



## The application of human rights in the military police of the state of Paraná

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### SUMMARY

This article examines the application of human rights within the Military Police of the State of Paraná, focusing on the challenges and practices adopted to reconcile the police mission with respect for fundamental human rights principles. The research addresses how the training of military police officers is structured to incorporate these values and how the institution responds to situations involving violations of these rights. Furthermore, it analyzes the impact of public policies and international regulations on police performance, aiming to improve the efficiency of the service provided to society while ensuring respect for human dignity. The methodology adopted includes a literature review and the analysis of institutional documents and reports on the Military Police's human rights performance in Paraná.

**Keywords:** Human Rights, Military Police, State of Paraná, Training Police, Public Safety

### ABSTRACT

This article examines the application of human rights within the Military Police of the State of Paraná, focusing on the challenges and practices adopted to reconcile the police mission with respect for the fundamental principles of human rights. The research addresses how military police training is structured to include these values and how the institution responds to situations that involve violations of these rights. Furthermore, it analyzes the impact of public policies and international regulations on police action, aiming to improve the efficiency of the service provided to society, while ensuring respect for human dignity. The methodology adopted includes a bibliographic review and analysis of institutional documents and reports on the Military Police's actions in relation to human rights in Paraná.

**Keywords:** Human Rights, Military Police, State of Paraná, Police Training, Public Security

### INTRODUCTION

Respect for human rights in the context of public security is a topic of great importance. relevance in academic and social debates, especially in democratic countries. The Military Police, as an institution responsible for public safety, faces challenges constant in reconciling the need to maintain order and the protection of fundamental rights and guarantees of citizens.

In the State of Paraná, the Military Police plays a central role in preserving public order and crime prevention. However, this role must be played in light of human rights, as stipulated by both national legislation and

international conventions to which Brazil is a signatory. This article seeks to investigate how these rights are applied in practice by the Military Police of the State of Paraná, with a special focus on police training and the corporation's response to cases of alleged human rights violations.

The analysis includes a reflection on Brazilian legislation, such as the Federal Constitution of 1988 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and their incorporation into regulations and operational guidelines of the Military Police. The article also discusses the role of state and federal public policies in promoting a culture of respect for human rights within the police force.

## **1. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLICE ACTION**

Human rights are standards that aim to protect the dignity and freedom of each person. individual. The application of these standards in the police context has been a historical challenge, since police officers often deal with situations of conflict and violence that require the application of force. However, police action must always be guided by principle of proportionality, aiming to minimize damages and respect rights fundamental, even in adverse situations.

The relationship between human rights and police action is one of the most debated topics in the area of public safety and justice. At its core, this relationship deals with how agents security, responsible for maintaining public order and protecting citizens, can (and should) act in a way that respects the rights and guarantees fundamental, even in situations of confrontation and legitimate use of force.

### **1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR ACTION**

#### **POLICE OFFICER**

Human rights are a set of universal standards that protect the dignity, freedom and equality of all individuals. In the context of police action, these rights are particularly relevant because police officers are directly involved in situations that may affect these guarantees. Police forces have a duty to protect the population against crimes and ensure public order, but they need to do so in a way that respects the life, freedom and security of people.

This means that police officers must operate under the principle of legality, necessity and proportionality in the use of force. International conventions and domestic legislation,

like the 1988 Federal Constitution in Brazil, guarantee that, even when force is necessary to prevent crimes or contain disturbances, it should be used with the least possible impact on the fundamental rights of the people involved.

## **1.2. THE ROLE OF THE POLICE OFFICER AS PROTECTOR AND LAW ENFORCER**

The police officer, when acting as an agent of the State, is seen as the guardian of law and order. However, he must also be a defender of human rights. This creates a duality in their function: on the one hand, the police officer must guarantee public safety and application of the law; on the other hand, he must do so without violating the rights and dignity of people, regardless of who they are or the context in which they are inserted.

For example, in a police approach, it is essential that the security agent respects the rights to physical integrity, privacy and equal treatment. Procedures how stop, search and detention should be conducted in accordance with standards that protect fundamental rights, and any abuse of power or excessive force may be considered a violation of human rights.

