



His Excellency Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos
Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Kingdom of Norway
Embassy of Brazil
Sigurd Syrs Gate 4
0244 Oslo
Norway

January 09, 2026

Urgent Call for Brazil to Support ICC Action Against U.S. Complicity in Crimes Against Humanity Through Drug Prohibition in Latin America

Dear Ambassador de Azeredo Santos,

I write to you on behalf of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD), an organization dedicated to advocating for evidence-based drug policies grounded in human rights and the rule of law. Building on our recent communication to the International Criminal Court (ICC) dated December 29, 2025, alleging crimes against humanity perpetrated through the systemic enforcement of drug prohibition, we urge the Government of Brazil to take decisive action in holding the United States accountable for its role in perpetuating this regime in Latin America.

As detailed in our ICC submission and supporting documents, including [Human Rising: The Prohibitionist Psychosis and Its Constitutional Implications](#) (2020), the so-called "war on drugs" has served as a tool for empire-building and social control, mirroring historical arbitrary persecutions such as the witch hunts of the 15th-18th centuries, the Nazi crusades of the 1940s, and South Africa's apartheid regime. These policies, rooted in fear, racism, and delusion rather than public health evidence, have warped natural market dynamics into a narrative of victims and aggressors, enabling atrocities and eroding open societies. In Latin America, the hypocrisy of the U.S.-led drug war is particularly stark, as outlined in Part 3 of Human Rising. While the U.S. has domestically shifted toward legalization and regulation in states like California and Colorado, it has pressured Brazil through anti-drug operations and funding, intensifying urban violence, mass incarceration, and discrimination against marginalized communities in areas like favelas, all while undermining sovereignty and human rights. This has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths annually from drug-related violence, overcrowded prisons, and a thriving black market that fuels corruption and instability.

These failures are further corroborated by the Organization of American States (OAS) 2013 report, "The Drug Problem in the Americas," which criticizes the "war on drugs" as a "dismal



failure" that has not reduced drug expansion or demand, instead leading to mass incarceration, violence, and institutional corruption, particularly affecting countries like Brazil with high urban violence. The report highlights U.S. hypocrisy, noting that while states like Colorado and Washington legalized marijuana, federal policies continue to enforce repression abroad, contradicting domestic shifts and treating drug dependence punitively rather than as a health issue. Its companion scenarios document projected paths to 2025, including continuation of prohibition (leading to entrenched criminal empires), decriminalization (reducing social control through harm reduction), and regulation (disrupting cartel profits and US dominance), underscoring the need for international treaty reforms to allow sovereign experimentation and prevent more entrenched alliances between Machiavellian politicians and organized crime.

Brazil's evolving stance on decriminalization and harm reduction, including ongoing Supreme Court deliberations, aligns with UN recommendations (e.g., A/HRC/54/53) and demonstrates leadership in rejecting this failed paradigm. However, the urgency of the moment cannot be overstated. Under the current U.S. administration, threats of invasion and intervention loom large, with President Trump potentially targeting leaders like President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for their progressive policies on drugs, environmental issues, and regional sovereignty. These actions aim to forge a fascist continental order that permanently subverts the voices of individual nations and dissenting populations, consolidating power through coercion and disregarding international law. For open societies to survive, international law must dismantle prohibition entirely, as its continuation equips tyrants with mechanisms for control and perpetuates cycles of violence.

We implore Brazil to build upon our ICC complaint by submitting complementary communications or evidence, focusing on U.S. complicity in crimes against humanity under Article 7 of the Rome Statute. This could include documentation of U.S.-influenced policies that have exacerbated violence, rights abuses, and institutional corruption in Brazil, bolstered by references to the OAS 2013 report's findings on policy failures and calls for reform. By coordinating with other Latin American nations and UN bodies, Brazil can lead a regional effort to demand accountability, advocate for the renunciation of UN drug conventions incompatible with human rights, and push for truth and reconciliation mechanisms to address decades of harm. Such actions will empower Brazil against U.S. dictation, safeguard sovereignty, and pave the way for responsible regulation that protects health, reduces violence, and restores the rule of law.

AROD stands ready to provide further documentation, including our full ICC submission and annexed materials, available at <https://www.arodpolicies.org/international-criminal-court-submission>. UN agencies have been notified of the urgent need to undo a regime that subverts the rule of law, with communications available at <https://www.arodpolicies.org/un-human-rights-correspondence>. We request a prompt response and opportunities for collaboration to terminate this era of systemic injustice before further threats materialize.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roar Mikalsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Roar" on the first line and "Mikalsen" on the second line.

Roar Mikalsen

President of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD)