Proposal

Latin America is the most violent continent on the planet. Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela account for about 25% of homicides worldwide. While Mexico, Brazil, and Venezuela observe violent crime rates rising in recent years, Colombia seems to be in a downward spiral. In any case, these four large countries in the region are living in a situation of chronic violence and the public responses to this problem are still weak and of doubtful sustainability.

Subtopics:

1. Comparing National Experiences

Specialists would discuss the experiences of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. What each of these countries have done in order to control and reduce crime and violence in their respective countries? They will be invited to point out their successes, failures, unanticipated effects and perspectives.

2. Comparing Subnational Experiences

In recent decades, there occurred some public security policy experiences in several Brazilian states, which proved to be very successful at first, but after some time they were no longer effective. This pattern can be seen in the most different social, economic and political contexts, such as the ones which are peculiar to such different states as São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Distrito Federal (where is located Brasilia, the Federal Capital), Pernambuco and Minas Gerais. What accounts for this astonished similarity of results regardless the political and ideological differences among the different local governments which implemented the public safety polices? I invite people directly involved with the public safety police of each one of these states in order to report their respective experiences and answer this question.