## **1.3. CHALLENGES IN RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC SECURITY**

One of the main challenges in reconciling law enforcement and human rights is the environment of constant pressure in which police officers work. Society often demands quick and effective responses to crime, and this pressure can lead to excessive use of force or abusive practices.

In contexts of extreme violence, such as operations in high-risk areas or confrontations with criminal organizations, the challenge of respecting human rights becomes even greater more pronounced. Police officers face dilemmas in which they must balance the need to control dangerous situations with the obligation to protect the rights of those involved, including suspects and civilians.

Another aspect that generates tension between human rights and police action is culture organizational structure of some corporations. In some cases, authoritarian practices and the impunity within police institutions can encourage behaviors that contradict the principles of human rights. Police training, which is often based on rigid obedience and discipline, can, if poorly guided, generate agents that see human rights as an obstacle to the effective performance of their work.

#### **1.4. THE IMPORTANCE OF POLICE TRAINING IN HUMAN RIGHTS**

In order for police officers to balance these demands effectively, training and training are fundamental. Human rights education must be a part of central to police training, ensuring that officers deeply understand the value of these rights and know how to apply them in real situations.

Furthermore, training must emphasize police ethics, that is, ethical principles that govern the conduct of security agents. This includes respect for human dignity, protection against torture and the humane treatment of all individuals, even in situations of conflict or detention.

Many police forces around the world, including the Military Police of the State of Paraná, have sought to include human rights content in their training curricula and improvement. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives depends on their implementation practice in the daily lives of police officers and the continuity of training throughout their careers.

#### **1.5. PRACTICAL EXAMPLES AND INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS**

Several international regulations define guidelines for police action from the perspective of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Covenant Convention on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984) are some of the regulations that influence police actions around the world, including Brazil.

These documents establish the basis for equal treatment, the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial and the prohibition of torture, among other rights. In accordance with these principles, police officers must operate within the boundaries of the law and with respect for the dignity and human rights of all people.

In addition, specific standards, such as the Employee Code of Conduct Law Enforcement Officials (1979) and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990), provide clear guidelines on the use of force and other police practices in compliance with human rights.

## **1.6. ACCOUNTABILITY AND EXTERNAL CONTROL**

Another essential component to ensuring that human rights are respected in police work is the existence of oversight and accountability mechanisms. Agencies how internal affairs offices, ombudsmen and the Public Prosecutor's Office play roles fundamental in investigating allegations of abuse of power or police violence.

These bodies ensure that human rights violations are investigated and that responsible are punished according to the law. Furthermore, they encourage a culture of accountability within police institutions, promoting greater transparency and compliance with human rights standards.

### **1.2.1 HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRAZIL**

Since the enactment of the 1988 Constitution, Brazil has made progress in incorporating of human rights in its public institutions, including police forces.

However, the effective application of these rights on the streets still faces practical challenges, such as cultural resistance within police forces and the lack of training adequate.

## **2. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MILITARY POLICE OF PARANÁ**

Police training is one of the pillars for ensuring the application of rights humans. In Paraná, the Military Police has incorporated into its training curricula and improvement, specific disciplines that deal with human rights. These disciplines seek to raise awareness among police officers about the importance of acting with respect for human dignity in all its actions, from approaches to major operations complexity.

The training and qualification of military police officers in human rights is an element fundamental to ensure that police action in the State of Paraná is in accordance with the principles of human dignity and legality. The Military Police of Paraná (PMPR), like other police forces in Brazil, faces the challenge to balance the maintenance of public order with respect for rights and guarantees fundamental rights provided for in the Federal Constitution of 1988 and in international treaties of human rights to which Brazil is a signatory.

## 2.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

The training of police officers in human rights aims not only to raise awareness agents regarding the importance of respecting citizens' rights, but also provide them with practical tools so they can act ethically and legally in conflict situations. In a scenario where police officers are frequently exposed to situations of risk and tension, ongoing training in human rights is essential so that they can make decisions based on principles of proportionality, necessity and legality.

