



1. Is the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) still active in Brazil?

The Primeiro Comando de Capital (PCC) is active in Brazil and remains heavily involved in drug trafficking.¹ In February 2011, the US Department of State reported that the PCC is considered to be actively involved in criminal and gang activity in the state of Sao Paulo.² Although the PCC remains based in Sao Paulo, its reach and activities have expanded across Brazil. In 2009, the Joint Special Operations University (JSOU)³ noted that since its inception in 1993, the PCC has grown into Brazil's most powerful prison criminal network, controlling activity within a dozen prisons in Sao Paulo State and around the country.⁴ Similarly, an article by *Folha*⁵ from 15 October 2011 (translated from Portuguese using Google Translate) states that the PCC is active in 16 states across Brazil, double the number of 2006.⁶ Similarly, the abovementioned 2009 JSOU report notes that factions of the PCC have arisen in states where PCC members have been gaoled, including Parana and Mato Grosso do Sul.⁷ In 2011, Birol et al noted that the PCC has a strong presence and many members in Sao Paulo's slums (or *favelas*).⁸

¹ US Department of State 2011, *Brazil 2011 Crime and Safety Report: Sao Paulo*, 24 February, p. 2

<https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportPDF.aspx?cid=10497> - Accessed 17 February 2012

² US Department of State 2011, *Brazil 2011 Crime and Safety Report: Sao Paulo*, 24 February, p. 2

<https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportPDF.aspx?cid=10497> - Accessed 17 February 2012

³ The Joint Special Operations University is the designated agency within the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to conduct Special Operations Force education. It is based in Florida.

⁴ Joint Special Operations University 2009, *Irregular Warfare: Brazil's Fight Against Criminal Urban Guerrillas*, September, JSOU Report 09-08, Global Security Organisation website, p. 2

http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2009/0909_jsou-report-09-8.pdf - Accessed 17 February 2012

⁵ *Folha* is a Brazilian daily newspaper published in Sao Paulo since 1921.

⁶ 'Facção criminosa paulista atua em 16 Estados do país' ('Criminal Gang in Sao Paul Operates in 16 States Across the Country') 2011, *Folha*, 25 October <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/996171-facciao-criminosa-paulista-atua-em-16-estados-do-pais.shtml> -

[http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=pt&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-](http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=pt&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww1.folha.uol.com.br%2Fcotidiano%2F996171-facciao-criminosa-paulista-atua-em-16-estados-do-pais.shtml)

<8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww1.folha.uol.com.br%2Fcotidiano%2F996171-facciao-criminosa-paulista-atua-em-16-estados-do-pais.shtml> - Accessed 17 February 2012. Please note: Google translations can often be poor and can contain errors – as such they give only a rough indication of the contents of a document. For any further reliance on this information, a professional translation should be obtained.

⁷ Joint Special Operations University 2009, *Irregular Warfare: Brazil's Fight Against Criminal Urban Guerrillas*, September, JSOU Report 09-08, Global Security Organisation website, p. 16

http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2009/0909_jsou-report-09-8.pdf - Accessed 17 February 2012

⁸ Birol, J, Pedra, A. & Junior, A.D.R. 2011, 'The Role of Organized Crime in Informal Justice Systems: The Brazilian Case', *Journal of International Security and Terrorism*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 59- 80

<http://www.utsam.org/images/upload/attachment/cilt2/sayi1/The%20Role%20of%20Organized%20Crime%20in%20Informal%20Justice%20Systems%20The%20Brazilian%20Case.pdf> - Accessed 17 February 2012

Sources consulted provide differing estimates of the number of PCC members. On 4 January 2004, *In Sight*⁹ reported that the PCC has 6,000 members.¹⁰ In June 2011 Dr. Max Manwaring¹¹ stated there are between 65,000 and 125,000 members of the PCC.¹² Limited reporting about the size of the PCC means that it is unclear whether these figures indicate a significant growth in the PCC between 2004 and 2011. According to Birol¹³ and Junior¹⁴, the membership of the PCC consists of ‘fellows’ who are slum residents, and ‘high level fellows’ or ‘leaders’ who are mostly in prison.¹⁵

Involvement in Drug Trafficking

The PCC remains heavily involved in drug trafficking. On 30 August 2011, *Inter-American Security Watch*¹⁶ described the PCC (along with the Brazilian Red Command Gang - *Comando Vermelho*)¹⁷ as the most powerful and violent drug gang in Brazil.¹⁸ On 6 July 2011, *In Sight* reported that according to Brazilian police, the PCC has developed sophisticated ‘mafia-like’ systems to control the drug trade, with ‘registered selling points, records of transactions’ and drug franchises.¹⁹ In November 2011, Peter Meyer²⁰ noted in a US Congressional Research Service report that the PCC (along with the Brazilian Red Command gang - *Comando Vermelho*) controls drug distribution in Brazilian cities and has a growing presence in neighbouring countries, such as the marijuana-producing regions along the Paraguayan-Brazilian border. The report also notes that the PCC uses its drug trafficking proceeds to ‘purchase weapons and tighten their control over urban areas’.²¹ The

⁹ *In Sight* provides research, analysis and investigation of organised crime in Latin America and the Caribbean. *In Sight* began in 2010 and receives funding from the Open Society Foundation and the American University’s Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLALS).

