

***“Don’t LAI to me”*: a thematic analysis of Brazil’s first newsletter focusing on access to information**

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## ABSTRACT

### **“Don’t LAI to me”: a thematic analysis of Brazil’s first newsletter focusing on access to information**

Julia Simões Pascoal

Access to information (ATI) policies and legislations emerged globally from the need to enhance democratic systems, by allowing citizens to monitor political decisions and contribute to social change. However, ATI does not always play out in reality as it’s spelled out on paper. Brazil is one of the many countries that suffers from flawed access to information laws, with not-so-transparent documents being an all-too-common experience for requesters.

*Fiquem Sabendo* is an independent data agency that fights to hold the Brazilian ATI system to account. It is an organization committed to public transparency and, since 2019, has published 158 issues<sup>1</sup> of the newsletter “*Don’t LAI to me*”, which includes<sup>2</sup> “unpublished databases, news, tips and reports produced on or based on data obtained via ATI.”<sup>3</sup>

Through a detailed a thematic analysis of 147 issues of the newsletter, this research project sought to observe whether it fulfills the journalistic role of “the watchdog,” and what other theoretical roles of journalism are expressed in its content. The research also examines the tools the newsletter provides citizens to help others access public resources and information in an autonomous way. One research goal is to answer the question of how the newsletter mobilizes key concepts in access to information legislation, like “human rights,” “transparency,” and “objectivity.” Overall, the driving goal of this research is to increase awareness about the LAI in Brazil and to add to discussions in the field, highlighting barriers and opportunities for improvement in information dissemination through the lens of journalism.

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<sup>1</sup> Number updated on August 13th, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Lei de Acesso à Informação (LAI) is Portuguese for Law of Access to Information. Free translation by the author.

<sup>3</sup> About - *Fiquem Sabendo*. Available at: <https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/about>. Accessed on 27/02/2024

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## **DEDICATION**

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My parents, who were my first educators and to this day, are the most important ones;

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABRAJI - Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo/Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism  
AGU - Advocacia-Geral da União/Office of the Attorney General of the Union  
ANATEL - Agência Brasileira de Telecomunicações/National Telecommunications Agency  
ANVISA - Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária/National Health Surveillance Agency  
BACEN - Banco Central do Brasil/Central Bank of Brazil  
BNDES - Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social/National Bank for Economic and Social Development  
CGU - Controladoria-Geral da União/Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General  
CMRI - Comissão Mista de Reavaliação de Informações/Joint Committee for the Reassessment of Information  
CNJ - Conselho Nacional de Justiça/National Justice Council  
CNV - Comissão Nacional da Verdade/National Commission of the Truth  
CPI - Comissão Parlamentar de Inquérito/Parliamentary Inquiry Commission  
ENEM - Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio/National High School Exam  
FIES - Fundo de Financiamento Estudantil/Student Financing Fund  
FOIA - Freedom of Information Act / Freedom of Information Act (U.S. Law)  
FUNAI - Fundação Nacional dos Povos Indígenas / National Indian Foundation  
FUNARTE - Fundação Nacional de Artes/National Arts Foundation  
GSI-SP - Gabinete de Segurança Institucional - São Paulo/Institutional Security Office - São Paulo  
IBAMA: Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente/Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources  
INSS - Instituto Nacional do Seguro Social/National Institute of Social Security  
LAI - Lei de Acesso à Informação/Access to Information Law  
LGPD - Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados/General Data Protection Law  
MEC - Ministério da Educação/Ministry of Education  
MPF - Ministério Público Federal/Federal Public Prosecutor's Office  
MRE - Ministério das Relações Exteriores/Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
OGP - Open Government Partnership/Open Government Partnership  
PSB - SP - Partido Socialista Brasileiro - São Paulo/Brazilian Socialist Party - São Paulo  
SEI - Sistema Eletrônico de Informações/Electronic Information System  
SUS - Sistema Único de Saúde/Unified Health System  
TCI - Termo de Classificação de Informação/Information Classification Term  
TCU - Tribunal de Contas da União/Federal Court of Accounts  
TSE - Tribunal Superior Eleitoral/Superior Electoral Court

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Since 2019, the independent Brazilian data agency *Fiquem Sabendo* has been publishing the free digital newsletter “*Don’t LAI to me.*” It is the first newsletter in the country to focus on Brazil’s access to information law, the *Lei de Acesso à Informação (LAI)*. It has as its main purpose to share databases, tutorials, access to information requests submitted to the government, responses to requests and data obtained through them, stories about access to information and stories produced with data obtained through the LAI.<sup>4</sup> Just like the right to life, right to freedom and to equality, in Brazil the access to public information is a fundamental citizen’s right granted by the country’s Federal Constitution of 1988. It establishes, according to article 37,<sup>5</sup> that public administration should obey principles of legality, impersonality and efficiency. However, it is important to note that in Brazil, the Law of Access to Information (nº 12.527/2011) was only enacted in 2011 and fully came into force in 2012. The Brazilian LAI grants any person or organization, of any nationality, the right to request and gain access to public information from federal institutions, free of charge (with the exception of some documents’ reproduction costs).

Although Brazil had previous legislation that granted access to information (Law 11.111/2005), it was replaced by the Law of Access to Information in 2012. The latter was created to be applied to the three branches of the Federal Government (the States, the Federal District and the Municipalities<sup>6</sup>) — in other words, to regulate and standardize the application of the law.

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<sup>4</sup> Don’t LAI to me - WikiLAI. *Fiquem Sabendo*. Available at [https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Don%27t\\_LAI\\_to\\_me](https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Don%27t_LAI_to_me). Accessed on 27/02/2024.

<sup>5</sup> Article 37, Brazilian Federal Constitution (1988). Available at <https://www.jusbrasil.com.br/topicos/2186546/artigo-37-da-constituicao-federal-de-1988>. Accessed on 02/03/1988.

<sup>6</sup> Issue regulated by Decree 7.724/2012. Brazilian Constitution. Available at [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2011-2014/2012/decreto/d7724.htm](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2011-2014/2012/decreto/d7724.htm). Accessed on 28/02/2024.

NGOs and private entities are also obligated to publicize information, data and documents connected to any public funding or resources they might have received from the government.

When we look at access to information (ATI) legislation across the globe, Brazil was relatively late to enact its own: the first law of access to information in the world was created in Sweden in 1766; the United States created its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 1967; Canada was also one of the ten first countries in the world to enact access to information legislation with its Access to Information Act coming into force in 1983. Brazil, on the other hand, was the 90th in the world and the 15th in Latin America<sup>7</sup> to do so.

The Global Right to Information Rating is a tool that assesses “[...] the strength of national legal frameworks for accessing information held by public authorities (or the right to information, RTI).”<sup>8</sup> The RTI Rating is “the leading global tool for assessing the strength of national legal frameworks for accessing information held by public authorities.” It is run by the Centre for Law and Democracy and it analyses the overall strengths and weaknesses of legal frameworks globally, focusing on seven different categories: Right of Access, Scope, Requesting Procedures, Exceptions and Refusals, Appeals, Sanctions and Protections and Promotional Measures. Brazil scored 108 points and stands in 28th position out of 140 evaluated countries. That stands out when we compare it to other nations that were early adopters of ATI legislations, such as Sweden (101 points), Canada (93 points) and the United States (83 points), who are ranked 40th, 52nd and 77th, respectively.

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<sup>7</sup> According to the *Global Right to Information (RTI) Rating*. Available at <https://www.law-democracy.org/live/rti-rating/global/>. Accessed on 25/11/2023.

<sup>8</sup> Centre for Law and Democracy. *Global Right to Information (RTI) Rating*. Available at <https://www.law-democracy.org/live/rti-rating/global/>. Full Methodology at [https://www.rti-rating.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Indicators.final\\_.pdf](https://www.rti-rating.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Indicators.final_.pdf). Accessed on 25/11/2023.