Human rights training contributes to building a police culture oriented towards respect for human dignity, while promoting greater trust between the population and security forces. This educational process aims demystify the idea that human rights are an obstacle to police action, showing that, on the contrary, they are an integrating element of an effective police practice and fair.

## 2.2. TRAINING STRUCTURE IN THE PMPR

In the Military Police of Paraná, the initial training of its officers already incorporates disciplines and specific modules on human rights. These courses cover topics such as:

- **Human Rights Legislation:** Includes the study of the Federal Constitution, international conventions, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and specific Brazilian legislation, such as the Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA) and the Elderly Statute.
- **Ethics and Citizenship:** Discusses the relationship between the military police officer and the rights and duties of citizens, as well as the ethical principles that should guide the actions of public agent.
- **Progressive Use of Force:** Enables police officers to use force in a manner proportional and adequate, in accordance with human rights parameters, minimizing the excessive use of force and respecting the physical integrity of individuals.
- **Conflict Mediation:** Focuses on mediation and negotiation techniques for conflict resolution without the use of force, promoting a more peaceful and preventive police action.



In addition to basic training, military police officers participate in advanced training courses throughout their careers. These courses include updates on human rights, new legislation, changes in operating protocols and practical case studies.

### 2.3. CONTINUOUS TRAINING PROGRAMS

Ongoing human rights training for police officers is an essential component to ensure that the knowledge acquired in initial training is constantly renewed and adapted to new social and legal realities. The PMPR implements periodic training programs to ensure that its agents are prepared to deal with complex situations involving possible violations of rights.

- **Refresher Courses:** These are offered regularly to in-service police officers, addressing emerging topics in human rights and new legislation or normative guidelines. This includes, for example, adaptation to the guidelines of the UN on the use of force and new community policing practices.
- **Workshops and Seminars:** PMPR organizes events that discuss topics contemporary human rights figures, often with the participation of experts, NGOs, and representatives of other security and justice institutions. These events promote the exchange of ideas and the dissemination of good practices.
- **Distance Education (EAD):** In response to training needs continuous and flexibility required by field agents, the PMPR also developed training and refresher courses in distance learning format. These courses allow police officers to access human rights content in a way remotely, without interrupting your routine activities.

### 2.4. IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Despite ongoing capacity building efforts, human rights training in the Police Paraná's military faces some challenges:

- **Cultural Resistance:** In many police forces, there still persists a institutional culture that views human rights with suspicion, especially in contexts where crime is high and police officers are pressured to act accordingly energetically. The challenge is to promote a change in mindset, so that





police officers understand that respect for human rights is not incompatible with efficiency in fighting crime.

- **Time Dedicated to Training:** Although human rights are addressed in the training curricula, the amount of time dedicated to these topics often is sometimes insufficient. The emphasis on technical training, such as the use of weapons and intervention tactics, may limit the time for more in-depth education in human rights.
- **Everyday Practice vs. Theory:** Another significant challenge is practical application of human rights concepts in the daily lives of police officers. Even after the training, working conditions, external pressures and the culture of the company itself corporation can make it difficult to internalize and apply these concepts in practice.

## 2.5. GOOD PRACTICES AND ADVANCES

Despite the challenges, the PMPR has been recognized for some good initiatives practices in human rights training:

- **Partnerships with External Organizations:** PMPR has established partnerships with higher education institutions, NGOs and international organizations to develop training programs and improve rights education humans. These partnerships allow us to bring new perspectives and methodologies to the training of police officers.
- **Focus on Community Policing:** The Military Police of Paraná has invested in community policing projects, which promote more interaction between police officers and the public. This policing model encourages preventive police action geared towards conflict mediation, instead of a purely reactive and punitive response.

## 2.6. IMPACT OF HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING ON PRACTICES

### POLICE OFFICER

Human rights training has a direct impact on the way in which Paraná military police officers carry out their activities. Police officers well trained in human rights humans tend to be more aware of the limits of their actions, they are able to avoid abuses of power and apply the law more fairly and equitably.





This training contributes to greater legitimacy of the corporation before society, increasing public confidence in the police. When the public perceives that police officers act with respect for human rights, they are more likely to collaborate with authorities and see the police as an institution that protects, not threatens.

