i>)
TAC	Termo de Ajustamento de Conduta (<i>Conduct Adjustment Term</i>)

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INTRODUCTION

The *UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences*, is preparing his next thematic report to the General Assembly on contemporary forms of slavery in the informal economy. The report intends to analyze to what extent there are manifestations of contemporary forms of slavery in different sectors and in different countries/geographic regions, the profile of the victims/survivors and what measures would be needed to prevent and address contemporary forms of slavery in the informal economy.

In preparation for such report, the UN Special Rapporteur launched a process of gathering inputs from stakeholders, according to a predefined Questionnaire. The following is the relevant information about Brazil hereby presented by Facts and Norms Institute with the aim of contributing to the Special Rapporteur's important mission.

Facts and Norms Institute is an independent academic institution based in the Global South, with members present in all continents. The Institute's mission is straightforward: to promote a rational, human rights-based approach to relevant social issues.

The Institute's record includes studies on the relations between human rights and infectious diseases; preventing and tackling torture; racism and religious intolerance; social participation; transitional justice and sustainable development; non-state actors and transitional justice; the rights of persons with albinism; the criminalization of persons living in the street and in extreme poverty; the protection of lawyers; the human rights of indigenous and poor rural communities to water and sanitation; militarization of indigenous land; human rights and internet shutdowns; contemporary forms of slavery and the informal economy; mercury, artisanal and small-scale gold-mining and human rights; and adequate housing and climate change.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is your understanding of the term “informal economy”?

The term “informal economy” is generally understood as comprising economic activities that are beyond legal regulation, monitoring and taxation (*e.g.* activities without registered companies, registered employees, invoices, tax collection etc.). In Brazil, the term is often used to describe workers that are entirely unregistered or wrongly registered in the formal labor market.¹ The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) considers “informal workers” as those that are²:

i) self-employed without a registered legal personhood (this is the case, *e.g.*, of the drivers and couriers working under the regimes established by the apps of tech companies);

ii) employed in the private sector or in domestic settlements without a formal working contract with the appropriate entry in the Work and Social Security Record (CTPS – a document which registers formal employment information);

iii) employed as an auxiliary family member, which occurs when the person works assisting relatives in the profession, without a formal bond;

iv) working as an employer without a registered legal personhood, as is the case of unregistered micro-entrepreneurs who hire assistants (*v.g.* bricklayers or street vendors, for example).

¹ See, *e.g.*, Leslie Denise Beloque. *A cor do trabalho informal*. Tese – Doutorado em Ciências Sociais. Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. São Paulo, 2007, p. 100-101; Fabrício Maciel; André Grillo. “O trabalho que (in)dignifica o homem”. In: Jessé Souza (org.). *Ralé brasileira: quem é e como vive*. Belo Horizonte: Editora UFMG, 2009, p. 275 (referring to working arrangements that have a certain degree of formality, yet fail to fully include the worker in a regime of rights and guarantees).

² See, *v.g.*, Marcelo Roubicek. [Qual o papel da informalidade na retomada do emprego em 2021](#). Nexô Jornal, 28 Dec. 2021.

2. What are examples of informal employment in your country?

See answers to questions 1, 3, 5, 6.

3. In which sectors (e.g. domestic work, agriculture, manufacturing, street vending, rubbish collection, among others) does labor exploitation take place? Please provide details on the nature and extent of such exploitation, including forced/bonded labor, domestic servitude, and child labor, including its worst forms.

In Brazil, victims of forced labor or subject to conditions akin to slavery are often trapped in a cycle in which numerous workers need to be rescued and liberated multiple times. Many of them are driven by economic and social vulnerability to leave their places of origin in search of work opportunities and fall prey to forced and bonded labor. After escaping conditions akin to slavery by themselves or as a result of workplace inspections (see answers to questions 9 and 10 *infra*), these workers are still vulnerable to be again submitted to slavery due to the lack of effective public policies capable of altering their socio-economic vulnerability.³

These forms of extreme exploitation in the country happen more often in rural areas (see answer to question 7 *infra*) – *v.g.*, in agriculture, livestock, and coal mining. In urban areas, they have been documented, *inter alia*, in construction, garment industry and textile manufacturing and for sexual exploitation purposes.⁴

In addition to the examples above, working conditions that are akin to slavery are also recurrent in domestic settings. In 2019, Brazil had 6.3 million people working as

³ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. [Situation of Human Rights in Brazil](#). OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 9 February 12, 2021, paragraphs 127, 135.

