

State Violence & Racial Justice in Brazil:

A conversation with Rute Fiúza & Mônica Cunha

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Rute Fiúza

Rute is a human rights activist and the mother of Davi Fiúza, who was forcibly disappeared by police in Salvador in 2014. She is the coordinator of Mães de Maio for the northeastern region of Brazil and co founder and coordinator of the Collective of Mothers and Family Members of Victims of State Violence working under the Coalition for Black Rights. She holds a degree in social work and is currently a researcher on a Harvard-based project entitled “Violence and Mothering Politics in Brazil.”



Mônica Cunha

Mônica is an antiracist activist and human rights defender who has worked in various non-governmental organizations as an educator. She is the mother of Rafael da Silva Cunha, a victim of state violence, and founder of the “Movimento Moleque”, an organization of mothers of youths whose rights had been violated by the state. She is a City Council member in Rio de Janeiro, the vice president of the council’s Human Rights Commission, and the president of the First Special Commission in the Fight Against Racism.



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