

Presentation title:

In search of justice: homicides of female adolescents in the state of Ceará, Northeast Brazil

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The research to be presented aims to understand the treatment offered by Criminal Justice System to adolescent victims of homicides in 2018, in the state of Ceará, Brazil Northeast. The research was carried out through the search of 92 lawsuits related to homicides that occurred in 2018 which victims were female adolescents (between 10 and 19 years old). As a main motivation, the justification for the homicides were related to conflict between criminal groups. In this context, we highlight the shortcuts used in the criminal investigation, which homogenize the causes and advance the conclusion that is difficult to elucidate because it is a "conflict between groups" or a "territorial conflict". Despite this tendency, some specific elements can be identified, such as the cases of girls who were killed because of their relationship with their boyfriend, who may be linked to a criminal group in the territory where the adolescent lived, or cases in which the girl's death may be considered a mistake. More broadly, it is noted that in the police official reports there is no element of the history of the victims. The crimes against those girls were understood by official agencies as "product of a war", fruit of the naturalization of violence. This implies a too simplified approach for the death of marginalized populations. In this way, some theories point out the influence of social markers of the victim on how the investigation is conducted.