

# Brazilian NGOs answer to the world financial oligarchy

by Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco

On May 21, Gen. Nilton Cerqueira, public safety secretary for the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro, charged that the non-governmental organization (NGO) known as “Viva Rio,” and other groups that operate in its orbit, are linked to the drug traffickers that control Rio’s slums, known as *favelas*. “Fish need water to survive; the traffickers are the fish, and the water is the NGOs,” declared General Cerqueira.

And, in an article published in the daily *O Globo* of Aug. 2, General Cerqueira exposed the hidden agenda behind these NGOs’ operations: “It is clear that one of the fundamental tasks of certain NGOs is to forge a psychologically controlled mass movement, particularly of the marginalized layers of the population. Others answer to powerful families which represent radical savage capitalism, with certain of their members virtual front-men for international mega-speculators” (a reference to the NGO Human Rights Watch, funded by financial speculator George Soros). The general concludes that many of these NGOs “attack the highest values of Western Christian civilization.”

The general’s accusations echo those which have been made by *EIR*, on the role these organizations play as part of the international plot to dismantle the institution of the sovereign nation-state, replacing it with a world government. “New Age” mass movements, created and controlled by supranational interests, are among the vehicles used as battering rams against the institutions of the nation-state.

General Cerqueira’s denunciations provoked immediate hysteria from the Soros-linked NGO Americas Watch, whose executive director, Jose Miguel Vivanco, was nonetheless unable to deny the charges. On the other hand, the denunciations against Viva Rio were met with silence from the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, despite the fact that the Viva Rio project is the prototype of relations which Cardoso hopes to establish between his government and the transnational NGO apparatus, a liaison that has been assigned to the secretary general of the Justice Ministry, Cardoso intimate Jose Gregori, and to First Lady Ruth Cardoso.

## NGOs and the drug trade

General Cerqueira made his charges based on an investigation conducted by his office into the finances and activities

of the non-governmental organizations currently operating in the state of Rio de Janeiro. In particular, the general cited the case currently being prosecuted against powerful drug trafficker “Marcinho VP,” who runs the Morro Dona Marta *favela*. One of the witnesses for the mobster is historian Itamar Silva, a member of Viva Rio. It is no secret that the drug traffickers have turned Rio’s *favelas* into virtual fortresses of organized crime; last February, the daily *Jornal do Brasil* reported that Viva Rio’s top guru, sociologist Ruben Cesar Fernandez, was granted permission by the mob to enter one such *favela*.

But the clearest evidence of relations between the NGOs and organized crime is the \$40,000 donation given by mobster Castor de Andrade, kingpin of the illegal game *bicho*, to Herbert de Souza, (a.k.a. “Betinho”), president of the Brazilian Institute for Economic Analysis (IBASE)—the intelligence clearinghouse of the NGO network in Brazil. The money was to finance the Brazilian Interdisciplinary Association on AIDS, run by “Betinho.”

Illustrating the preponderant role these NGOs play in Brazilian political life—in many cases substituting for labor and agrarian unions, even government agencies and political parties—is an article published by the magazine *Veja* on Feb. 9, 1994, which reports that through February of that year, nearly 5,000 NGOs were registered in Brazil, with an annual budget of \$700 million, of which 80% came through donations from abroad.

These NGOs claim a total membership of 80,000, of whom 60,000 are full-time. Fourteen thousand of these were active in promoting armed struggle against former military regimes in Brazil. For example, one of these activists is current Rio de Janeiro state deputy for the Workers Party (PT) Carlos Minc, also the leading promoter of Greenpeace in Brazil. Minc is quoted by *Veja* explaining how the NGOs have become a refuge for neo-communist forces: “The NGOs occupy the vacuum left by the crisis of ideologies and by the fall of communism.”

Viva Rio is definitely one of the most sophisticated examples of this network in action. Its primary task is to create an experiment of mass psychological control, on the model of the psychological warfare experiments conducted by the British

oligarchy's infamous Tavistock Clinic, during and after World War II.

### 'Viva Rockefeller'

The Viva Rio movement was founded in Rio de Janeiro on Nov. 17, 1993, the brainchild of an international seminar held there earlier that month, entitled "Participatory Citizenship, Social and Cultural Responsibility in a Democratic Brazil." The seminar was sponsored by the *crème de la crème* of the Anglo-American elite and their Brazilian partners. The star of the meeting was banker David Rockefeller, who gave the opening address, entitled, "Philanthropy and the Future of Brazil." Attending the seminar were, among others, the Roberto Marinho Foundation, the Bronfmans' Brascam Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, Vitae Foundation, Minerações Brasileira Unidas (of businessman Azevedo Antunes), the banks Bradesco, Real, and Safra, and Shell Oil, and other economic interests of the British oligarchy. Also participating was then-Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and the previously mentioned Herbert de Souza. In sum, all those who were a few weeks later to form Viva Rio.