⁴ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. [Situation of Human Rights in Brazil](#). OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 9 February 12, 2021, paragraphs 129, 134.

domestic servants; 4.6 million of them in informal relations in the strictest sense (without a formal working contract). Around 93% of them are women and, according to the Labor Prosecution Service (MPT), it is an area where conditions akin to slavery and child labor persist. Due to the domestic context, it is particularly hard to identify situations of labor exploitation. Many investigations are initiated by complaints from neighbors, and the inspection of residences requires previous authorization by the Judiciary.⁵

4. What percentage of the workforce is in the informal sector/economy in your country?

The most recent figures from IBGE refer to the period from September to November 2021. According to IBGE, i) 12.4 million Brazilians are unemployed; ii) the “underutilized population” – which is the sum of unemployed people, those who work less than they could and those who are not looking for a job, although they are available to work – comprises 29.1 million people; iii) and the informality rate is at 40.6% affecting 38.6 million workers. These are workers employed in informal arrangements, without the formalities of legal personhood or CTPS⁶ (see also answer to questions 1 and 2 *supra*).

In the first quarter of 2021, unemployment reached the highest level since, at least, 1976. From the end of the first semester of 2021, unemployment began to decline. This was mainly driven by informal jobs that generally display higher levels of vulnerability and lower pay. As a result, the average income from work decreased despite the improvements in employment and reached the lowest level in the historical series started in 2012.⁷

⁵ Camilo Rocha. [Os desafios do combate ao trabalho escravo doméstico](#). Nexo Jornal, 4 jan. 2021; Ministério Público do Trabalho. [Seminário discute a atividade da trabalhadora doméstica](#). 27 Apr. 2016.

⁶ IBGE. [PNAD Contínua: taxa de desocupação é de 11,6% e taxa de subutilização, de 25,0% no trimestre encerrado em novembro](#). Agência IBGE Notícias, 28 Jan. 2022; Nexo Jornal. [Taxa de desemprego cai, mas renda do trabalhador também](#). 28 Jan. 2022.

⁷ See, *v.g.*, Marcelo Roubicek. [Quais as perspectivas para o emprego em 2022](#). Nexo Jornal, 29 Jan.

5. Who is employed in the informal sector in your country? Please provide details regarding gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, nationality, as well as social and/or economic status. Are some categories of workers affected by contemporary forms of slavery more than others? If so, please explain.

There are limitations regarding the available sources that contain details on the different characteristics and variables of those informal workers that are more vulnerable to, or affected by, contemporary forms of slavery.

An important exception to this is a study Published in 2011 by the ILO and carried out by researchers from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.⁸

The cited study, “Pesquisa sobre o Perfil dos Principais Atores Envolvidos no Trabalho Escravo Rural” (“Research on the Profile of the Main Actors Involved in Rural Slave Labor”) indicated – vis-à-vis workers affected by contemporary forms of slavery in rural areas of Pará, Mato Grosso Bahia and Goiás (data from 2006-2007) – that most of the workers were men (95.3%), young (average 31.8 years) and non-whites (81%).

Another striking (and notorious) characteristic of this group is the migrant worker nature of most victims of slave labor: 77.6% were originally from the Northeast Region (41.2% from the state of Maranhão). According to an official database, at the time of the survey, 70% of rescued workers were migrants. The deterritorialization or uprooting of these workers is a fundamental characteristic (although not universal) of this group that, if disregarded, can even lead to the ineffectiveness of policies or initiatives aimed at them.

2021.

⁸ Organização Internacional do Trabalho. [Perfil dos principais atores envolvidos no trabalho escravo rural no Brasil](#). Brasília: OIT, 2011.

71.9% lived in urban areas (notably on the outskirts of cities). Among these, 84% came from rural areas and had migrated for more than five years. This dynamic proved to be different in the different states: a high number of urban origins in some and a balance between urban and rural origins in others.

With regard to family life, 72.7% of workers lived with family members before being recruited. 25.6% of the workers lived alone and did not have a fixed residence: they were constantly following work opportunities. Workers from this last group were older and had lower schooling, and among them the percentage of those lacking personal documents was higher – i.e., they conform a group of special vulnerability.

