

New York, May 15, 2015

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
c/o Mr. Robert Husbands
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

RE: Call for input from NGOs

Dear Mr. Husbands,

Reference is made to a letter dated April 16, 2015, in which non-governmental organizations were called to inform your office of any relevant information they might have that could assist with the implementation of Resolution A/HRC/28/L.22, on the contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

Since 2011, the Drugs, Security and Democracy (DSD) Program at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) has supported research on drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean with a goal of producing evidence-based knowledge to inform drug policy in the region and beyond. The program fosters a global interdisciplinary network of researchers engaged with drug policy, committed to policy-relevant outcomes, and able to communicate their findings to relevant audiences. The DSD Program achieves its goals through various activities, including a research fellowship currently in its fifth year that has funded around eighty researchers focusing on drugs in the region.

In response to the aforementioned letter, the DSD Program consulted its fellows and asked those who believe that their projects touch on the drugs and human rights link to send us a brief explanation of their research as well as references for any relevant source material. Pursuant to this request, you may find below contributions from two of our fellows, with some of the relevant material enclosed hereto for your review.

Dr. Annette Idler:

“My research explores the drugs and human rights link in the cocaine production and transit countries, particularly Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. I analyse how the illicit drug economy compromises the human rights of local communities in areas of coca production, of processing and of trafficking of cocaine, precursors and other goods that are exchanged with cocaine, for example arms and ammunitions. Examining how various violent non-state groups involved in the drug business inflict violence and impose social control on community members as well as limit their mobility, my work highlights how the world drug problem impacts on the enjoyment of some of the most essential human rights, particularly the right to life, freedom from torture, freedom of speech and freedom of movement.”

Dr. Eliana Sousa Silva (partial English translation of original note in Portuguese):

“My research project, called ‘police action in the favelas in Rio: against the grain of a citizen security policy?’ (*Ação policial nas favelas cariocas: na contramão de uma política de segurança*)

cidadã?) discusses the connection between drugs and human rights as it seeks to investigate the public safety policy carried out in Complexo da Maré, the largest collection of favelas of Rio de Janeiro. This policy has been the basis for the creation of the pacifying policy units (*Unidades de Polícia Pacificadora – UPP*), an initiative of the State Government of Rio de Janeiro for occupation of favelas dominated by armed criminal groups (GCAs in the Portuguese acronym) responsible for drug trafficking in the state.

Historically, the manner in which government entities have been working in popular areas reflects the way in which the relationship between drugs and human rights in the field of public policies is formed. In the war on drugs, military repression and warlike confrontation are used indiscriminately, with no consideration of the fundamental rights of residents of the territories where this repression occurs – mostly slums. The war also justifies and trivializes the annihilation of the enemy, commonly black and poor young people, whose basic rights are not respected.”

We hope that the research produced by our fellows will make a positive contribution to the study being prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights.

Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,



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RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS FROM DSD FELLOWS

Please note that this is not meant to be an exhaustive record of publications by DSD fellows, but rather an indication of the specific material that Dr. Annette Idler and Dr. Eliana Sousa Silva wanted to reference as possible contributions to the OHCHR study.

DR. ANNETTE IDLER:

Doctoral Thesis

“Arrangements of Convenience: Violent Non-state Actor Relationships and Citizen Security in the Shared Borderlands of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela”, Oxford: University of Oxford, 2014.

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

“[Behavioral Patterns among \(Violent\) Non-State Actors: A Study of Complementary Governance](#)”, *Stability*, 2015, 4(1):2, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/sta.er>. (with James Forest)

“Arrangements of Convenience in Colombia’s Borderlands: An Invisible Threat to Citizen Security?”, *St. Antony’s International Review*, 2012, 7 (2).

Book chapter:

“Espacios Invisibilizados: Actores Violentos No-Estatales en las Zonas Fronterizas de Colombia”, *Estudios Indiana*, Ibero-American Institute, (Berlin: Gebr. Mann Verlag), 2014.

Blog Posts

“[Narco-brokers and Financiers: the Key Elements in the Cocaine Business](#)”, *EU Cocaine Route Programme: Combatting Transnational Organised Crime*, March 2015.
<http://www.cocaineroute.eu/flows/narco-brokers-financiers-key-elements-cocaine-business/>

“[Narco-brókers y Financieros: Piezas Claves del Narcotráfico](#)”, *Razón Pública*, August 2014.
<http://www.razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/7792-%E2%80%9Cnarcobr%C3%B3kers%E2%80%9D-y-financieros-piezas-claves-del-narcotr%C3%A1fico.html>

“[A Response to Ivan Briscoe’s Piece on the Transition of the FARC in Colombia](#)”, *DAG-3QD Online Symposia on Peace & Justice*, February 2014.
<http://www.3quarksdaily.com/3quarksdaily/2014/02/the-margins-at-the-centre-of-the-farcs-future.html>

Talks available online

“[Peace and Security in Colombia: Challenges Ahead](#)”, *Panel Discussion at International Institute of Strategic Studies*, March 2014, London, UK
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17I8j4la6_U&feature=youtu.be

["Illicitly Governed Spaces: Drugs, Conflict and Peace in Colombia", Talk at the OxPeace 2013 Conference
"The Future of Peace Building", May 2013, Oxford, UK
http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/oxpeace-2013-illicitly-governed-spaces-drugs-conflict-and-peace-columbia-session-1a](http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/oxpeace-2013-illicitly-governed-spaces-drugs-conflict-and-peace-columbia-session-1a)

DR. ELIANA SOUSA SILVA:

Book

"Testemunhos da Maré." Rio de Janeiro: Aeroplano, 2012.

Available at [http://issuu.com/tramas urbanas/docs/testemunhos da mare](http://issuu.com/tramas urbanas/docs/testemunhos_da_mare)

Op-Ed (with Dr. Carl Hart and Dr. Julita Lemgruber)

"Favelas e Cracolândia que ninguém vê." Jornal O Globo, June 7, 2014. (attached)