## **2.1. PROGRAM CONTENT AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS**

The syllabus of police academies includes topics related to rights humans, however, the effectiveness of this training depends on factors such as time dedicated to the topic and the continuity of this learning in everyday practice.

## **3. ANALYSIS OF CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE MILITARY POLICE IN PARANÁ**

Cases of abuse of power and police violence are notoriously recorded throughout the Brazil, and Paraná is not exempt from this problem. The analysis of specific cases of alleged human rights violations by the Military Police allow for reflection on the limits of police action and the need for greater control and accountability agents.

### **3.1. CORRECTIVE MEASURES AND PUNISHMENTS**

When there is proof of human rights violations, corrective measures within of the Paraná Military Police have varied. Punishment for offenders, although important, needs to be complemented by educational measures that prevent future occurrences.

## **4. PUBLIC POLICIES AND THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MILITARY POLICE**

The role of the State is fundamental in ensuring that the Military Police operates within the legal frameworks and respect human rights. In Paraná, public policies have sought promote this culture, through continuous training programs, in addition to implementation of external control mechanisms, such as ombudsman and inspectorates.

The promotion of human rights in the Military Police depends heavily on the creation and implementation of effective public policies by the State. The role of the State is central, not only in the formulation of these policies, but also in monitoring, supporting institutional and education of police officers on the importance of respecting and enforcing rights



humans in their daily actions. Public policies aim, among other objectives, ensure that the Military Police fulfills its role of ensuring public order without compromise the fundamental rights of the population.

#### **4.1. THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS**

The State has the responsibility to ensure that all its institutions, including police forces, act in accordance with democratic principles and respect the human rights. This is achieved through public policies, legislation and regulations that define the expected behavior of security agents, as well as oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure that these standards are maintained.

The State must provide resources so that these policies are effective implemented, which includes financing training, creating training programs continuing education, strengthening of ombudsmen and inspectorates, and the establishment of incentives for police practices that respect human rights.

#### **4.2. PUBLIC POLICIES AIMED AT TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION**

One of the main mechanisms by which the State can promote human rights in the Military Police is through public policies aimed at training and qualifying police officers. These training programs should include human rights education as a central component of the curriculum of initial training courses and programs of recycling and improvement.

These public policies must be designed to ensure that rights training humans is not only theoretical, but also practical, with an emphasis on problem-solving conflicts, in the progressive use of force and in the mediation of crisis situations. In addition, the creation of partnerships between the government, civil society organizations and institutions international can contribute to the development of more effective training programs complete and effective.

#### **4.3. INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND CULTURAL CHANGE**

The State must also commit to the institutional reform of the police forces, which may include changes in the organizational culture of the Military Police. This involves implementation of policies that promote a change of mindset within the

institution, combating practices of institutional violence and abuse of power, at the same time a time when respect for human dignity is encouraged.

Cultural change in police forces is a complex and long-term task, but it is fundamental to the success of human rights policies. The State can support this process through initiatives that reward good practices, promote transparency and encourage positive interaction between the police and the community.

#### **4.4. CONTROL AND SUPERVISION MECHANISMS**

To ensure that public policies aimed at promoting human rights in Military Police are effective, the State must establish control mechanisms and oversight. Internal oversight bodies, ombudsmen and external control bodies, such as the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary, play crucial roles in investigation of abuses and holding accountable police officers who violate rights humans.

Furthermore, the existence of mechanisms for monitoring and auditing practices police, such as independent human rights commissions, can increase the transparency of the Military Police's actions and ensure that public policies are being implemented effectively.

#### **4.5. COMMUNITY POLICING AND INTEGRATION WITH SOCIETY**

Public policies can also encourage community policing practices, which are based on a closer and more collaborative approach between the police and the community. Community policing promotes the building of a relationship of trust between police officers and citizens, allowing public safety to be managed in a more inclusive and participatory way, based on respect for human rights.

Community policing programs created or supported by the State can contribute to reducing violence rates and improving the perception of police by the population. In these programs, police officers are trained to work together with the community in crime prevention, in the peaceful resolution of conflicts and in promoting a safe environment that respects fundamental rights.