Brazil scores well on indicators such as Right of Access, getting the maximum score, because it has a clear legal framework on recognizing the right of access. The country also gained points on indicators like Scope and Promotional Measures. At the same time, regarding indicators like Request Procedures and Exceptions and Refusals, Brazil had lower scores. The RTI Rating describes the Brazilian law as vague on many important points, especially regarding appeals. Another example of why the law is considered flawed is because of the many possible exceptions that can be applied, which ultimately leads to secrecy.

Looking at Brazil's overall RTI score might be encouraging, but the reality is not so nice. Although theoretically considered an essential tool for journalism, the experience of using ATI is not so positive for most newsrooms in the world, including Brazil. For example, in 2021 the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (Abraji)<sup>9</sup> conducted research<sup>10</sup> that showed almost half (48,44%) of Brazilian journalists had never filed a LAI request. Some reasons for this include journalists believing that the legislation is difficult to use, journalists not perceiving a need to file requests for the stories they work on, and journalists preferring to ask government press officers for information instead. The Abraji study also found that Brazilian journalists who use the LAI didn't have much positive feedback to give about it either: most of the replies to their requests were delayed, many presented unwarranted secrecy, or just contained little information or had nothing to do with the original request.

As it happens in many other countries, when it comes to accessing public information and documents, the creation and establishment of a law and/or other legal mechanisms doesn't always

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<sup>9</sup> Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo (Abraji) translates to Brazilian Association for Investigative Journalism. Free translation by the author.

<sup>10</sup> Relatório da Lei de Acesso a Informações por Jornalistas: 4º Relatório de Desempenho (Access to Information Law Report by Journalists: 4th Performance Report). <https://www.abraji.org.br/publicacoes/relatorio-da-lei-de-acesso-a-informacoes-por-jornalistas-4o-relatorio-de-desempenho>. Accessed on 29/02/2024.

mean a real commitment to or compliance with it. In Canada, for instance, common obstacles are similar to the ones in Brazil; they include: “lengthy delays, heavily redacted information, government officials meddling in request responses that are outside their jurisdiction, and high fees (Vallance-Jones, 2017; Roberts 2006a; Appelgren & Salverría, 2018)” (Thompson et al., 2022, p. 2).

Like in the Canadian context, lack of transparency, secrecy and other challenges present obstacles to accessing information from public institutions in Brazil. In order to fight those issues, *Fiquem Sabendo*, an independent data agency, created the newsletter “*Don’t LAI to me*” primarily to facilitate a more informed citizenry and encourage increased participation in democratic processes. They do this by constantly monitoring the government, filing numerous access to information requests every week, gathering and sharing data and information, advocating for public transparency, giving workshops and making educational content for policy experts, activists, journalists and the general public.

Birkinshaw (2006) argues that Freedom of Information “[...] is also instrumentally a fundamental right and not simply an ‘important thing’ itself. It is the means by which I, or others on my behalf, extract accountability, responsiveness, efficiency, responsibility, financial regularity, and the means by which we expose wrongdoing” (p. 214). Since there is a lot of room to explore access to information, journalists should be encouraged to share strategies, requests and resources with each other in order to create this powerful community of equipped citizens to keep our representatives accountable; this is part of what the newsletter “*Don’t LAI to me*” works to do. As Gingras (2012) states, “Information is also regarded as an accountability tool and a useful mechanism for enhancing the quality of the civil service” (p. 224). Following this line of thought, this research project aims to evaluate how well *Fiquem Sabendo*’s newsletter does this

work of advocacy, sharing strategies and resources with journalists, researchers, activists and other citizens.

Through a comprehensive reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2022) of 147 issues (published from January 21, 2019 to April 8, 2024) of the “*Don’t LAI to me*” newsletter, this research seeks to answer the following three research questions:

**RQ1:** What themes about Brazil’s LAI are present across the newsletter’s first 147 issues?

**RQ2:** How does the newsletter seek to inform citizens about LAI and mobilize them to use it?

**RQ3:** Does the newsletter perform duties associated with the watchdog role of journalism? How are these present in the newsletter’s content?

This thesis proceeds in five chapters: Chapter 1: Literature Review and Brazilian LAI in Context seeks to provide an overview of the literature underpinning this research, and addresses concepts associated with the right to know and the many theoretical roles journalists are expected to fulfill. It also covers important background information about the access to information scenario in the world generally, and in Latin America and Brazil specifically. This literature review also outlines the theoretical grounding and concepts this thesis uses to guide the thematic analysis of the 147 newsletter issues.

Chapter 2: Theoretical and Methodological Approach provides an overview of this research’s method and how it carried out the reflexive thematic analysis of the textual data obtained from the 147 newsletter issues, as well as the driving theoretical concepts that guided the analysis. The chapter discusses how this research mobilized Braun and Clarke’s (2022) approach to thematic analysis, and outlines its step-by-step approach and the researcher’s personal notes and observations throughout the process.

Chapter 3: Findings provides an account of the four major themes discovered through the thematic analysis, namely 1. Journalism's educational role in public transparency: a conscious citizenry is a more active one; 2. Access mobilizers: a good LAI is a LAI constantly put into practice; 3. Snoop and scoop: monitor → inspect → question → fact-check → report; and 4. Key keepers: LAI leaders and mentors. This chapter also outlines and explains a number of relevant sub-themes present in the newsletter data.

Chapter 4: Discussion seeks to put the thematic analysis findings into context with what scholarly literature has said about ATI and journalism, and raises specific examples where the newsletter fulfills specific journalistic roles and works to raise social awareness regarding ATI laws in the country.

Chapter 5: Conclusion provides a summary of this research's major conclusions, and suggests paths forward for both research on LAI and other practical guidelines about the LAI for citizens.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND BRAZILIAN LAI IN CONTEXT

Access to information (ATI) systems across the globe share the idea that the legislation “[...] should be understood as a multi-level and multi-functional guarantee, shaped by an interplay of multiple levels of law and the multiple social functions it performs. Theoretically and empirically, ATI has emancipatory potential to shift power relations in individual cases but is less effective in destabilizing entrenched power structures and inequalities” (Riegner, 2017, p. 334). Thus, ATI legislation and systems are important to study because of their relevance in enhancing transparency, fighting corruption and empowering citizens to understand the political context of where they are from, further helping them to make decisions, ask questions and keep their representatives accountable.

In journalism literature, many roles are associated with a journalist’s duty to uncover and report on information. Kovach and Rosenstiel (2021) describe the watchdog role of journalists as “[...] the classic role of investigative reporting, uncovering wrongdoing. [...] The more routine monitoring performed by a witness bearer may lead to the watchdog investigation” (p. 20). However, as the authors note, the principle of the watchdog actually “[...] means more than simply monitoring government; it extends to all the powerful institutions in society, governmental, nongovernmental, and commercial, anything that plays an influential role in people’s lives” (p. 200), which would be the case of the LAI.

Other roles identified in the literature include, among others, the ‘disseminator,’ ‘interpreter,’ ‘adversarial,’ and ‘populist mobilizer,’ (Weaver and Wilhoit (1986, 1996, as cited in Hanitzsch and Vos, 2018).



- The “disseminator” role refers to how journalists are expected to share and distribute news;
- The “interpreter” involves both collecting information and providing further analysis and explanation of complex issues;
- The “adversarial” refers to how sometimes journalists decide to act and produce coverage that goes against political authorities, businesses and the government, giving voice to citizens in the news;
- The role of the “populist mobilizer” refers to how journalists can ignite citizens into civic duties, being an agent in political involvement.

Although these other roles are indeed associated with the watchdog role, the latter is known and recognized as “the most valued role in U.S. journalism,” according to Weaver and Willnat (2018, p. 17). The authors’ findings also show how the watchdog role is associated with “investigating claims and statements made by government,” one of the key subjects of this thesis project.

What the watchdog and many of the other theoretical roles noted in the literature have in common is that journalism is tied to the idea of democracy — and journalists are expected to provide surveillance of those in powerful positions, to inform the public about general government actions and, of course, to hold the government to account when necessary. As Carey (2007) states, “The origins of journalism are the same as the origins of republican or democratic forms of governance — no journalism, no democracy. But it is equally true that without democracy, there can be no journalism” (p. 13).

