Twitter Thread by Cleuci de Oliveira



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My 2-cents on this great thread

For past 3 yrs, I've been working on a project that's required me to study lynch mobs in Brazil

To call rate of lynchings here a problem is an understatement

& I think it correlates w ppl's thirst for a law & order strongman like Bolsonaro

1/13

> The rise of @jairbolsonaro was predictable.
>
> Brazilians have been craving "law & order" for years, but their democratic leaders largely ignored them. I started writing about this in Nov 2015, after I was caught in a fatal shootout in the Amazon 1/?
>
> — Brian Winter (@BrazilBrian) October 6, 2018

Back in 2016 I crawled the news for reports of lynchings across Brazil

What I found: 180 deaths — 180 people killed by an angry crowd

That's 1 every 2 days

I wrote about that in the article linked below (keep in mind: the year hadn't ended yet)

2/13

https://t.co/LwOST2qJf0

Experts all told me same thing: vigilante justice is a byproduct of people's belief that the state does not fight crime effectively

This is true everywhere

Consider the Philippines, which had elected strongman Duterte: https://t.co/2rJLGd2vwy

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https://t.co/2rJLGd2vwy

> But social scientists who study extrajudicial killings say the real story is more complicated, and more tragic. It is often the affected communities themselves that unwittingly help create the circumstances for this violence.
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> It tends to begin, the research suggests, with a weak state and a population desperate for security. Short-term incentives push everyone to bad decisions that culminate in violence that, once it has reached a level as bloody as that in the Philippines, can be nearly impossible to stop.

So what about this last week before the elections in Brazil? Have there been any vigilante killings?

Let's go back to last Saturday

4/13

In the early hours, a man recently released from prison was beaten to death by 4 others in the center of Brazil's richest city, São Paulo

Killing took place in the middle of the street, on the doorstep of the country's most prestigious university

5/13

https://t.co/0sryICfcdx

On Sunday, a local horse race in the rural northeast turned into a bloodbath when a man shot 4 ppl (all aparently survived)

As soon as he ran out of bullets, the crowd set upon him & beat him to death

6/13

https://t.co/MISXot7mDa

On Monday, newspapers in the picturesque beach town of Fortaleza reported that a local man had died at the hands of a lynch mob, motive unknown

7/13

https://t.co/vRBlEblQMo

Same day, in Minas Gerais, a state in the heart of Brazil:

A furious mob torched the house of a suspected child abuser, tried to beat him to death, and threw rocks on the cop cars that tried to intervene

Portuguese speakers: read the comments

8/13

https://t.co/ESbZiMEDQl



It’s still Monday: we’re in Manaus, a capital city in the Amazon region

A man tries to hold up a store. He is seized by a crowd, shot by a “mysterious vigilante” and then beaten to death

10/13

https://t.co/MrQ619vWSe

Tuesday, southeast region: police receive a call about a suspected thief having been captured by a mob

At the scene, they find the suspect beaten unconscious, his limp body splayed on the sidewalk. They take him to a hospital

11/13

https://t.co/WujKa4sFCM

Finally, it’s Wednesday. We’re back in Minas Gerais

For the second time in two days, a man in the state is seized by an angry mob after being accused of sexually abusing a child. The police intervene. The man has to be taken to the ICU

12/13

https://t.co/tqJzWqosOq

Maybe I’m reading too much into a topic that has monopolized my attention for the better part of 3 years

But a country in which extrajudicial killings are so common as to be routine does not, in my opinion, look at a strongman with with disgust

13/13