In his speech, Rockefeller said that due to the growing privatization fever, Ibero-America—and in particular Brazil—represents the best conditions for promoting the "Third Sector." He offered as an example, the United States, where the "Third Sector includes not only the financial base indispensable to philanthropy, but also the personal initiatives and participation of innumerable individuals, groups and organizations, which range from community associations to great mass movements, whose purpose is the reform of society." The minutes of the seminar begin with a quote from the book *Private But Public, the Third Sector in Latin America (Privado Porem Publico, o Terceiro Setor na America Latina)*, written by Viva Rio's Ruben Cesar Fernandez.

Clearly, Viva Rio is intended as the oligarchy's "Third Sector" in Brazil, serving the purpose of tying together the interests of the Rockefeller family, or of speculator George Soros, with the national oligarchies and the so-called "masses." For example, participating in Viva Rio on the one hand are Roberto Marinho, of the O Globo television monopoly; Humberto Motta, president of Rio's Commercial Association and representative in Brazil of Canada's Bronfman family; and the heirs of businessman Antonio Augusto Azevedo Antunes of the Caemi group, which has been linked directly to Rockefeller interests since the 1940s.

Participating in Viva Rio on the NGO side, we have former diplomat Miguel Darcy de Oliveira, a friend of President and Mrs. Cardoso; Herbert de Souza, head of the IBASE think-tank, which is not only the intelligence center for Brazil's NGO network, but also for the terrorist-linked Workers Party (PT); Caio Fabo de Araujo Filho, president of the Brazilian Evangelical Association; and anthropologist Ruben Cesar Fernandez.

### A social control laboratory

Some 24 years ago, Ruben Cesar Fernandez founded the Institute of Religious Studies (ISER), which carried out the psychological profiling of Rio's poorest communities, for the purpose of elaborating the most aberrant cultural parameters of social segregation. From its inception, ISER specialized in the study of *candomblé* and voodoo, two Satanic cults that form part of the so-called Afro-Brazilian "religions."

In fact, ISER was created as part of the apparatus of British intelligence linked to the networks of Prince Philip and his adviser on ecology and religious matters, Martin Palmer, director of the International Consultancy on Religion, Education, and Culture, headquartered in Manchester, England. In 1986, Palmer helped to organize an international meeting in Assisi, Italy, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Prince Philip's World Wildlife Fund (WWF), at which the Network on Religion and Conservation was launched to spread "the ecological pragmatism of the so-called pagan religions."

ISER is financed by, among others, the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Interamerican Foundation. Ruben Cesar Fernandez is the brother of Luis Cesar Fernandez, president of the Banco Pactual and front-man for George Soros in Brazil. Ruben Cesar also works with a group known as Civicus, or World Alliance for Citizen Participation, whose executive director is the Hungarian Miklos Marschall, and which is also part of the Soros Foundation. In January 1995, Civicus held its first world assembly in Mexico City, where two of its more prominent members—David Rockefeller and terrorist Rigoberta Menchú—shared the dais.

### 'Citizens' security' vs. national security

A concrete example of the power the Viva Rio apparatus already wields was given last Dec. 8, during a visit by the Justice Ministry's Jose Gregori to Rio de Janeiro, where he announced that the Viva Rio movement had been put in charge of preparing a project that would guide the federal government's new public security policy. Said Gregori, "A doctrine of citizens' security will be prepared, to fill the vacuum that has existed since the military government's national security doctrine." Gregori is a representative of the international human rights mafia, especially of Americas Watch, in which his daughter participates and which is the most active NGO in Ibero-America against the armed forces of the continent.

According to Ruben Cesar Fernandez, the concept of the nation-state is passé. What counts now, according to him, is the private relationship between the citizen and the abstract causes of humanity: "to think globally and act locally."

In choosing Viva Rio to formulate Brazil's new "citizens' security doctrine," President Cardoso hopes to give the coup de grâce to the concept which for decades has given shape to the sovereign nation-state in Brazil, namely, a doctrine of national security based on economic development.