Among those who lived with their families when they were recruited, 54.5% were sons who left in search of work, that is, they lived with their parents. Nevertheless, 62% had children.

As for education, 18.3% of the workers were illiterate and had never attended school. 45% were functionally illiterate and had completed less than four years of schooling. The numbers are much higher than those found in the PNAD (an official investigation by the government agency of statistics) at the time of the research in terms of the national average (10.4% of illiteracy and 22.2% of functional illiteracy).

The professional performance of these workers consisted of a know-how learned in practice: in addition to low education, 85% had never taken a professional course. For a better understanding of the meaning of this information, there should be a comparison with general data on the number of workers who, among those who work in similar (rural) activities, attend such courses.

Virtually all workers had some history of child labor, as they started their professional life before the age of 16 (92.6%). Although most of the cases consisted of work within the family, about 30% of the interviewees were subjected to child labor for

the benefit of third parties: 20% directly and about 10% working together with their families on behalf of others.

Finally, a high degree of re-victimization of the interviewees was observed: 59.7% had already been through some situation of slave labor involving deprivation of liberty (i.e., this number is probably higher if the investigation took into consideration all the known forms of contemporary slavery). Even if the numbers are disregarded, the fact is that there is an indication of the high rate of the existence of a perverse cycle of exploitation from which the worker is not freed easily, even if a certain stage of that cycle has ended, with the termination of the employment relationship with to a particular borrower.

6. What are the main factors in the informal economy which push workers into these practices (e.g. a lack of employment contract, access to employment benefits and protection, complaints mechanisms, and wider regulation/protection by States)?

One preliminary consideration that is important to be made when it comes to the informal economy in Brazil is that, even though some of the most precarious working conditions are indeed found in informal arrangements, the delimitation between “formal” and “informal” economic activities does not always coincide with the analysis of how precarious a certain working activity is. One insightful qualitative research showed, for example, that there are those in the informal economy (self-employed or not) that nonetheless reach decent levels of livelihoods while others, working in the formal economy, are nonetheless categorized as subject to precarious conditions (such as the telemarketing workers that were part of the research).⁹

⁹ Ricardo Visser. “A formalidade precária: os batalhadores do telemarketing.” In: Jessé Souza. *Os batalhadores brasileiros: nova classe média ou nova classe trabalhadora?*. 3 ed. Belo Horizonte: Editora UFMG, 2012, p. 92 (ebook page).

One aspect to informality in Brazil is the weight of micro and small businesses in the country, including self-employment. A large part of the population, especially the poorest, earns their livelihood through autonomous activities or working in micro and small businesses. Despite covering a range of very different activities, most of them are characterized by the absence of formal registration of the company and/or the worker and for not contributing to social security. In other words, the relationship of this segment with the State is virtually non-existent.¹⁰

The decision to be self-employed or “micro-entrepreneurs” can be determined by the scarcity of formal jobs (exclusion theory) or a voluntary decision (integrated vision) taken from the evaluation of costs and benefits, be they pecuniary or non-pecuniary. Micro-entrepreneurs tend to start their informal activities due to factors such as job market disincentives generated by unemployment and low wages (difficulties finding a job; intents to generate additional, supplementary income). In other words, businesses are started for reasons of necessity, and not opportunity or an entrepreneurial spirit of those pursuing them. This is especially true among the less educated (education levels correlate with the motivation to micro-entrepreneur; low levels are more associated with necessity; as the level of education increases, the percentage of workers that are self-employed by necessity decreases). There are, however, non-pecuniary benefits of this type of insertion, such as independence and flexibility. Not having a boss, not having to deal with hierarchy and the possibility for the workers to define their own working hours have also been documented as possible factors, or, at least, as noticed advantages in favor of micro-entrepreneurship.¹¹

¹⁰ See Adriana Fontes, Marcelo Neri. *Informalidade e trabalho no Brasil: causas, consequências e caminhos de Políticas Públicas*. Cadernos Adenauer XI, Nº2, 2010, p. 4-5.

¹¹ Adriana Fontes, Marcelo Neri. *Informalidade e trabalho no Brasil: causas, consequências e caminhos de Políticas Públicas*. Cadernos Adenauer XI, Nº2, 2010, p. 4-5.