In the book *Blur: How to know what’s true in the age of information overload* (2011), Kovach and Rosenstiel define watchdog reporting as prosecutorial journalism, with investigations leading to exposés. They also explain that as “most exposés imply that something isn’t as it should

be, this reporting demands high levels of transparency and greater detail about sources and methods to demonstrate its independence” (p. 72). This type of journalism demands for much more proof, transparency and documentation, as the authors also state.

When looking at other theoretical roles laid out in journalism literature, it is important we bring up some other alternative/early versions of Kovach and Rosenstiel’s list of journalism roles, as published in *Blur* (2011). Some of those relevant to this research are:

- The “Journalism of Verification”, where it is expected that journalists ‘get the facts right’ (p. 37). This role, according to the authors, “[...] aspires to fulfill the first requirement of news, as identified by the Commission on Freedom of the Press, known as the Hutchins Commission, in 1947: to provide ‘a truthful, comprehensive and intelligent account of the day’s events in a context which gives them meaning’. (p. 37 and 38);
- The “Interest-Group Journalism”, although mentioned more as “citizen journalism,” it has similarities to what *Fiquem Sabendo* does in its newsletter “*Don’t LAI to me,*” where the shifting news landscape attracts “[...] political interest groups, whose primary purpose is not producing journalism but effecting political outcomes” (p. 50).
- “Journalism of Aggregation” can also be mentioned here, as the authors point out that choosing “to aggregate, to pass along, to recommend, to sort, involves normative evaluation of content” (p. 52).

*Blur* (2011) also introduces eight essential dimensions or functions that consumers now require from the news, and journalists of the future. These dimensions are also relevant to this research and, as explored in subsequent sections, how “*Don’t LAI to me*” portrays itself in the journalism world.

- “Authenticator” (p. 175, 176): This role involves a lot of trust because, as there are more sources offering information to society nowadays, one of journalism’s most important roles is to “curate” and sort out what is indeed accurate before sharing it with the public.
- “Sense Maker”: Different from interpreting and providing value judgement to the facts, sense-making involves “looking for connections among facts to help us answer questions on our own. It implies looking for information that explains why or how things happened [...]” (p. 177).
- “Investigator”: Similar to the watchdog role, this would be the type of journalism that brings what is being kept behind closed doors to light. Usually, the information exposed “is so central, so essential, to a democratic government that its importance is fundamental to the new journalism as well as the old” (p. 177).
- “Witness Bearer” (p. 177, 178): Similar to the investigator or the watchdog, but less “prosecutorial,” as the authors note. This would be the role journalists take to observe and monitor in order to be able to scrutinize and explain afterwards.
- “Empowerer”: This role delineates how important mutual empowerment is. As Kovach and Rosenstiel (2011) write: “The citizen is empowered by sharing experience and knowledge that informs others—including the journalist. The journalist is empowered by tapping into experience and expertise beyond his or her formal and official sources” (p. 178).
- “Smart Aggregator” (p. 179): The authors describe this journalism requirement as a patrol of the web, always on the lookout for information that might be helpful to the audience.
- “Forum Organizer” (p. 180): As the authors note, journalists are expected to provide and create space for public conversation and discourse with citizens. More than ever, citizens need and deserve more space to actively participate in the news making process.

- “Role Model”: “Journalists must understand that their conduct is public, not just their stories” (p. 181). This role ultimately speaks to how important it is for citizens to see that the news organization “lives up to its constitutional claims,” as the authors stress. It has to do with credibility and honour.

Just like journalism is linked to democracy, access has an unbreakable bond with transparency. As Gingras (2012) notes, “Transparency and access to information have become strong symbols of democracy and major issues to be promoted in debates about democracy [...]. Both transparency and access to information are tools for enhancing legitimacy in political systems that have suffered from a lack of public trust and low voter turnout” (p. 222).

Taylor and Kelsey (2016) define transparency as fairness. They argue that calls for transparency are usually driven by a concern that somebody (or an organization, or the government) is getting away with something that is not fair. They write, “The transparency of any organization, authority or decision-making process is the degree to which someone affected by it can evidence whether or not it is treating them fairly” (p. 65). In public administration and information, transparency is so crucial because it is what will enable informed decisions from citizens. It allows people to see facts and analyse the decisions taken by their elected officials. It is essential in a democratic environment because the public’s understanding of a government’s choices happens when its members are capable of overseeing, analysing and assessing those choices. At the end of the day, the watchdog role of journalism has a lot to do with keeping our eyes peeled for and calling out inequity and injustice — citizens generally want to see their elected representatives fulfill their promises of protection and care for both the country and society as a whole. The traditional watchdog role of journalism is there to let the public know when this isn’t the case. In both access to information and journalism literature, the concept of transparency is usually linked to openness—or, at times, even used as a synonym for it, which is not totally

correct. Yes, both terms intend to refer to what is opposite to secrecy, opacity—however, transparency is usually linked to an approach and/or ideal, whereas openness is a concept used within the access to information world, such as when referring to “open government.”. An open government means a government has adopted a proactive disclosure approach to its information and documents. In Brazil, the first initiative taken towards a more open government happened even before the LAI’s enactment (November 2011), which is an interesting (or contradictory) contrast. In September 2011, Brazil co-created with the United States the “Open Government Partnership (OGP).” A total of eight countries (United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, The Philippines, South Africa and the United Kingdom) and other civil society organizations were initially part of this initiative, while the OGP had as its goal to combine “forces to promote transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance.”<sup>11</sup> One of the obligations for countries that participated in the OGP was to present an Action Plan showing concrete commitments to the four principles that make up open government: transparency, citizen participation, accountability, technology and innovation.<sup>12</sup>

In Brazil, the public body responsible for implementing the OGP was and still is the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General - CGU (Controladoria Geral da União - CGU). As of 2024, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) now includes 75 countries, 150 local governments and thousands of civil society organizations..

## Figure 1

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<sup>11</sup> Open Government Partnership - About. Available at: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/>. Accessed on 15/07/2024.

<sup>12</sup> Final Self-Assessment Report for the 1st National Plan - Open Government Partnership. Available at: <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/governo-aberto/a-ogp/planos-de-acao/1o-plano-de-acao/balanco-primeiro-plano.pdf>. Accessed on 15/07/2023.

“Governo Aberto” - Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General<sup>13</sup>



The Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General’s website defines Open Government as “A culture of governance that promotes collaborations between the government and the society through transparency in management, social participation and responsibility and responsiveness of civil servants.”

Ever since joining the initiative, Brazil has shared six action plans, all made with the collaboration of civil society members and organizations. The most recent (2023-2027) was written between June and October of 2023, and involved 80 institutions, 47 of them being part of civil society and the remaining 33, bodies of the government. *Fiquem Sabendo* was one of the civil society organizations invited to contribute to the 6th National Plan, to be implemented from January 2024 to December 2027. *Fiquem Sabendo* was also mentioned in the [5th National Plan for Open Government \(2021-2023\)](#), as one of the civil organizations responsible for putting one of the commitments in action.

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<sup>13</sup> Open Government - CGU. Available at: <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/governo-aberto>. Accessed on 15/07/2024.

Still touching on transparency, in the context of freedom of and access to information, we can say that it is a concept that most have a common sense of: it means accessible information, data you can see, investigate, question and analyse — because it is there for all of those reasons. This concept is presented as the opposite of secrecy and opacity. When we talk about LAI, transparency is one of the first concepts to come to mind because of the latter's intrinsic relationship to the former. There can be no accessing government information if the information is not transparent and accessible. In the LAI/ATI world, it is common to see the word “openness” used interchangeably with “transparency.” However, they are not conceptually the same, as explained previously.

As Carey (2007) states, “The passion for democracy is the one necessary bond journalists must have with the public, for they are mutually constitutive institutions” (p. 13). The public is also very much connected to what journalism is and does in society, as both exercise activities of citizenry on a day-to-day basis. Journalism in Brazil, in theory, follows many of the same democratic ideals encapsulated by this watchdog role and others described in the work of scholars such as Kovach and Rosenstiel (2021), Hanitzsch and Vos (2018) and Carey (2007); however, Brazilian journalists operate in a specific political and social context, especially when it comes to access to government information.

