

## **An Overview of Mass Murders in Brazil: Characteristics, Motivations, Perpetrator's Mental Functioning & Legal Repercussions**

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Mass murders consists of a criminal modality characterized by the attempt to produce the greatest possible number of fatal victims in a single incident, which typically occurs in a confined and crowded space. This modality of crime has been progressively growing in Brazil. This study aimed to investigate the phenomenon. Between 1999 and 2023, there were detected the occurrence of 21 mass murders in Brazil, in addition to records of massacres that would have been planned but failed to materialize. Those data were collected in extensive research in various digital and print media vehicles. In Brazil, schools were target in 16 (84.21%) of the 21 mass murder events. In 90.0% of them, the perpetrator was under 25 years. Young criminals appear to be motivated by bullying and to exhibit some narcissistic and/or schizotypal personality traits, while the older ones appear to be odd recluses with some angry agenda. Suicidal tendencies also seem to be a common feature among perpetrators. The 19 consummated attacks produced the considerable number of 46 dead and 97 injured. Only in the last decade (2011-2021), there were 15 mass murders reported in Brazil, consummated, or attempted, at increasingly smaller intervals, especially in the last 4 years. In 2019 alone, there were 6 events. The widespread use of the internet and social networks makes the contagion effect alarming in mass killings. It sets an undeniable backdrop to this criminal phenomenon in Brazil, where several similar characteristics to the attacks that occur in the United States were observed, especially regarding to the offender's mental functioning and motivations.