7. Are contemporary forms of slavery in the informal economy more prevalent in rural or urban areas? Please provide details.

Contemporary forms of slavery in Brazil occur more frequently in rural areas. The following table was elaborated to the UN according to official data from the Labor Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (SIT-MTE) (<https://sit.trabalho.gov.br/radar/>):

Year	Workers rescued in urban areas	Workers rescued in rural areas
2021	386	1.551
2020	356	580
2019	401	730
2018	523	1.229
2017	299	349
2016	453	519
2015	641	564
2014	844	910
2013	1.856	952
2012	1.118	1.657

8. What legislative and other measures are in place to address the informality of employment in your country?

Informality can be addressed through the implementation of labor legislation, especially in cases where this situation arises from fraud in the employment

relationship. In this sense, the Labor Inspectorate, the MPT and the Labor Justice system have an important role in the enforcement and effectiveness of the legal system.

In other situations that characterize informality, the elaboration, implementation, and execution of public policies that aim to promote the social rights provided for in the Brazilian Constitution (rights to work, education, health, transport) is of great importance. In this sense, the Executive Power of municipal, state, and national levels has a central role to improve the working and living conditions of these workers.

9. What kind of complaint/grievance mechanisms exist for informal workers to address violations of their human rights, including contemporary forms of slavery?¹²

Informal workers who are victims of human rights violations, including contemporary forms of slavery, can file complaints before three State bodies responsible for ensuring their rights:

– The Labor Inspectorate is a body linked to the Executive Branch, with the responsibility of inspecting employers to check whether they are complying with the law. According to art. 1 of Decree no. 4552/2002, which regulates labor inspection, “the Federal System of Labor Inspection, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor and Employment, aims to ensure, throughout the national territory, the application of legal provisions, including the ratified international conventions, the acts and decisions of the competent authorities and the conventions, agreements and collective labor contracts, with regard to the

¹² See also Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. [Situation of Human Rights in Brazil](#). OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 9 February 12, 2021, paragraphs 130-133.

protection of workers in the exercise of labor activity”.

– The Labor Prosecution Service is a branch of the Public Prosecution of the Union which acts in the defense of workers' rights. It receives complaints made by unions or employees and promotes civil inquiries and lawsuits for the protection and defense of workers' interests. It acts as a lawyer of the whole society in cases related to diffuse, collective, and homogeneous individual rights, including the file of actions before the Labor Courts (Labor Justice) for the protection of workers' rights.

– Labor Justice is a specialized branch of the federal Judiciary Power responsible for judging and resolving conflicts arising from labor relations.

* * *

The main instruments available for tacking slave labor in Brazil are the Special Mobile Inspection Group (GEFM) and the public register of companies and people charged with exploiting slave labor (also known as the “dirty list”).

The GEFM is coordinated by the SIT-MTE, through the Labor Inspectors, as they are responsible for rescuing workers subjected to contemporary slave labor. The GEFM is an inter-institutional group, in which the Public Prosecutor offices, both Labor and Federal, also participate. Operations often comprise, in addition, members of the Federal Highway Police (PRF) and the Federal Police (PF). Inspections are carried out based on complaints sent to the MTE. These complaints are usually carried out directly by workers or sent by institutions that participate in the Group, such as the MPT and the MPF, by civil society organizations, such as the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) and trade unions, or by human rights protection services.

The inspections verify working conditions, hear workers, agents, and employers, analyze the existing labor documentation, and assess whether there is exploitation of work in conditions that are similar to slavery. If this is the case, workers are immediately

rescued.

A subsequent consequence of rescuing workers is the indirect termination of the employment contract, that is, there is just cause on the part of the employer that motivates the termination of the employment relationship. This implies the payment of the salary balance and other workers' rights (insurance to the worker for unsolicited resignation or termination of contract; remunerated pending vacation; social insurance), as well as a penalty of 40% on the value of the social insurance FGTS.

Rescued workers also have the right to receive unemployment insurance from the government, whose resources come from the Worker Support Fund (FAT).

Regarding employee documentation, the GEFM requires that all formal illegalities be regularized, such as the issuance and signature of the CTPS of workers who did not have formal employment contracts.