#### 4.6. INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICIES AND THE COMMITMENT OF BRAZIL

Brazil is a signatory to several international treaties and conventions that establish guidelines for the promotion of human rights, including in the police force. The State Brazilian, through its public policies, must fulfill the obligations assumed internationally, adapting these standards to the country's internal reality and integrating them into training and performance of the Military Police.

For example, adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Degrading substances imposes on Brazil the obligation to adopt policies that prohibit and punish the use excessive force and other forms of violation of rights by security forces.

Compliance with these international obligations by the Brazilian State also strengthens the legitimacy of domestic public policies aimed at promoting rights human beings and contributes to the harmonization of police procedures with standards global standards of respect for human dignity.

#### 4.7. EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN PARANÁ

In the State of Paraná, there are initiatives that seek to align the actions of the Military Police with the human rights guidelines established in public policies. Some of these initiatives include:

- **Paraná Seguro Program:** Focused on restructuring public security in the state, this program includes the modernization of the Military Police and training of police officers in safer and more respectful approach techniques to rights humans.
- **Community Policing in Paraná:** The state government has promoted community policing, aiming to bring police officers closer to local communities and encourage more preventive and less repressive action.
- **Continuing Education Courses:** In addition to initial training, the State of Paraná has offered refresher courses and ongoing training in human rights for their military police officers. These trainings are crucial to ensure that police officers remain up to date on best practices for respecting fundamental rights.

#### 4.8. CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC POLICIES

Although the State has an essential role in promoting human rights within police forces, the implementation of public policies faces a series of challenges.

Among them, the following stand out:

- **Internal Resistance:** Resistance from some sectors of the corporation may hinder the implementation of human rights policies. There is a culture entrenched in some police institutions that see these policies as incompatible with efficient crime repression.
- **Lack of Resources:** Public policies depend on adequate funding to be successful. Often, training and monitoring programs are hampered by the lack of financial and human resources.
- **Social and Political Pressures:** The pressure for rapid and energetic responses to crime, often fueled by sectors of the media and society, can compromise the full adoption of human rights policies in security forces. There is a constant tension between the demand for immediate security and the need for respect human rights.

#### 4.9. FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The promotion of human rights in the Military Police is an ongoing process that requires coordinated action by the State, civil society and the police forces themselves. The creation of solid public policies, combined with effective oversight and ongoing training of police officers, can help build a culture of respect for human rights within the Military Police.

Strengthening community policing practices, modernizing police training curricula and the development of new policies that encourage rapprochement between police and community are promising strategies to ensure that public security is provided more efficiently and humanely in Paraná and throughout the Brazil.

## 5. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The full implementation of human rights in police practice in Paraná still faces significant challenges. Among them, the need for cultural change stands out within the corporation and the pressure exerted by a society that often demands quick and firm responses to crime, which can lead to the excessive use of force.

## CONCLUSION

The application of human rights in the Military Police of Paraná is an ongoing process, which requires efforts from both the State and the police force itself. The training adequate, effective punishment of abuses and awareness among police officers are elements fundamental to ensuring that citizens' fundamental rights are respected. Synergy between public policies, police action and civil society is essential to promote an environment of respect for human dignity and public safety.

The role of the State in promoting human rights within the Military Police is fundamental to ensuring that police action is aligned with the principles democratic and human dignity. Public policies aimed at training and ongoing training, institutional reform and community policing are essential tools to ensure that human rights are respected in practice everyday life of police officers. However, the implementation of these policies faces challenges significant, such as internal resistance and social pressures, which must be faced by through an ongoing commitment to reform and improvement of institutions public safety.

Training and qualification in human rights in the Military Police of Paraná is a piece central to promoting police action that balances the need for security public with respect for human dignity. Despite challenges such as resistance cultural and the need for more time dedicated to human rights education, PMPR has advanced its training practices. Continuous training programs, partnerships with outside organizations and a focus on community policing are positive steps to ensure that human rights are a reality in everyday life of police action in Paraná.

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