The country's Federal Constitution of 1988 grants access to information as a fundamental citizen's right. In 1991, reinforcing the idea of access already guaranteed by the Constitution, the “General Law on Public Records”<sup>14</sup> was also created to guarantee access to documents kept by the government to citizens or businesses, when requested under legal circumstances. The difference between these two older pieces of legislation (the Federal Constitution and the Law on

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<sup>14</sup> Lei Geral de Arquivos Públicos, No 8.159, de Janeiro de 1991. Available at: [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/leis/18159.htm](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/leis/18159.htm). Accessed on 11/04/2024.

Public Records) and the modern LAI is that those previous ones have never explained how one could indeed access public documents and actually exercise the right of access to public information all citizens and businesses have. In short, the lack of establishing a process when making a request of access was what realistically made access not feasible at all. To counter these practical challenges, the LAI was enacted in November 2011 and came into force in May 2012 to enhance transparency, accessibility and introduce formal procedures and patterns when requesting access. In other words, the LAI came into the picture to explicitly guarantee the country's commitment to access to information and the strengthening of democracy, but adequate structures within the government are necessary so that access can fully occur (Eirão & Leite, 2018, p. 239).

According to the 4th edition of the report “Application of the Access to Information Law in the Federal Public Administration<sup>15</sup>” published in 2019 by the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General (CGU - *Controladoria-Geral da União*), “The Ministry of Transparency and the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General (CGU) are the bodies responsible for monitoring the application of the LAI within the federal public administration, training public agents to develop good transparency practices and for fostering a culture of transparency, raising awareness of the fundamental right of access to information. The CGU is also the appeals body responsible for assessing denials of access to information, as prescribed in the article 16 of the LAI.” (p. 5).

Since the LAI is a federal law, “All direct administration bodies (e.g. ministries and secretariats), federal autonomous agencies (e.g. Anvisa, Ibama), public foundations (e.g. Funai, Funarte), public companies (e.g. Caixa, Correios), mixed-capital companies (e.g. Banco do

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<sup>15</sup> Aplicação da Lei de Acesso à Informação na Administração Pública Federal. 4th edition. Available at: [https://repositorio.cgu.gov.br/bitstream/1/46641/1/aplicacao\\_da\\_lai\\_2019.pdf](https://repositorio.cgu.gov.br/bitstream/1/46641/1/aplicacao_da_lai_2019.pdf). Accessed on 11/04/2024.



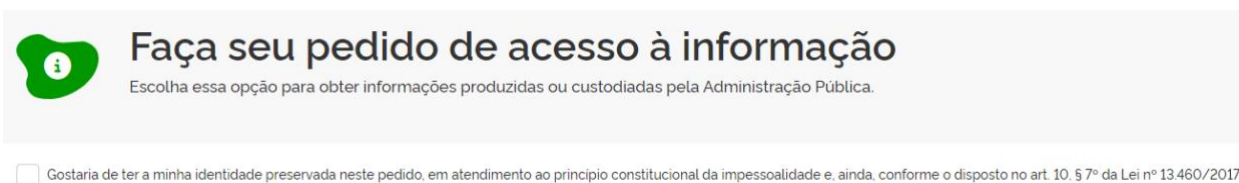
Brasil) and other entities controlled directly or indirectly by the Union must comply with the LAI in the federal government. In the case of public companies, mixed-capital companies and other entities that operate on a competitive basis, there are exceptions provided for in article 173 of the Constitution, in order to ensure competitiveness in the market and preserve the interests of shareholders.”<sup>16</sup>

All federal government and public institution websites have a tab called “*FalaBR*,” this unit is responsible for receiving and processing access to information requests. It is also possible to send the requests by mail. In order to make a request, the first step is to create an account with a username and password, free of charge. People can also submit their requests without including identifying information<sup>17</sup> if they wish.

The requester then proceeds to insert their password and, once logged in and after choosing the public body they are submitting the request to, the topic and including a summary of the request, the website will show you the following information/options:

## Figure 2

*“Fala.BR” - Make your request of access to information*



The screenshot shows the top section of the 'Fala.BR' website. On the left is a green circular icon with a white lowercase 'i'. To its right is the heading 'Faça seu pedido de acesso à informação' in a bold, dark font. Below the heading is a smaller line of text: 'Escolha essa opção para obter informações produzidas ou custodiadas pela Administração Pública.' At the bottom of the screenshot is a checkbox followed by the text: 'Gostaria de ter a minha identidade preservada neste pedido, em atendimento ao princípio constitucional da impessoalidade e, ainda, conforme o disposto no art. 10, § 7º da Lei nº 13.460/2017.'

<sup>16</sup> Paragraph extracted from “LAI no Governo Federal”, from WikiLAI, a platform of Fiquem Sabendo, an independent data agency specialized in access to information. Available at: [https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/LAI\\_no\\_Governo\\_Federal](https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/LAI_no_Governo_Federal). Accessed on 11/04/2024.

<sup>17</sup> To make an anonymous request, being registered either with your “*Gov.br*” account or “*Fala.BR*” is mandatory. You must either log in with your national ID number (a document called *CPF - Cadastro de Pessoa Física* in Brazil), or just an email address.

**Note:** Figure 2 reads:

The title: *“Make your access to information request. Choose this option to obtain information produced or held by the Public Administration.”*

Right below the title, the checkbox says: *“I would like to have my identity preserved in this request, in compliance with the constitutional principle of impersonality and also in accordance with the provisions of art. 10, § 7 of Law No. 13,460/2017<sup>18</sup>.”* Once this option is checked, other boxes will show:

### Figure 3

*“Fala.BR” - Make your request of access to information. Identity preserved.*



The screenshot shows the 'Fala.BR' platform interface. At the top, there is a green circular logo with a white 'i' and the text 'Faça seu pedido de acesso à informação'. Below this, a subtitle reads 'Escolha essa opção para obter informações produzidas ou custodiadas pela Administração Pública.' The main content area contains four checked checkboxes with their respective text:

- Gostaria de ter a minha identidade preservada neste pedido, em atendimento ao princípio constitucional da impessoalidade e, ainda, conforme o disposto no art. 10, § 7º da Lei nº 13.460/2017.
- Estou ciente de que, com a identidade preservada somente a área técnica de TI responsável pela manutenção da Plataforma Fala BR terá acesso aos meus dados pessoais, ressalvadas as exceções previstas nos parágrafos 3º e 4º, do art. 31 da Lei nº 12.527/2011 e no art. 58 do Decreto nº 7.724/2012. Logo, o órgão destinatário do pedido não terá condições de contatar-me em caso de dúvidas ou necessidade de esclarecimentos adicionais. Bem como, estou ciente que a Controladoria-Geral da União ficará impossibilitada de executar ações de mediação nos requerimentos que chegarem a ela em nível recursal.
- Estou ciente de que com a identidade preservada o órgão destinatário não poderá atender a pedidos de informação pessoal, uma vez que não terá como confirmar minha identidade.
- Entendo que a não preservação da minha identidade poderá ferir o princípio constitucional da impessoalidade e prejudicar o atendimento da minha solicitação de informação. Declaro, para os devidos fins de direito e sob as penas da Lei, que o conteúdo do pedido realizado poderá servir de embasamento para eventual manifestação de ouvidoria e/ou denúncia, conforme estabelecido na Lei nº 13.460/2017.

**Note:** The three last checkboxes read:

- *“I am aware that, having my identity preserved, only the technical IT department responsible for maintaining the “Fala.BR” platform will have access to my personal data, but that would be subject to exceptions provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of art. 31 of Law. no. 12.527/2011 and art. 58 of Decree no. 7.724/2012. Therefore, the body receiving the request will not be able to contact me in case there are any questions related to my request or if there is a need for further clarification about it. I am also aware that the CGU (Brazilian Office of the*

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<sup>18</sup> Public Service User Protection Law, “Lei de Proteção ao Usuário do Serviço Público”. Available at: [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2015-2018/2017/lei/l13460.htm](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2015-2018/2017/lei/l13460.htm). Accessed on 22/04/2024.

