

Brazil - 'C is for Corruption': The Rio Olympics from A to Z

Tuesday 2 August 2016, by [TALBOT Adam](#) (Date first published: 26 July 2016).

From police killings to forced evictions and environmental destruction; the Olympic Games in Rio are cause for an alphabet soup of misery and suffering.

A is for Anti-terrorism laws [1] that were implemented prior to the Games. This means that political protest against the Olympics (and protest more generally) can be classified as an act of terrorism.

B is for Barra da Tijuca [2], which has been developed into a city of the noble elite with no space for the poor by real estate tycoon Carlos Carvalho.

C is for Corruption [3], with an inquiry in Rio investigating construction contracts for the Games, particularly the metro line extension.

D is for the Drugged-up athletes [4] who will be competing in the Games, particularly from Russia, where allegations of state-sponsored doping nearly led to the country being banned from the Games.

E is for Education cuts [5], which have massively affected students in Rio with around 75 schools occupied in protest at underfunding, while Olympic budgets balloon.

F is for the Fiscal emergency [6] that the State of Rio triggered in order to ensure the Olympics would be delivered — while healthcare, education and other public services are eroded.

G is for Guanabara Bay [7], which will host sailing events, despite being full of crap. Literally.

H is for Health cuts [8], which mean that Rio will be officially in a healthcare emergency during the Games. In December 2015 hospitals were forced to close their doors due to insufficient funds.

I is for the Impeachment [9] proceedings against President Dilma Rousseff, as a result of which the Olympics will be opened by a man who is seen by many in Brazil as poorly disguised coup leader.

J is for the Jacarepaguá lagoon [10]. Since the city won the right to host the Games, some 2,500 people have been killed by police violence — accounting for around 16% of all homicides in the city, including children as young as ten.

L is for Line 4 of the metro [11], which has had its opening date repeatedly delayed, and now faces a race against the clock to be operational in time to carry spectators to events.

M is for Morar Cariocan [12], the city's program to upgrade favelas, which hasn't been implemented — it has been promised to residents around election time as a means of gaining support, but has since been withdrawn.

N is for a Nature reserve [13] that has been utterly destroyed in order to build a new golf course for the Games, despite Rio already having golf courses.

O is for Operation Lava Jato [14], the nationwide corruption probe, which continues to tear through Brazil's elite causing political and economic instability.

P is for Pacification of Rio's favelas [15], which, while successful in some places, has been disastrous in others. Some favelas are likely to be occupied by the army during the Games.

Q is for Quilombos [16] (communities started by escaped slaves), which have lost their legal rights. The Olympic journalists' village has been built on a slave burial site in one Quilombo.

R is for the Removals [17] that have blighted preparations, with over 22,000 families evicted since Rio won the right to host the Games, 4,000 of which were directly caused by the Games.

S is for the Stigma [18] with which people view favela communities, which continues to inform policymaking, leading to issues such as gentrification and police violence not being addressed.

T is for Tokyo [19], host of the next summer Olympics, which is already experiencing its share of these issues — this isn't just a problem with Rio and its not going away.

U is for Urban mobility [20], which has been eroded for the majority of Rio's population despite investment in transport infrastructure.

V is for Vila Autódromo [21], a favela next to the Olympic park which has suffered from intense evictions and a climate of "psychological warfare" by the City.

W is for the Wasteland [22] where Favela do Metro stood before it was cleared for the World Cup — still nothing has been done with the land.

X is for X-rated tourism [23], with spectators coming to Rio to have sex, which may involve child prostitutes as it did during Brazil's World Cup in 2014.

Y is for Young people [24] who live on the streets who are being bussed out of the city for the Olympics, despite the IOC's insistence that it values youth.

Z is for Zika [25], which may spread with the travelers who come for the Games, leading to a global healthcare catastrophe.

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P.S.

* <https://roarmag.org/2016/07/26/c-is-for-corruption-rio-olympics-from-a-to-z/>

Footnotes

[1] <https://news.vice.com/article/activists-planning-protests-at-rio-olympics-are-worried-they-could>

[-be-charged-with-terrorism](#)

[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2015/aug/04/rio-olympic-games-2016-property-developer-carlos-carvalho-barra>

[3] <http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2016/04/tj-rj-nega-recurso-e-mantem-instalacao-de-cpi-das-olimpiadas.html>

[4] <http://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/36878983>

[5] <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=28712>

[6] <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/rio-olympics-olympic-games-public-calamity-financial-crisis-a7088821.html>

[7] <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2015/jul/30/athletes-at-rio-olympics-to-compete-in-basically-raw-sewage-study-reveals>

[8] <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-health-emergency-idUSKBN0U716Q20151224>

[9] <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2016/03/dilma-rousseff-pt-coup-golpe-petrobras-lavajato/>

[10] , once a source of commerce for nearby fishing communities, but now heavily polluted by development, including the main Olympic park.

K is for police Killings in Rio

[<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/08/brazil-trigger-happy-military-police-kill-hundreds-as-rio-prepares-for-olympic-countdown/>]

[11] <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-10-08/2016-rio-olympic-games-hinge-on-down-to-wire-subway-construction>

[12] <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=8136>

[13] <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/rios-olympic-golf-course-will-wipe-out-a-protected-ecological-gem>

[14] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/17/brazil-government-crisis-briefing-dilma-rousseff-lula-petrobras>

[15] <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/2016/05/1770856-exercito-deve-ocupar-seis-favelas-durante-a-olimpiada-do-rio-em-agosto.shtml>

[16] <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=30547>

[17] <http://www.childrenwin.org/rio-2016-the-exclusion-games/>

[18] <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=15170>

[19] <http://www.gamesmonitor.org.uk/node/2280>

- [20] https://www.ciltuk.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Focus/FocusJuly2016_Rio.pdf
- [21] <https://theconversation.com/vila-autodromo-the-favela-fighting-back-against-rios-olympic-development-52393>
- [22] <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=16094>
- [23] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/12/world-cup-child-prostitution_n_5474716.html
- [24] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/12/world-cup-child-prostitution_n_5474716.html
- [25] <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/05/16/should-brazil-postpone-the-olympics/postponing-the-olympics-is-the-safe-course-of-action>