

## **Part Three**

### **YOUTHS AND NARCOTRAFFIC: FACTORS OF RISK AND PROTECTION**

International Symposium 25-27 February 2008

Internacional 25-27 Fevereiro 2008

# Segurança & Políticas Públicas sobre Drogas Security & Drug Policy



Departamento de Segurança Pública do Brasil  
Secretaria Nacional de Segurança Pública  
Ministério da Justiça  
Secretaria Nacional Antidrogas  
Gabinete de Segurança Pública

# YOUTHS AND NARCOTRAFFIC: FACTORS OF RISK AND PROTECTION

In the last session of the Symposium, the speakers discussed the consumption and traffic of drugs from a social perspective, such as legal aspects, and factors of risk and protection from drugs for youths.

Oscar Zuluaga, Special Representative of The Red Cross for The Rome Consensus for Humanitarian Drug Policy, explained that the principle of The Red Cross movement is to alleviate human suffering. Following this, he characterised drug users and dependents as a group of people that suffer systematically, especially where policies are in place which discriminate and exclude them. As part of a solution to the problem, Mr Zuluaga highlighted The Rome Consensus, which supports raising the profile of the subject at the international level, educating youths against drug use, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users.

Antônio Nery Filho, Founder and Coordinator of The Centre for Studies and Therapy for Drug Abuse presented a hypothesis that an individual eventually uses drugs in order to escape from suffering. Mr Filho emphasised the importance of a distinction between different types of drug users, and the different types of treatment each may require. In conclusion, Mr Nery Filho highlighted preventative measures against drug abuse as essential measures.

Mr Joaquim Domingos de Almeida Neto, Judge at Rio Justice Tribunal explained Brazil's Law on Drugs, which distinguishes between drug users and drug dealers, passing from a retributive justice model, to a model of restorative justice. Mr Almeida Neto explained the importance of the Special Criminal Courts for processes involving drug users, as these courts permit more interaction between the Judge and parties involved. In this interaction the penalty is defined in a flexible manner, and offers educational or therapeutic outcomes, guaranteeing the individual proportionality in punitive measures.

Dr. Alba Zaluar, coordinator of NUPEVI, explained the phenomenon of the growing number of youths becoming involved in drug trafficking and violent criminality. Dr Zaluar's presentation covered the themes of the process of re-democratisation in Brazil, the structure of the Military Police, the effects of informality in land rights, hyper-masculinity, and was supported with data from various research projects. The anthropologist proposed pro-active and preventative measures aimed to anticipate crime and promote the socialisation of youths who inhabit 'sub-normal conglomerations' where state institutions are weak and inconsistent.