¹⁰ ‘Brazilian Prison System on Verge of Collapse’ 2011, *In Sight*, 4 January <http://www.insightcrime.org/insight-latest-news/item/398-brazilian-prison-system-on-verge-of-collapse?tmpl=component&type=raw> – Accessed 17 February 2012

¹¹ Dr. Max Manwaring is a Professor of Military Strategy in the Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) of the US Army War College (USAWC).

¹² Manwaring, M. G. 2011, ‘Three Lessons from Contemporary Challenges in Security’, *PRISM*, June, Vol. 2, No.3, NDU Press website pp. 101- 114 http://www.ndu.edu/press/lib/images/prism2-3/Prism_101-114_Manwaring.pdf - Accessed 17 February 2012

¹³ Alline Pedra Jorge Birol is a lawyer with a Masters in Criminal Law and Criminology. She is currently undertaking a PhD in Criminology at the Université de Lausanne (Switzerland). Her areas of research include criminal justice, crime victims and gender-related issues.

¹⁴ Arno Dal Ri Junior is a Member of the Faculty of Law at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil. His research interests include criminal justice history and history and theory of international law.

¹⁵ Birol, J., Pedra, A. & Junior, A.D.R. 2011, ‘The Role of Organized Crime in Informal Justice Systems: The Brazilian Case’, *Journal of International Security and Terrorism*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 59- 80 <http://www.utsam.org/images/upload/attachment/cilt2/sayi1/The%20Role%20of%20Organized%20Crime%20in%20Informal%20Justice%20Systems%20The%20Brazilian%20Case.pdf> – Accessed 17 February 2012

¹⁶ The *Inter-American Security Watch* is a group of policy experts who aim to provide information on Latin American countries to American policymakers.

¹⁷ The Red Command gang (*Comando Vermelho*) is described as Brazil’s biggest drug trafficking group. It developed as a self-protection group in prisons in the 1970s and later developed into a paramilitary-style organisation controlling the *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro. Please see: Stone, H. 2011, ‘Brazil Red Command ‘Members’ Arrested in Paraguay’, *In Sight*, 13 April <http://insightcrime.org/insight-latest-news/item/772-brazil-red-command-members-arrested-in-paraguay> - Accessed 17 February 2012

¹⁸ Inter-American Security Watch 2011, ‘Brazil’s Porous Jungle Border’, 30 August <http://interamericansecuritywatch.com/brazils-porous-jungle-border/> - Accessed 20 February 2012

¹⁹ Prates, V. 2011, ‘Sao Paulo Gang Sells Drug Franchises: Police’, *In Sight*, 6 July <http://insightcrime.org/insight-latest-news/item/1185-sao-paulo-gang-sells-drug-franchises-police> - Accessed 17 February 2012

²⁰ At the time of publication of the report, Peter Meyer was an Analyst in Latin American Affairs at the US Congressional Research Service.

²¹ Meyer, P. J. 2011, *Brazil-US Relations*, 22 November, Congressional Research Service, UNHCR Refworld website, p. 18 <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=country&docid=4f1ea4d12&skip=0&coi=BRA&querysi=Fi>

abovementioned 2009 JSOU report states that the PCC is Brazil's single largest purchaser of Bolivian cocaine, importing US \$2 million worth of cocaine a year.²² According to this report, after supplying the Brazilian market, the PCC exports cocaine to Europe and Africa, making an annual profit of US \$1 billion.²³

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3. Is there any information regarding the capacity of the authorities to protect those who are under threat from the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) or other criminal gangs?

No information was found specifically regarding the capacity or willingness of the authorities to protect individuals threatened by the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) or other criminal gangs.