*Comptroller General - Controladoria-Geral da União) will be unable to carry out mediation actions on requests that eventually reach appeal levels”;*

- *“I am aware that, with my identity preserved, the public body which I am submitting my access request to will not be able to respond to requests for personal information, since it will have no way of confirming my identity”;*
- *“I understand that failure to preserve my identity may violate the constitutional principle of impersonality and hinder the fulfillment of my access request. I declare, for all legal purposes and under penalties of the law, that the content of my request may serve as an example for any ombudsman and/or complaint, as established in Law no. 13.460/2017”.*

Once received by the intended public body, the request of access may be processed along up to four judicial evaluations. It should be noted that LAI requests do not necessarily pass through all four stages, but may go through each judicial review if a requester appeals the decisions they receive:

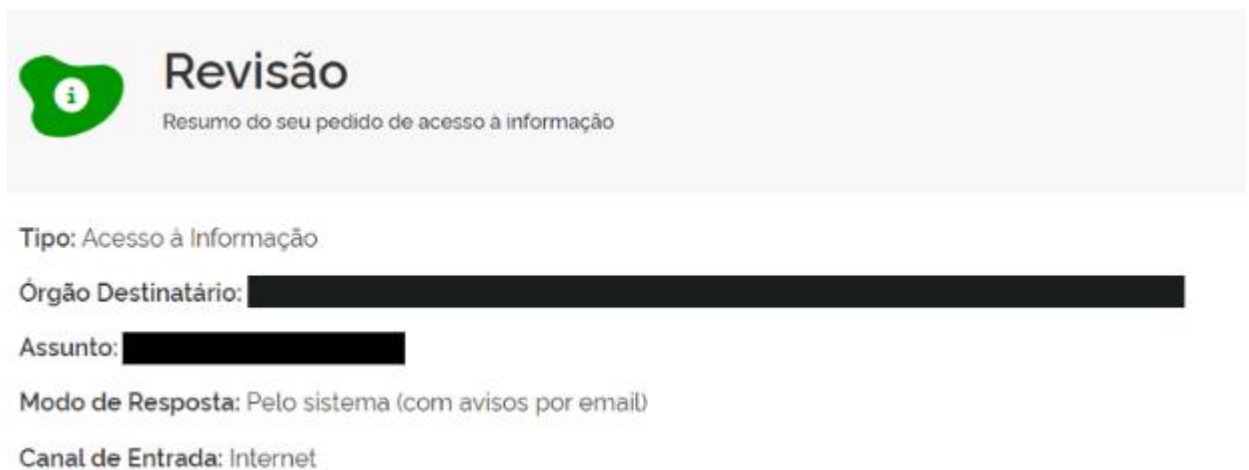
- First, the person responsible for your request is the chief in the sector where the request was submitted. For example, if the request is about public bids for a federal project, the person in charge of the request would be at the top of the government hierarchy in the bidding department of the public body targeted by the request. At this stage, your request needs to be answered in 20 days, but can be delayed a further 10 days, if justified;
- If the requester is not satisfied with the response received after it was processed in the first judicial stage, they have 10 days to appeal the decision. From there, the public body has five days to respond. At this second stage, the highest authority of the public body is responsible for processing and responding to the request;

- If the requester is not satisfied with the response received after this second judicial process, they can ask that it be moved to a third level, the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General (*Controladoria-Geral da União - CGU*), which oversees the federal government's compliance with the LAI. The CGU reviews and decides on the legitimacy of appeal, which also serves to create legal precedents on how LAI requests are processed (parameters for future occurrences);
- If a request gets to the fourth stage, it reaches the Joint Information Reassessment Commission (*Comissão Mista de Reavaliação de Informações - CMRI*), which is a collegiate body with representatives of 10 different ministries.

Even after the fourth level, if your request was denied and you do not agree with the outcome, according to the legislation, you can report suspected non-compliance with the law to both the Federal Public Ministry (*Ministério Público Federal - MPF*) and the Federal Court of Auditors (*Tribunal de Contas da União - TCU*).

#### Figure 4

*“Fala.BR” - Review of Access to Information request*



**Revisão**  
Resumo do seu pedido de acesso à informação

**Tipo:** Acesso à Informação

**Órgão Destinatário:** [REDACTED]

**Assunto:** [REDACTED]

**Modo de Resposta:** Pelo sistema (com avisos por email)

**Canal de Entrada:** Internet

**Note:** Figure 4 reads:

*Review. Summary of your access to information request.*

*Type of solicitation: Access to Information;*

*Public Body: N/A*

*Topic: N/A*

*How to reply: Through the system (with email updates)*

*Channel: Internet.*

Once the request is processed, the response to the request and, if applicable, the documents requested are diffused through your preferred portal, with updates about the request via your registered email. It is also important to stress that according to Article 12 in the LAI, access requests must be free of charge to whoever requests governmental information. The only exception would be if there were costs linked to processing documents, like printing copies etc. This would be the sole case where the government could ask the requester for a reimbursement of the costs associated with these services and materials used in the process.

The government encourages requesters to write their LAI requests in a certain way to help the process go smoothly. Suggestions include: to avoid general requests, to be clear, to specify the type of data and in which format you would like to receive it, and to formulate the request as a list or with bullet points. Although there is not a government-issued official template to follow, the international human rights organization [Article 19](#) in Brazil has shared an example of what an access request should look like:

*Your city, Date*

*Name of public body*

Dear *[Director/Secretary/Responsible Authority]*,

*[Name of your organization/business/or your name]*, registered with *[your national identification number or your business identification number - RG or CNPJ/MF]*, under number *[XXX]*, based on article 5 (XXXIII) of the Federal Constitution and articles 10, 11 and 12 of Law no. 12.527/2011 - The General Law of Access to Public Information - respectfully addresses Your Lordship in order to submit the following

REQUEST OF INFORMATION

Regarding *[XXXX - the information you aim to receive - XXXX]*.

1. The Requester asks access to all documents related to *[XXXX information requested XXXX]*, including - but not limited to - the following information:

a) *[Provide a detailed clear, precise and objective description of the information or name of the document]*.

2. In compliance with article 11 of Law no. 12.527, of November 18th, 2011, the access to the information request must be immediate. If immediate access is not possible, the response, in accordance with the aforementioned article, must be issued within a maximum of 20 days, counting from the filing of this application with *[XXXX - name of body - XXXX]*. For receipt of the reply, I give the following address *[XXXX - email or physical address - XXXX]*.

Respectfully,

*[XXXX - Requester Identification/Signature - XXXX]*<sup>19</sup>

In 2003, Abraji promoted the “*1st International Seminar on the Right of Access to Public Information*,” which led to the creation of the Right of Access to Public Information Forum. According to the Forum’s website, the Seminar promoted by Abraji had as its goal “to bring

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<sup>19</sup> Example of Access to Information Request. Available at: <https://artigo19.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/24/files/2012/03/Modelo-Pedido-de-Infirma%C3%A7%C3%A3o-12.527-1.pdf>. Accessed on 12/04/2024.

together non-partisan civil society organizations to put pressure on the government and society to regulate the right of access to public information, which is already guaranteed in the Federal Constitution. In 2004, during an event in Brasilia, the Access Forum was officially launched.”<sup>20</sup>

Both the Seminar and the Forum were kickstarters for developing the modern LAI as we have it today, which ultimately shows how important the role of journalists was in its making. Interestingly, in the same week when the LAI was enacted, the federal government also enacted the temporary public body “*National Commission of Truth*”<sup>21</sup> (*Comissão Nacional da Verdade - CNV*), which aimed to investigate human rights violations that took place in the country between 1946 and 1988, including during the Military Dictatorship period (1964-1985). They shut down their operations in 2014, with a final report — their findings are still available at a website kept by the “*Revealed Memories Reference Center*” (*Centro de Referência de Memórias Reveladas*), from the country’s National Archives. Finally, in 2005, the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General (*Controladoria-Geral da União - CGU*) started to propose discussions about the creation of the LAI.