In addition, the Group also discusses three other issues with the employer: i) payment of compensation for moral damage to each of the rescued workers; ii) the signing of a Conduct Adjustment Term (TAC) with the MPT, through which there is a legal commitment not to reiterate the practices that configured the provision of service in conditions analogous to slavery; iii) payment of indemnity for collective moral damage, as a result of the existing repudiation in society in relation to the exploitation of work under these conditions.

The GEFM prefers to resolve all these issues extrajudicially, especially those relating to workers' funds, given the difficulty in finding the employers' resources after the inspections. However, if the employer shows resistance in solving the situation verified by the GEFM, the MPT can file judicial measures so that the legal system is observed and workers have their rights respected. Also, if the employer refuses to write down the employment contract in the workers'

CTPS, this procedure can be done by the Labor Inspectors. There is also the possibility of criminal proceedings against the employer, and the presence of the MPF in inspections is especially important to promote the proper collection of the evidence that can subsidize future criminal liability.

Once the inspection is completed, the Labor Inspectors issue infraction notices, as a result of the illegalities found during the operation, and prepare a report describing the situation verified, the measures adopted and the measures that are to be taken. In view of the infraction notices, the employer may present an administrative defense, which is analyzed by a higher authority of the MTE. The administrative procedure that regulates the review of infraction notices is provided for in Law no. 9.784/99 and in the CLT.

The second important instrument in the fight against contemporary slave labor is the register of companies and people charged with exploiting slave labor. The inclusion of the employer in the “dirty list” occurs after the final administrative decision of the infraction notices drawn up as a result of the inspection that rescued workers in conditions analogous to slavery. The presence of the employer in this register implies the imposition of commercial restrictions, such as the prohibition of obtaining credit and financing from public banks, and the publicizing of companies and people who use this illegal way of exploiting work.

The register of employers caught submitting workers to contemporary slave labor is a relevant mechanism for the realization of fundamental rights, to demonstrate the activities carried out to eradicate slave labor and to publicize the people and companies that use this expedient that inadmissibly violates the dignity of the human person.

10. Is the labor inspectorate in your country mandated to inspect the informal sector and to act in case abuse/labor exploitation is detected?

The Labor Inspectorate has the legal attribution of promoting the inspection of labor relations, whether formal or informal, with the objective of examining compliance with labor legislation by employers. In case of identification of fraud in the employment relationship, such as verification of the lack of formalization of the employment contract, labor inspectors can issue a notice of infraction and apply penalties to employers.

In addition, labor inspectors have the legal attribution of promoting the rescue of workers subjected to forced labor or reduced to conditions analogous to slavery, under the terms of Article 2-C of Law No. 7.998/90. Labor inspectors are also responsible for carrying out inspections to examine the existence of child labor.

11. What kind of financial, legal, or other assistance exists for victims/survivors of contemporary forms of slavery in the informal economy?

The identification of workers in conditions that are analogous to slavery by labor inspections entails the rescue, that is, the immediate withdrawal of the employee from this situation.

The rescued worker is entitled to receive three instalments of unemployment insurance in the amount of one minimum wage each (see Article 2-C of Law No. 7.998/90). This social security right is intended to provide

temporary financial assistance to the worker found in this situation.

The worker's rescue also implies the termination of the employment contract because the worker is in clear danger of considerable harm and because the employer does not fulfil the obligations of the contract (*ex vi* Article 483, items "c" and "d", of the CLT). With the termination, the worker is entitled to receive the severance pay (“*verbas rescisórias*”).

The rescued worker must be subsequently referred to the National Employment System (Sine) of the Ministry of Labor and Employment for professional qualification and replacement in the labor market (see Article 2-C, paragraph 1, of Law No. 7.998/90). The objective of this legal provision is to allow the worker to have subsidies to provide more complex services and not have to submit to accept working conditions that characterize contemporary slavery.

Brazil is a federation of three levels: federal, state, and local. In the state level, there are legal initiatives that deserve to be highlighted. The most important state norm for combating contemporary slave labor is Law No. 14.946/2013 of the State of São Paulo, which deals with tax matters and punishes the employer who uses slave labor with a 10-year long suspension in the ICMS register (the state sales tax). In other words, this employer will not be able to market in São Paulo during this period, in addition to being prohibited from working in the same economic segment in which the crime was found for the same period of 10 years.