Conflicting general information was located about the capacity of the authorities to curb the criminal activities of the PCC and other criminal organisations in Brazil. News reports of PCC members arrested by the Brazilian police during 2011 indicate that the police force has some capacity to investigate and solve some crimes involving the PCC:

- On 20 December 2011, *Folha* reported (translated from Portuguese using Google Translate) that police officers in Araraquara in Sao Paulo State, arrested 20 men and two women suspected of belonging to the PCC.²⁴
- On 25 October 2011, *Folha* reported (translated from Portuguese using Google Translate) that the Federal Police arrested 53 people in three states of Southern Brazil suspected of being connected to the PCC.²⁵

[rst%20Capital%20Command%20AND%20police&searchin=fulltext&display=30&sort=date](#) – Accessed 17 February 2012

²² Joint Special Operations University 2009, *Irregular Warfare: Brazil's Fight Against Criminal Urban Guerrillas*, September, JSOU Report 09-08, Global Security Organisation website, p. 25

http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2009/0909_jsou-report-09-8.pdf - Accessed 17 February 2012

²³ Joint Special Operations University 2009, *Irregular Warfare: Brazil's Fight Against Criminal Urban Guerrillas*, September, JSOU Report 09-08, Global Security Organisation website, p. 25

http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2009/0909_jsou-report-09-8.pdf - Accessed 17 February 2012

²⁴ 'Operacao Prende 22 Ligados a Facciao Criminosa em Araraquara (SP)' (Operation 22 Arrests Related to Criminal Gang in Araraquara) 2011, *Folha*, 20 December

<http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/1023958-operacao-prende-22-ligados-a-facciao-criminosa-em-araraquara-sp.shtml> - <http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=pt&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww1.folha.uol.com.br%2Fcotidiano%2F1023958-operacao-prende-22-ligados-a-facciao-criminosa-em-araraquara-sp.shtml> – Accessed 17 February 2012. Please note: Google translations can often be poor and can contain errors – as such they give only a rough indication of the contents of a document. For any further reliance on this information, a professional translation should be obtained.

²⁵ 'Grupo Preso No Sul Tinha Relacao Com o PCC, Diz Policia' (Group Arrested in the South Had to Do with the CPP, Says Police) 2011, *Folha*, 25 October <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/996666-grupo-pres-no-sul-tinha-relacao-com-o-pcc-diz-policia.shtml> - <http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=pt&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww1.folha.uol.com.br%2Fcotidiano%2F996666-grupo-pres-no-sul-tinha-relacao-com-o-pcc-diz-policia.shtml> – Accessed 17 February 2012. Please note: Google translations can often be poor and can contain errors – as such they give only a rough indication of the contents of a document. For any further reliance on this information, a professional translation should be obtained.

- On 6 May 2011, *Estado* reported (translated from Portuguese using Google Translate) that after police entered a site used by the PCC in Sao Paulo, a shootout ensued between PCC members and the police. Three alleged PCC members were killed and five others surrendered. Police confiscated weapons and drugs at the scene.²⁶
- An article on the *Apuka Online*²⁷ website from 12 January 2011, (translated from Portuguese using Google Translate) states that police in the state of Parana, arrested a member of the PCC, Lindomar Fabiano, also known as ‘Jeep’. Police also confiscated weapons at the scene.²⁸

In contrast to the above, reports were found indicating that the ability of the authorities to take action against the PCC and other criminal organisations is limited due to corruption, impunity, and a lack of resourcing. In 2011 the US Department of State reported that:

The law [in Brazil] provides criminal penalties for official corruption and strengthened penalties for corruption during the year; however, the government did not always implement the law effectively, and officials engaged in corrupt practices with impunity.²⁹

It is noteworthy that a 2011 report by Harvard University and the Brazilian human rights group *Justica Global*³⁰ indicates that official corruption was a driving force behind the May 2006 attacks by the PCC. A year prior to the attacks police used wiretaps, kidnapping, and abused family members of the PCC to extract bribes. According to the report, ‘the PCC decided to retaliate brutally’ during the 2006 attacks.³¹

Reports indicate that some police officers collude with criminal organisations including the PCC. On 3 December 2011, *Folha* reported (translated from Portuguese using Google Translate) that a lawyer and police officer were arrested on suspicion of selling information

²⁶ ‘Rota Descobre Sitio de Quadrilha do PCC e Mata 3 Suspeitos no Interior de SP’ (Route Discovers the Site of the PCC Gang and Kills Three Suspects Inside SP) 2011, *Estadao*, 6 May <http://www.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral.rota-descobre-sitio-de-quadrilha-do-pcc-e-mata-3-suspeitos-no-interior-de-sp,715687,0.htm> - http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&ie=UTF8&prev=t&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=pt&tl=en&u=http://www.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral.rota-descobre-sitio-de-quadrilha-do-pcc-e-mata-3-suspeitos-no-interior-de-sp,715687,0.htm&usg=ALkJrhi5c0rByurIMhF5UnscAcWJCdfXA – Accessed 17 February 2012. Please note: Google translations can often be poor and can contain errors – as such they give only a rough indication of the contents of a document. For any further reliance on this information, a professional translation should be obtained.