One of the biggest changes LAI brought to the scenario of transparency in Brazil was the ban on the “eternal secrecy” of documents, which was possible before. Now, according to the legislation, the government classifies its secrecy in three categories: reserved (with maximum duration of five years), secret (with maximum duration of 15 years) and ultra-secret (with maximum duration of 25 years, but with the possibility of being extended once, for another 25 years). After those deadlines, the government is required to disclose those documents proactively, and with no need for citizens to file access requests for them. However, in practice, compliance

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<sup>20</sup> Right of Access to Public Information Forum, “Fórum de Direito de Acesso a Informações Públicas”. Available at: <https://informacaopublica.org.br/>. Accessed on 22/04/2024.

<sup>21</sup> National Commission of Truth, “Comissão Nacional da Verdade”. Available at: <http://cnv.memoriasreveladas.gov.br/>. Accessed on 14/04/2024.

with these deadlines and the government's proactive disclosure of documents that were once under secrecy does not happen as smoothly as laid out in the legislation.

Providing more context on secrecy in Brazil, every document deemed as secret needs to receive a label called “Termo de classificação de informação - TCI” (Information classification term). This label is actually a document where a civil servant who saw the need for it is supposed to explain the reasoning behind the secrecy recommendation, and to specify the level of secrecy (Reserved - 5 years; Secret - 15 years; Ultra-secret - 25 years) that should be applied. When the document loses its TCI, that is, when its label “expires,” both the ministries and the public body need to release the information on their websites. This theoretically needs to be done on a yearly basis under the “roster of unclassified information” or “rol de informações desclassificadas.” The public bodies' websites are also required to share a list of documents that are currently with an active TCI, however, these lists are not updated regularly and only a few of the largest federal organizations (like the [Health Ministry](#) and [Ministry of Defense](#), for example) share these rosters. What happens is, then, that citizens need to go ministry by ministry, public body by public body, and ask for documents that are no longer under secrecy.

Still, one major loophole in the Brazilian LAI can be seen in Article 31, where it grants secrecy of information deemed personal up to 100 years. Some problems about this include that the law does not explain how to calculate the deadline of secrecy, and that the decision of denying access to or disclosure of a document due to “personal information” is always made by the public body the access request was sent to—thus it is always the government that has the final say on access and disclosure of the information and documents it itself holds.

## **Figure 5**



*Article 31 of Law 12527/11*<sup>22</sup>

**Art. 31.** O tratamento das informações pessoais deve ser feito de forma transparente e com respeito à intimidade, vida privada, honra e imagem das pessoas, bem como às liberdades e garantias individuais.

**§ 1º** As informações pessoais, a que se refere este artigo, relativas à intimidade, vida privada, honra e imagem:

I - terão seu acesso restrito, independentemente de classificação de sigilo e pelo prazo máximo de 100 (cem) anos a contar da sua data de produção, a agentes públicos legalmente autorizados e à pessoa a que elas se referirem; e

**Note:** Figure 5 reads:

*“Art. 31 - The processing of personal information must be transparent and respectful of people's privacy, private life, honor and image, as well as individual freedoms and guarantees.*

*§ Paragraph 1 The personal information referred to in this article, relating to intimacy, private life, honor and image:*

*I - will have their access restricted, regardless of classification of secrecy and for a maximum period of 100 (one hundred) years from their date of production, to legally authorized public agents and the person to whom they refer; and” [...]*

The 100-year secrecy norm came from the 1991 “General Law on Public Records,” previously mentioned. It was initially created with the intention of protecting individuals and their public images. The fact that the LAI decided to add this outdated rule in the legislation shows how connected Brazil still is to its dictatorship period, as this type of secrecy is usually called on when citizens or organizations request access to documents from that time frame. Many names, proof and personal data of military personnel can be seen in those documents — many of which are directly connected to and involved with cases of torture and violation of human rights.

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<sup>22</sup> LAI. Available at: <https://www.jusbrasil.com.br/busca?q=art.+31+da+lei+12527%2F11>. Accessed on July 23, 2024.

It is important to mention that free access to public information, the right to know and the right to ask for and demand information and transparency can be considered fairly recent elements in Brazilian history—the Brazilian Federal Constitution emerged from a context of democratization (or re-democratization) of the country after the end of the dictatorship period (1964-1985). In a context of dictatorship, secrecy is the standard. Only through the LAI and other initiatives, such as the National Commission of Truth, have archives and documents from the repression period finally come to light (Kalkmann, 2019).

Considering Brazil's history and the culture of secrecy associated with its antidemocratic past, we can understand a few purposes of the LAI, one of them being the motto “access is the standard and secrecy, the exception”. When looking at how the LAI was written, we can connect many ideals, ideas and discourses to journalism literature; many regulations regarding access were actually based in theoretical foundations also used by journalists and scholars. Concepts like “transparency,” “objectivity,” “integrity,” and “authenticity” are present in the wording of law 12.527 - LAI, which ultimately shows how both the political and journalism worlds are intertwined — and an obvious problem that arises, for both sides, is how similar the lack of applicability to the real world these concepts sometimes have. The implementation of many of those concepts and journalistic roles are difficult in “real life” because of many issues: a legislation that does not keep up with technological progress, resistance from government officials and public bodies (and, in Brazil's case, military influence, as many of high-ranking members of the military hold elected positions in council), lack of government funding and resources to apply the legislation, and, significantly, little public awareness about both the law of access to information and the citizen's right to access information. In 2022, the Brazilian LAI

celebrated its 10th anniversary and according to the interactive panel<sup>23</sup> developed by the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General (*Controladoria-Geral da União - CGU*), since the law was enacted, 1,366,019 requests were made and 99.661% were responded to. The average number of requests per requester was 2.3, which means only 0.2% of the Brazilian population has tried accessing governmental information using the LAI.

**Figure 6**

*Painel Lei de Acesso à Informação, Controladoria-Geral da União. All Federal requests, from 15/05/2012 to 01/04/2024*



(Instead of translating the whole image, its main points are explained and discussed below)

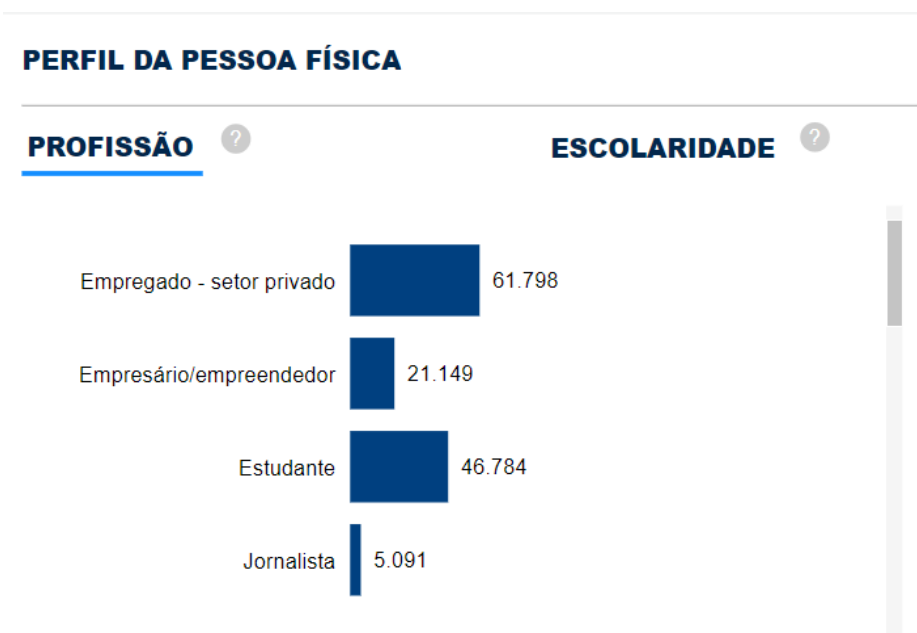
When we look at the total number of requesters, there is an average of 2,3 requests per person. As for the profile of these requesters, only 5,091 of them were journalists. It is important to point out that the biggest figure of requesters, 208,922, chose not to have their profession specified, which may imply the number of journalists who have filed requests may be higher.

