

# Rape Cases in Brazil Lead to Debate on an Economic and Gender Divide

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fissures in each society. In Brazil, it has unleashed a debate about whether the authorities are more concerned about defending the privileged and Rio's international image than about protecting women at large.

In India, the recent death of a student, who was gang-raped as her male companion was beaten on a bus under similar circumstances, has highlighted a prevailing view that women, no matter how much progress they make, are still fair game, unprotected by an ineffectual government.

And in Egypt, where the collapse of the old police state has led to an outbreak of sexual assaults in Tahrir Square in Cairo, some newly emboldened conservative Islamists publicly blame the women, saying they put themselves in harm's way.

It is perhaps paradoxical that the issue has popped up so forcefully in Brazil, a country that has gone to great lengths to protect and promote women's rights. There are special cars for women to ride on trains to avoid being groped, as in parts of India. There are special police stations here staffed largely by women. And there is a general view that holds women as equal, fully capable of excelling in even the most powerful posts.

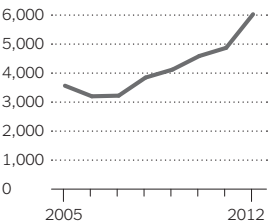
"We're living a schizophrenic situation, in which important advances have been made in women reaching positions of influence in our society," said Rogéria Peixinho, a director of the Brazilian Women's Network, a rights group here. "At the same time, the situation for many women who are poor remains atrocious."

Indeed, the public discussion about the string of sexual assaults in Rio was relatively muted before the American student was attacked in late March after boarding a transit van in Copacabana, a beachfront district frequented by tourists. The reason, some experts argue, was that the earlier victims were largely poor or working class, reflecting one of Brazil's enduring struggles: extreme class divisions in society.

"For a large part of the political leadership, these rapes only get to be a concern if they affect someone rich or damage Brazil's image abroad," said Malu Fontes, a newspaper columnist who criticized the lack of attention paid to rapes of poor women in Rio, which is preparing to hold the

## Rapes in Rio

Rapes in Rio de Janeiro State have nearly doubled since 2006. In 2012, one-third of all rapes of women occurred in the city of Rio.



Note: Chart includes rapes of men — 14.5 percent of the total in 2012.

Source: Institute of Public Safety  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Fight Over Mandela Trust Threatens Financial Legacy

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and his long imprisonment meant that his family was often neglected. He had six children with two wives, both of whom he divorced. He is now married to Graça Machel, a children's rights activist and former first lady of Mozambique.

"To be the father of a nation is a great honor, but to be the father of a family is a greater joy," Mr. Mandela wrote in his autobiography. "But it is a joy I had far too little of."

Makaziwe Mandela said in an earlier interview that her father had been a distant figure her entire life. "My father knows us, but never really knows us," she said. "We never really had that opportunity to develop that bond."

The fragile relationship between Mr. Mandela and his daughters was strained even further in a second family meeting on June 11, 2006.

"The meeting was very heated and, in some respects, unpleasant," Mr. Chuene said in his statement. "Mr. Mandela was furious."

His daughters, Mr. Chuene said, "had allowed themselves to be used by Mr. Ayob and had continued to associate themselves with him knowing full well that he had terminated his relationship with Mr. Ayob."

"He was moreover upset that they continued to be involved in his personal affairs despite his clear instructions," Mr. Chuene said.

Soon after, the trustees met in November 2006 to choose board members for the companies that



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAURICIO LIMA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A wave of rapes on public transportation in Rio de Janeiro has led to the creation of women-only cars on trains, but some women say not enough is being done.

2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"We like to believe in Brazil that we live in a peaceful, happy place, when the truth of our existence is far more complicated," she said. "It's like we're Narcissus gazing into a pool of sewage."

Rio's public security officials acknowledge that they have faced a sharp increase in the number of reported rape cases, which surged 24 percent last year to 1,972 in the city. But they argue that the increase has taken place nationally, reflecting a change in legislation in 2009 to broaden the definition of rape to include oral and anal penetration, as well as efforts to make it easier for women to file rape complaints.

Brazil has made strides in its efforts to reduce violence against women. As early as the 1980s, it helped pioneer the creation of police stations with female officers to help victims register domestic violence, sexual assaults and other gender-related crimes. And in 2006, legislation was enacted nationwide intended to establish special courts for prosecuting acts of domestic violence with stricter sentences.

But while the authorities in Rio have succeeded in lowering rates of certain violent crimes, like homicides, the recent rapes have focused attention on the dangers of riding Rio's buses and vans, an essential part of life for many residents.

David D. Kirkpatrick contributed reporting from Cairo, and Heather Tal Murphy from New York.



One woman was raped in front of passengers on a public bus that traveled along a main road in Rio. Other sexual assaults have occurred on smaller private vans that are common in the city.

idents.

In the days after the rape of the American student, Mayor Eduardo Paes announced a ban on transit vans, which are privately owned and sometimes operating without permits, in Rio's prosperous South Zone. The ban prompted criticism that the mayor was giving priority to the safety of wealthy seaside areas over grittier parts of the city where the

vans are still allowed to operate.

A spokesman for Mr. Paes countered that the ban was not related to the rapes, but part of a broader public transportation plan under consideration for months. The spokesman added that the mayor had also forbidden vans to tint their windows, in an effort to protect crimes within the vehicles.

Officials in the State of Rio de

Janeiro said that rapes in buses, vans or subway cars accounted for less than 1 percent of all cases in recent years. "There are no signs of an epidemic of rapes within public transportation," said Pedro Dantas, a spokesman for Rio's public safety department.

