

## **Lucas Bambozzi**

### ***The Day São Paulo Stopped***

In May 2006 PCC, an anti-establishment Brazilian prison gang and criminal organization, coordinated the largest wave of violence of its kind against security forces and civilian targets that ever happened in the history of Brazil. The final outcome was horrific: 141 dead (according to the most cautious estimates) and 53 injured, among police, criminals and civilians; 299 attacks against police stations, courts, banks and buses, and the largest city in Latin America brought to a standstill.

One of the most interesting aspects of the events in São Paulo was probably the role that the media played in the entire episode. This applies to the organization of the revolts, which were orchestrated by a handful of prisoners and their outside contacts by mobile phone, mostly using text messages and short pre-paid calls. As for the mass media, while official communications of the event were handled very badly, the news of the uprising soon hit the international media, before ricocheting back to the local media, with the effect of making the situation appear even more serious than it actually was.

*The Day São Paulo Stopped* is a project that attempts to analyse this particular aspect of the events in São Paulo, and takes the form of a single flow of images: both “original” material, conveyed by the mass media or produced by those involved in the events, and material “reconstructed” by the artist for the occasion. The result is a series of videos which roll out different versions of the events, and which, when taken together, form a complex, fragmented, multi-faceted mockumentary.

## **Domenico Quaranta**