<sup>23</sup> Painel Lei de Acesso à Informação, CGU. Available at: <https://centralpaineis.cgu.gov.br/visualizar/lai>. Accessed on 01/04/2024.

Nevertheless, these figures raise many questions about why the LAI is not more popular among journalists.

### Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10

*Painel Lei de Acesso à Informação, Controladoria-Geral da União. Profile of requesters, from 15/05/2012 to 01/04/2024*



## PERFIL DA PESSOA FÍSICA

### PROFISSÃO ?

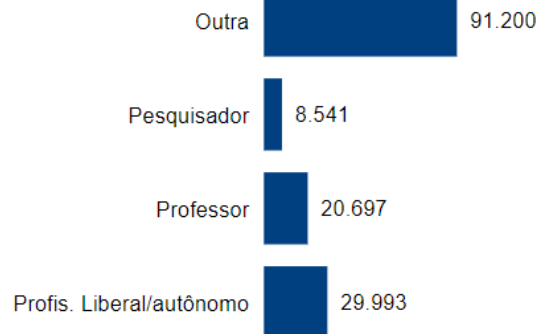
### ESCOLARIDADE ?



## PERFIL DA PESSOA FÍSICA

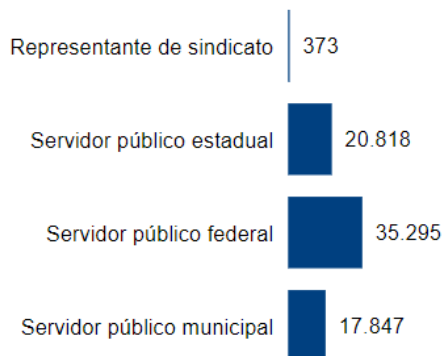
### PROFISSÃO ?

### ESCOLARIDADE ?



## PERFIL DA PESSOA FÍSICA

### PROFISSÃO ?



### ESCOLARIDADE ?

(Instead of translating everything in all four images, their main points are explained and discussed below)

Oliveira and Santos (2021) argue that, “Despite the fact that the [Brazilian] Federal Constitution already guarantees access to public information and establishes the principle of access, there is still a great deal of resistance to transparency, which results in a society that is unaware of the importance of the law and its impacts [...]” (p. 307). This lack of proper functioning of the Brazilian LAI is something pointed out by a number of studies and institutions, like the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (Abraji, 2022). In their report “*10 years of LAI*” (2022), the association concludes that there is still a lot of room for improvement and that there is a low level of institutionalization (p. 58)—that is, a consistent adoption of the law throughout the country. Among their observations on where the law is still faulty, an important one is the existence of political meddling in requests, “[...] such as interference in answers prepared by civil servants or the existence of formal procedures or research information on the requester. This political intervention, although not very significant quantitatively, is relevant

because it signals that the process of responding to citizens is not always technically oriented and that incomplete responses or denials of access to information can be unjustified under the terms of the law.” (p. 59).

It is true that legislations like the LAI exist to facilitate democratic ideals, such as empowering people, making them autonomous in their decisions, and facilitating a scenario where people can be citizens who actively participate in decision-making (Fachin, 2014. p. 34); however, evidence shows that the LAI has not been used to its full extent because of the misuse of secrecy, heavily redacted files, long delays, processing fees from jurisdictions and a general fear of embarrassment on the government’s part. Another issue is the general lack of knowledge about and/or interests in the LAI on the journalists’ side.

Ferracioli (2017) notes that the advent of standardization of access through the enactment of LAI was “[...] beneficial for journalists, who have been able to access data from the State that used to not be made available voluntarily. A whole arsenal of information can now be accessed through organized procedures, with the right to appeal and contest” (p. 2, 3). When journalists are able to access data, they guarantee that the public also has it, helping citizens get informed. That ultimately exemplifies the great deal of importance that journalists hold in the access to information sphere.

### **2.1. *Fiquem Sabendo* and the “Don’t LAI to me” newsletter**

When a country’s ATI system does not work as it should, that is to say, by making information available with accessibility, transparency, accuracy and timeliness to its users, democracy is menaced. Besides the loss of public trust, a faulty LAI can result in politicians and other leaders to face few to no consequences when they deviate from the law, fostering an environment that facilitates corruption and enlarged social inequalities for citizens.

According to the WikiLAI's page for *Fiquem Sabendo*, “the agency believes that a democratic society does not properly work without a solid database with official information that is objective and trustworthy.”<sup>24</sup> *Fiquem Sabendo* describes itself as an organization that “works to reduce the imbalance of power between Society and State.”<sup>25</sup> They claim to do this by providing tools for citizens to question their leaders, defend evidence-based policies and actively participate in democracy. Currently, they run three major projects: *WikiLAI*, a portal where you can access public information in Brazil; *Agenda Transparente*, Brazil's first platform to monitor the agendas of public authorities, and “*Don't LAI to me*,” Brazil's first newsletter focused on access to information legislation in Brazil.

In addition to these three major initiatives, *Fiquem Sabendo* offers others, like *Cartão Corporativo*, a special project that shows a breakdown of the spending of ex-presidents since 2013. As a result of this initiative, more than 1,200 stories were written and published in various media outlets using data obtained by *Fiquem Sabendo*. Other projects worth mentioning are *Lobby na Comida*, where *Fiquem Sabendo* investigates a number of lobby groups and conflicts of interest between the government and the food industry in Brazil. They also offer a host of free courses for journalists, communicators and other citizens, to help them navigate the LAI system for different purposes.

## Figure 11

*Quem somos/About us - Fiquem Sabendo*

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<sup>24</sup> WikiLAI. “Don't LAI to me”. Available at: [https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Don%27t\\_LAI\\_to\\_me](https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Don%27t_LAI_to_me). Accessed on 02/04/2024.

<sup>25</sup> Quem somos/About us. Fiquem Sabendo. <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/quem-somos/about>. Accessed on 20/03/2024.



## ■ Ampliamos a transparência pública

Abrimos bases de dados e documentos públicos inéditos, revertimos retrocessos em transparência e denunciamos o descumprimento da Lei de Acesso à Informação no Brasil

## ■ Pautamos a grande imprensa

Nosso conteúdo já foi usado mais de 2 mil vezes como fonte por jornais impressos, sites de notícias, canais de televisão, rádios e demais meios de comunicação de todo o país e até internacionais

## ■ Fortalecemos o Jornalismo local

Ajudamos veículos de comunicação regionais a encontrar dados que ajudem a explicar o que está acontecendo em suas cidades e/ou estados

## ■ Formamos cidadãos engajados

Treinamos centenas de pessoas todos os anos para entenderem os sistemas de transparência no país, da legislação ao uso prático, para que possam questionar e pedir informações por conta própria a órgãos públicos locais ou mesmo estaduais e federais

**Note:** Figure 11 reads:

- *We expand public transparency:*

*We opened unprecedented databases and other public documents, as well as reversed setbacks in transparency and denounced the failure of the LAI in Brazil.*

- *Our content is featured in the mainstream press*

*Our content has been used more than 2,000 times as a source by print newspapers, news websites, television channels, radio stations and other media both nationally and internationally.*

- *We strengthen local Journalism*

*We help regional media outlets find data that helps explain what is happening in their cities and/or states.*

- *We train engaged citizens*

*We train hundreds of people every year to understand the transparency systems in the country, from legislation to practical use, so that they can question and ask for information from local, state, or federal public bodies on their own.*

*Fiquem Sabendo's* website explains their way of functioning along four different axes: (1) advocacy, (2) education, (3) technology and (4) content.