Still, the string of cases in Rio, including the rape of a 12-year-old girl on a bus last year, are

part of a larger pattern of attacks and harassment aboard transit vehicles in several cities, including two rapes this month around the capital, Brasília. In the city of Curitiba, lawmakers are reviewing a bill that would introduce women's-only buses.

Eleonora Menicucci, Brazil's minister for women's affairs, noted that no nation was immune to shocking crimes against women, pointing to the abduction and long imprisonment of three women in Cleveland.

But she said Brazil had worked hard to encourage women to come forward to report rapes, and she contended that perpetrators would be prosecuted regardless of the backgrounds of the assailants or the victims. She cited a case in the city of Queimadas, where six men from relatively privileged circumstances were swiftly arrested, tried and convicted last year in the gang rape of five women, two of whom were killed after recognizing their assailants.

But critics remain skeptical, arguing that the main reason the rape of the 14-year-old girl from a slum drew public attention was that it occurred on the beach in front of Leblon, one of Rio's most exclusive neighborhoods.

Sérgio Cabral, Rio's governor, called the assault on the American student an "atrocious" but emphasized that he did not expect it to affect the image of Rio, which he was said was experiencing a "forceful moment with big events and investments."

## New Computer Attacks Traced to Iran, Officials Say

By NICOLE PERLROTH and DAVID E. SANGER

SAN FRANCISCO — American officials and corporate security experts examining a new wave of potentially destructive computer attacks striking American corporations, especially energy firms, say they have tracked the attacks back to Iran.

The targets have included several American oil, gas and electricity companies, which government officials have refused to identify. The goal is not espionage, they say, but sabotage. Government officials describe the attacks as probes looking for ways to seize control of critical processing systems.

Investigators began looking at the attacks several months ago, and when the Department of Homeland Security issued a vaguely worded warning this month, a government official told The New York Times that "most everything we have seen is coming from the Middle East."

Government officials and outside experts on Friday confirmed a report in The Wall Street Journal that the source of the attacks had been narrowed to Iran. They said the evidence was not specific enough to conclude with confidence that the attacks were state-sponsored, but control over the Internet is so centralized in Iran that they said it was hard to imagine the attacks being done without government knowledge.

While the attackers have been unsuccessful to date, they have made enough progress to prompt the Homeland Security warning, which compared the latest threat to the computer virus that hit Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer, last year. After

investigations, American officials concluded that the Aramco attack, and a subsequent one at RasGas, the Qatari energy company, were the work of Iran.

Taken together, officials say, the attacks suggest that Iran's hacking skills have improved over the past 18 months. The Obama administration has been focused on Iran because the attacks have given the Iranian government a way to retaliate for tightened economic sanctions against it, and for the American

**Energy companies are targets of what looks like a sabotage effort.**

and Israeli program that aimed similar attacks, using a virus known as Stuxnet, on the Natanz nuclear enrichment plant.

That effort, code-named Olympic Games, slowed Iran's progress for months, but also prompted it to create what Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps calls a cyber corps to defend the country.

This week Iran denied being the source of any attacks, and said it had been a victim of American sabotage. In a letter to the editor of The Times, responding to a May 12 article that reported on the new attacks' similarity to the Saudi Aramco episode, Alireza Miryousefi, the head of the press office of the Iranian mission to the United Nations, wrote that Iran "never engaged in such attacks against its Persian Gulf neighbors, with which Iran has

maintained good neighborly relations."

"Unfortunately, wrongful acts such as authorizing the 2010 Stuxnet attack against Iran have set a bad, and dangerous, precedent in breach of certain principles of international law," he wrote.

American officials have not offered any technical evidence to back up their assertions of Iranian authorship of the latest attacks, but they describe the recent campaign as different from most attacks against American companies — particularly those from China — which quietly siphon off intellectual property for competitive purposes.

The new attacks, officials say, were devised to destroy data and manipulate the machinery that operates critical control systems, like oil pipelines. One official described them as "probes that suggest someone is looking at how to take control of these systems."

The White House would not confirm that Iran was the source, but Laura Lucas, a spokeswoman for the National Security Council, said that "mitigating threats in cyberspace, whether theft of intellectual property or intrusions against our critical infrastructure" was a governmentwide initiative and that the United States would consider "all of the measures at its disposal — from diplomatic to law enforcement to economic — when determining how to protect our nation, allies, partners, and interests in cyberspace."

In the past, government officials have privately warned companies under threat. But Homeland Security was able to issue a

broader warning because of an executive order, signed in February, promoting greater information sharing about such threats between the government and private companies that oversee the nation's critical infrastructure.

An agency called ICS-Cert, which monitors attacks on computer systems that run industrial processes, issued the warning. It said the government was "highly concerned about hostility against critical infrastructure organizations," and included a link to a previous warning about Shamoon, the virus used in the Saudi Aramco attack last year.

That attack prompted Leon E. Panetta, then defense secretary, to warn of a "cyber-Pearl Harbor" if the United States did not take the threat seriously.

Saudi Aramco and RasGas both said that the attackers had failed in their efforts to infiltrate their oil production systems.

Government officials also say Iran was the source of a separate continuing campaign of attacks on American financial institutions that began last September and has since taken dozens of American banks intermittently offline, costing millions of dollars. But that attack was a less sophisticated "denial of service" effort.

Jeff Moss, chief security officer at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the private body that oversees the basic design of the Internet, said: "For the last year, Iran has been focused on disrupting financial institutions' Web sites. If they are going after energy, and opening a multiprong front, at what point does it cross from annoyance to a threshold?"