²⁷ *Apuka Online* appears to be a Brazilian-focused news and blog website. An English Translation of the website (using Google Translate) does not indicate who writes the news articles or who is responsible for maintaining the website.

²⁸ ‘Polícia Mata Bandidos e Prende Integrante do PCC no Parana’ (Police Kill Bandits and Arrests Member of PCC in Parana) 2011, *Apuka Online*, 12 January http://www.apukaonline.com.br/apukaonline1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8080:policia-mata-bandidos-e-prende-integrante-do-pcc-no-parana&catid=38:policia&Itemid=62 - http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&ie=UTF8&prev=t&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=pt&tl=en&u=http://www.apukaonline.com.br/apukaonline1/index.php?option=com_content%26view%3Darticle%26id%3D8080:policia-mata-bandidos-e-prende-integrante-do-pcc-no-parana%26catid%3D38:policia%26Itemid%3D62&usg=ALkJrhgEmdHDI_4cJc5AvCn-cJHT8jZSJA – Accessed 17 February 2012. Please note: Google translations can often be poor and can contain errors – as such they give only a rough indication of the contents of a document. For any further reliance on this information, a professional translation should be obtained.

²⁹ US Department of State 2011, *Human Rights Practices Country Reports 2010: Brazil*, p. 20 www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154496.htm - Accessed 11 April 2011

³⁰ The report ‘São Paulo sob Achaque: Corrupção Crime Organizado e Violência Institucional em Maio de 2006’ is only available in Portuguese. An English translation using Google Translate could not be obtained.

³¹ Harvard University International Human Rights Clinic 2011, ‘Five Years After Deadly May 2006 Sao Paulo Attacks, Report Documents Role of State Violence and Corruption in Organized Crime’, 9 May <http://harvardhumanrights.wordpress.com/2011/05/09/five-years-after-deadly-may-2006-sao-paulo-attacks-report-documents-role-of-state-violence-and-corruption-in-organized-crime/> - Accessed 20 February 2012

on wiretaps conducted by the Civil Police of Sao Paulo against PCC members under investigation for drug trafficking.³² The abovementioned US Department of State report also notes that in October 2010, military police officers in Rio de Janeiro arrested eight members of the militia gang, Piraque. Those arrested included a civil police officer, two military police officers, and an army officer.³³

The ability of the police to take action against criminal organisations, such as the PCC, is hampered by a lack of resources. The abovementioned 2011 *Human Rights Report* by the US Department of State notes that police do not often operate in militia-dominated communities.³⁴

In 2011, the US Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security reported that police authorities cite a lack of resources, under-staffing, and payroll issues among the key reasons why response times to reported crimes are ‘not always optimal’ and why many crimes go unsolved.³⁵

The Brazilian Government is taking steps to improve the general effectiveness of the police force. For example, in January 2010 the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat for Public Security and Civil Police started a human rights training course for Rio de Janeiro military police officers.³⁶

³² Caramante, A. 2011, ‘Policial do Denarc de Suspeita de Vender Informacoes a Traficantes’ (Denarc Cop is Suspected of Selling Information to Drug Traffickers), *Folha*, 3 December <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/1015996-policial-do-denarc-e-suspeita-de-vender-informacoes-a-trafficantes.shtml> - <http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=pt&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww1.folha.uol.com.br%2Fcotidiano%2F1015996-policial-do-denarc-e-suspeita-de-vender-informacoes-a-trafficantes.shtml> – Accessed 17 February 2012. Please note: Google translations can often be poor and can contain errors – as such they give only a rough indication of the contents of a document. For any further reliance on this information, a professional translation should be obtained.

³³ US Department of State 2011, *Human Rights Practices Country Reports 2010: Brazil*, p. 12 www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154496.htm - Accessed 11 April 2011

³⁴ US Department of State 2011, *Human Rights Practices Country Reports 2010: Brazil*, p. 11 www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154496.htm - Accessed 11 April 2011

³⁵ US Department of State 2011, *Brazil 2011 Crime and Safety Report: Sao Paulo*, 24 February, p. 4 <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportPDF.aspx?cid=10497> - Accessed 17 February 2012

³⁶ US Department of State 2011, *Human Rights Practices Country Reports 2010: Brazil*, p. 12 www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154496.htm - Accessed 11 April 2011

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http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&ie=UTF8&prev=_t&rurl=translate.google.com&sl=pt&tl=en&u=http://www.apukaonline.com.br/apukaonline1/index.php?option%3Dcom_content%26view%3Darticle%26id%3D8080:policia-mata-bandidos-e-prende-integrante-do-pcc-no-parana%26catid%3D38:policia%26Itemid%3D62&usg=ALkJrhgEmdHDI_4cJc5AvCn-cJHT8jZSJA – Accessed 17 February 2012
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