

Multi-threat scenario: how Brazil and Mexico deal with this matter

Public safety issues in both countries affect police work and the general population

Public safety is one of the fields of the highest concern to society. And in a multi-threat urban setting, care needs to be redoubled. Police officers and armed forces need to be prepared to assist and protect the population, whether in a situation of intense threat, such as a shooting, or by following a demonstration and controlling possible aggressive behavior.

Latin America

A study conducted by Mexico's Council for Public Safety and Criminal Justice compiled the 50 most violent cities in the world in 2018. Tijuana ranks first. Brazil is also on the list and appears in eighth slot, with Natal. Venezuela and Colombia are also included in this ranking.

For Mexicans, the biggest problem is the high number of homicides that have even seemed to decrease, but not due to the action of public forces but because of the fight between rival criminal organizations that enforce rules in the territories they dominate.

On Brazilian land, especially in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, criminal groups also dominate many parts of the city and represent probably the highest threat to police forces. And both scenarios have one point in common: access to firearms.

Concern Number One

Armed violence is one of the leading causes of death in Brazil: this data is part of the Atlas of Violence 2019, conducted by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (Ipea) and the National Forum for Public Safety (FBSP). According to the document, 72.4% of homicides in 2017 were committed by firearm.

For Daniel Cerqueira, a researcher and one of the coordinators of this survey, “there are different types of threats. The main one is the potential diffusion of firearms.”

How to fight threats

Delimiting the most frequently occurring perimeter and surveying the area is already a good start for controlling potential dangers and anticipating actions, as well as having corporations working together. “If it is impossible to change the country from one moment to the next, it is possible to start by the street, the neighborhood,” explains Cerqueira.

In addition, you must have well-equipped and trained police who work on intelligence data. "Investment in people and equipment reflects in police with structure to act strategically for a longer period," says the researcher.

Right equipment

“[It is not acceptable] to exchange shots with an expired vest and without tactical conditions. Also, [It takes] tactical scheme to reduce the number of victims, both police and civilians', concludes the expert about how the current conditions of those at the front line influence the fight against threats.

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