12. What role, if any, do civil society organizations and trade unions play in preventing informal workers from being subjected to contemporary forms of slavery in your country? Please provide examples.

There are different forms that can be used by workers to organize themselves: unions, cooperatives, associations, committees, mutual aid groups, community organizations, producer groups, community finance institutions, among others. The most common forms in Brazil, especially as they are provided for in the national legal system, are unions, cooperatives, and associations.

While cooperatives are seen as organizational strategies aimed at economic development, unions are understood as aimed at representing and defending labor rights. However, nothing prevents a combination of these strategies in the same entity. Associations can opt for one or the other strategy, as will be seen below.

Unions are entities directly affected by the existence of the informal economy, given that they have historically turned their attention to formal workers. The maintenance and increase of informality affect unionization rates. Despite their focus on formal workers, the experience unions have in organizing workers is, of course, relevant for informal workers and those interested in defending their rights.

Unions can act to ensure that the employer fulfils all duties assigned by labor legislation, such as promoting the formalization of the employment contract, refraining from making discounts that violate the CLT, payment of the minimum wage, among others. In addition, they can take on the role of whistleblowers of situations of work in conditions analogous to slavery to public authorities.

Cooperatives, when presenting themselves as alternative forms for the economic development of their members, are important instruments that informal workers can use to obtain opportunities and to overcome the adversities they experience collectively. One manifestation of this possibility is the foundation of work cooperatives, in the production modality, by workers, who, in

possession of work instruments, would then be able to market products made from the use of their workforce autonomously and for the benefit of the members of the organization. As an instrument to promote the economic and commercial development of its members, the establishment of cooperatives may imply the restructuring of the commercialization of these products to prevent the maintenance or entry into contemporary slave labor cycles.

Associations can also be used by informal workers to replace unions and cooperatives. This is often the case, either because of lack of knowledge or because of the difficulties in creating these last two forms.

Finally, it should be noted that there are NGOs that carry out important activities in favor of these workers. In the context of slavery in the informal economy, two well-known examples of NGOs working in Brazil on the subject are the “Comissão Pastoral da Terra” (CPT) and “Repórter Brasil”.

CPT was founded in 1975 in the context of the Catholic Church (it soon became ecumenic) with the objective of aiding rural workers, especially in the Amazon, that were brutally exploited in their work, subjected to conditions similar, or equal to slave labor and expelled from the lands they occupied. In the following years, the organization expanded its work to the whole country. In promoting and defending the right to work, CPT has stood out in denouncing and systematically combating slave labor. For this purpose, in 1997, it created the *National Campaign to Combat Slave Labor: Eyes Open to not Become a Slave* (“Campanha Nacional de Combate ao Trabalho Escravo: De Olho Aberto para não Virar Escravo”). CPT also created a documentation department, *Dom Tomás Balduino Center of Documentation* (“Centro de Documentação Dom Tomás Balduino”), which records the conflicts involving rural workers and the violence they suffer. Every year CPT publishes the report “Conflicts in Rural Areas: Brazil” (“Conflitos no Campo: Brasil”) with all recorded occurrences of land conflict and

violence.¹³ The organization also routinely publishes news and reports concerning the dangers of slavery in the country.¹⁴

CPT teams are also present on the routes of modern slavery, both in the migrants' states of origin and in their places of destination. In the last 15 years, CPT teams, working in eight highly affected states, have received more than 1,250 complaints and enabled the release of more than 8,300 people from modern slavery. The CPT Campaign conducts coordinated and planned actions, which focus on both the emergency (welcoming and supporting victims, providing their rescue), and the structural (provoking real changes in their lives, supported by public policies: education, health, internalization of employment and income generation policies, agrarian reform; promoting real punishment of those responsible; inhibiting companies and goods that use slave labor; canceling the extra profit derived from crime; confiscating property where slave labor is practiced, among others).¹⁵

¹³ Comissão Pastoral da Terra. Histórico. Goiânia: Comissão Pastoral da Terra, 2022.

¹⁴ Comissão Pastoral da Terra. Biblioteca Virtual. Goiânia: Comissão Pastoral da Terra, 2022.

¹⁵ Comissão Pastoral da Terra. Campanhas – Combate ao Trabalho Escravo. Goiânia: Comissão Pastoral da Terra, 2022.

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