

Brazilian Population Grows More in Prisons

With 258 inmates per 100.000 people, Brazil has one of the largest prison populations

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BRAZIL IS THIRD in the worldwide ranking of countries with the largest prison populations. Data released by Ministry of Justice this week reveal that Brazil had 494,237 inmates in June 2010. Only the US, with 2.3 million, and China, with 1.6 million, have larger prison systems. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Brazil is one of the countries where prison population has grown most rapidly in the world. Between 2007 and 2010, it increased by 13.3% (see chart on the right), while the overall population growth was 0.98% in the same period. Even considering the new prisons that are being built, Brazil has reached a deficit of 200,000 jail spaces.

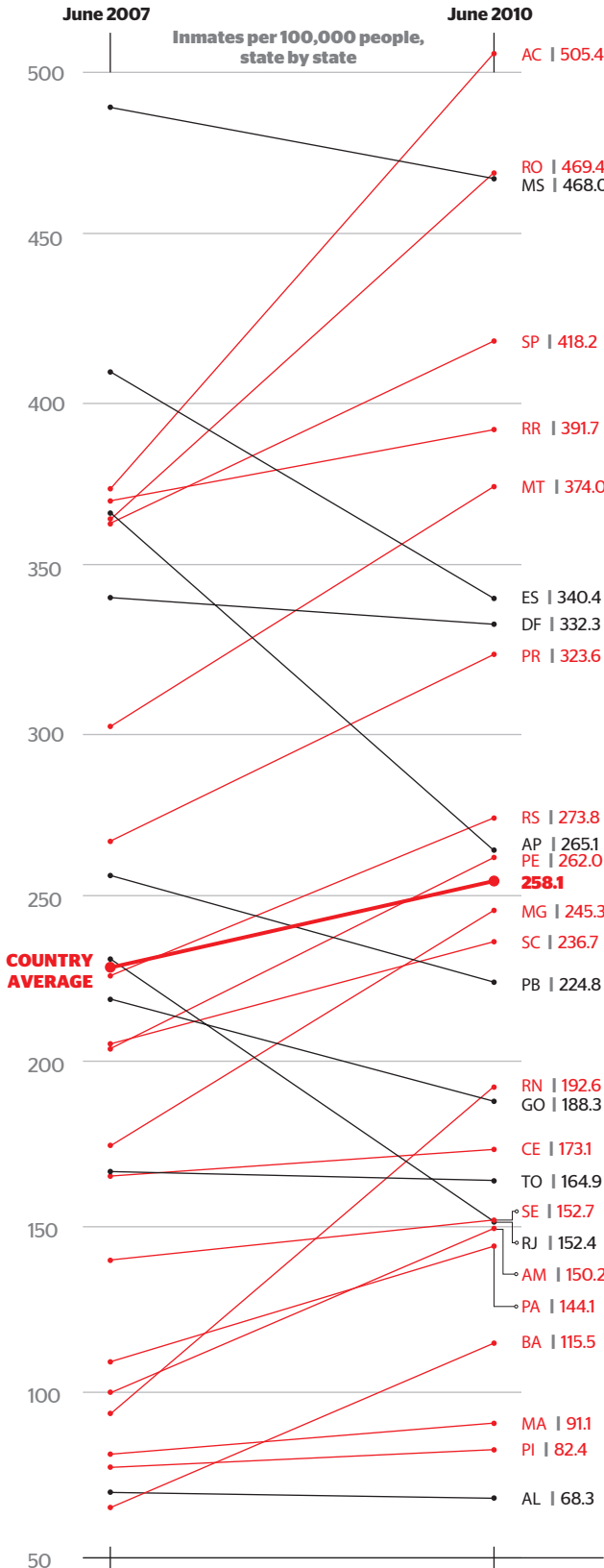
Sources: Ministério da Justiça, IBGE, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1 Between 1997 and 2007, Brazil experienced the fifth largest increase in prison population in the world

WORLDWIDE RANKING			Percentage change
1º	Cambodia		+ 255.3%
2º	Indonesia		+ 209.1%
3º	Cyprus		+ 155.1%
4º	Israel		+ 152.6%
5º	BRAZIL		+ 150.5%

RANKING OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES			
1º	BRAZIL		+ 150.5%
2º	Uruguay		+ 101.3%
3º	Ecuador		+ 91.6%
4º	Mexico		+ 86.1%
5º	El Salvador		+ 85.5%
6º	Haiti		+ 81.4%
7º	Argentina		+ 76.7%
8º	Chile		+ 68.2%

2 The trend continued since 2007...
The rate of inmates per 100,000 people has gone down in just eight of the states plus the Federal District



3 ...but government has not been able to create jail spaces at the same pace
Brazil's jails are packed full. A comparison between the variation of inmates and the number of jail spaces reveals that neither the federal government nor the states have been able to avoid overcrowding. The only exception is Rio de Janeiro

