

The Drug Market



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I will merely reiterate the points made by General Félix, only adding one essential aspect. The fight against drugs is a public health issue, a criminal issue, and a cultural issue – because a market has been created; a circulation of merchandise that revolves around drugs. This market links criminal elements of society, between those with the lowest levels of purchasing power, who are instrumentalised by organized crime, to the upper-middle classes, who represent the social base for drug consumption and who, therefore, carry enormous political responsibility over this issue.

The fight against drug addiction and drug trafficking involves issues of national security, sovereignty, and a project of nationhood. This is why the policies set by President Lula, as detailed by General Félix, have directed the Ministry of Justice to focus on drugs. This is because there is no doubt that the problem of drugs, as an element of global markets, is also a process of struggle that takes place along trade routes. Drugs are instrumental in generating corrupt political power in all nations, including the most developed. That is why our effort – our determination – is to work with all institutions, non-governmental organisations, governments and police institutions, in order to unite in the fight against drug trafficking, drug addiction, and in general the fight against this perverse market.