The “*Don't LAI to me*” newsletter falls along the “content” axis. It is important to mention that the newsletter was the winner of the *Cláudio Weber Abramo de Jornalismo de Dados* (Cláudio Weber Abramo in Data Journalism) prize in 2019 — the country's leading reference in data journalism — and also second place in the *Livre.Jor Jornalismo-Mosca* prize, which rewards journalism work in opening up government data. Since then, they have also won the *Troféu Rastilho* (translates to Fuse Trophy) three times, which helps prove their journalistic influence. An interesting particularity of this award is that it was created specifically because of *Fiquem Sabendo's* work in exposing 27 years of data on civil pensioners in 2020, and whether it is an example of journalism, or something else.

One comment from the judging panel raises a number of interesting questions about the kind of work *Fiquem Sabendo* does: “*Should a project that shares data be given first place or not? Indeed, several important news stories were produced based on the information obtained, but shouldn't these types of investigations compete individually? Is this a journalistic product or is it something else? It was mind-boggling. But we believe we've arrived at a fair conclusion: this, which is journalism but also transcends journalism, deserves a separate analysis. That's why we created the Fuse Trophy—linking the flame to the explosive, so that initiatives like this can be*

*recognized and praised. And there's no one better than Fiquem Sabendo to hold the first title in this grand prix*"<sup>26</sup>.

This questioning of what *Fiquem Sabendo* does with the “Don’t LAI to me” newsletter, that is, if it can be considered journalism or not, resonates a lot with Kovach and Rosenstiel’s observations about the future of journalism: “What role, then, should journalists play? If we citizens are our own editors, at times even our own reporters, what do we need from the press? What should the gathering and dissemination of news look like, who will produce it, and how it will be consumed? (2011, p. 171). *Fiquem Sabendo* winning the *Troféu Rastilho* is a nice way of showing how this gathering and dissemination of news and information might look like, and how real and achievable this new journalism can be.

*Fiquem Sabendo*’s relevance to the public transparency and open data journalism scenarios also shows itself through their constant and historical wins with the TCU and the CGU. A few examples are:

- **“More transparency in digital documents: we reported and won again - Don’t LAI to me - Issue not numbered”**: In this newsletter, they talk about a complaint submitted to the TCU in January 2019 was upheld and from that moment onwards, obligates every federal public body to make all administrative documents available by active transparency, except when cases of secrecy applies;
- **“After Fiquem Sabendo’s complaint, government opens up 27 years of data of civil pensioners - Don’t LAI to me #Special”**: In this newsletter, they talk about another historical win with the TCU, where after what lasted longer than 3-

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<sup>26</sup> Livre.jor - Dados Abertos. Available at: <https://livre.jor.br/a-mao-invisivel-das-milicias-e-solteiragate-sao-os-grandes-vencedores-do-2o-premio-de-jornalismo-mosca/>. Accessed on 25/07/2024.

year dispute, all payments from the Union to pensioners had to be made public and accessible to all. What before was only two months of data from the last two years of 2019, became 26 years of data available: from 1994 to May 2020.

When it comes to the funding of *Fiquem Sabendo* and, consequently, of “*Don’t LAI to me,*” their home page displays both partner organizations and supporters. Their support happens through donations, according to the financial reports in *Fiquem Sabendo*’s website, as well as through collaboration on different projects. The organization also encourages individuals who are subscribed to and/or use information disseminated by the newsletter to donate and help the initiative carry on with its free services. Their supporters are as follows: Galo da Manhã Instituto, IBI, Serrapilheira, Internews: Local voices. Global change; Heinrich Böll Stiftung Brasil; Abraji, ICFJ International Center for Journalists, Google News Initiative and Muckrock. However, they are not the only ones who offer financial support for *Fiquem Sabendo*’s work, as they have other partner institutions that will occasionally fund a specific project, temporarily.

It is also important to mention that *Fiquem Sabendo* is an institution recognized by the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General (CGU - Controladoria-Geral da União) and that they are a part of a group that guides the development of the new Federal Government’s National Open Data Policy.<sup>27</sup> According to their WikiLAI webpage, they also work closely with supervisory and auditing institutions.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> The Federal Government’s National Open Data Policy (Política de Dados Abertos) was established by Decree No. 8,777 in May 11th, 2016 and it “aims to promote the publication and dissemination of data in databases of agencies and entities of direct, autarchic and foundational federal public administration. In this way, public interest information, previously restricted to public administration, becomes available to the whole society in open data format, with the goal of improving the culture of transparency, social control and innovation”. Available at: <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/dados-abertos/plano-de-dados-abertos-2020-2022> and [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2015-2018/2016/decreto/d8777.htm#view](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2015-2018/2016/decreto/d8777.htm#view). Accessed on 10/04/2024.

<sup>28</sup> WikiLAI. *Fiquem Sabendo*. Available at: [https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Fiquem\\_Sabendo](https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Fiquem_Sabendo). Accessed on 02/04/2024.

**Figure 12**

*Processo completo/Full process - Fiquem Sabendo, available at their About us page*



**Note:** Figure 12 reads:

*The problem part can be translated as: We identify the problem - We often receive complaints about the lack of transparency and/or poor data quality. We also look for opportunities to find information of public interest by reading articles and news stories.*

*The rest of the process titles are as follows: We denounce; We open data; We proofread and correct; We facilitate the debate; We foster and form a national network.*

The newsletter “Don’t LAI to me” is a bi-weekly publication (sent every two weeks) that had its debut on January 21st, 2019. The subscription is free of charge and, to date,<sup>29</sup> they have published 158 issues. They describe their mission as a “fight for the democratization of access to information in Brazil, to encourage the use of public data, and to ensure that public bodies comply

<sup>29</sup> At the latest version of this document, August 13th, 2024, the newsletter published 158 issues, including all issues sent, such as Special Editions, Exclusive Editions and issues that were not properly labeled or numbered, but can still be found in the “Don’t LAI to me” Archive. The last published issue was numbered as #130 and was sent on August 12th, 2024.

with the transparency rules laid out in legislation”. Each issue of the newsletter covers several topics, with an average of five topics per issue. It is usually divided into sections, where each part will address a piece of information, a link to a government spreadsheet, next steps that the organization is taking to get a specific document, etc. Not every issue will have something written about how well or poorly the LAI is doing in general, but “*Don’t LAI to me*” does not refrain from regularly criticizing the legislation and how the government is failing to uphold it.

They will do this by explaining that a request has been delayed for a number of months or years, and discuss why the government should not have delayed a request for so long, especially when it comes to legitimate requests, for example. To illustrate this further, in the “*Don’t LAI to me*” issue sent on [February 8th, 2024](#), they describe a three-year dispute with the Federal Court of Auditors (*Tribunal de Contas da União* - TCU) regarding the sharing of individualized paychecks in federal state companies—and explain how the government was not complying with its own laws. Studying *Fiquem Sabendo’s* “*Don’t LAI to me*” initiative is important, because it is a pioneer in the matter of access to information in Brazil. The newsletter has become relevant in both national and international scenarios, shining a light on transparency, openness, government budgets and unprecedented databases.

According to Seibt (2022), “By exercising the ‘external cognitive control’ of power, through the curation of public data, journalism produces a certain type of content that reveals its own verification process, as fact-checking does, exposing inconsistencies, indicating sources and showing methods. In short, data curation is also a journalistic text linked to the principle of transparency, which would be the normative value typical of ‘Journalism of Verification’” (p. 114-115).

It is possible to say that the “*Don’t LAI to me*” content aims to honour journalism’s commitment to social justice, as it contributes to cutting edge data journalism that is focused on

transparency, human rights and the right to know. By consistently delivering this curated, credible set of important information bi-weekly to its subscribers' inboxes, they fight and help shape a more informed, autonomous and conscious citizenry.

## **2.2. Research questions**

The purpose of this research project is to investigate how the newsletter "*Don't LAI to me*" is working towards addressing the many issues the LAI legislation has and how it helps people navigate it. This research seeks to uncover the main themes about Brazilian LAI that are present across the newsletter's issues, and to understand what the main deficits the newsletter identifies in the LAI system are. It also hopes to synthesize the solutions it offers for activists, legislation experts, journalists and citizens when it comes to filing LAI requests and making use of their information rights.

Another important goal of this research is identifying how and whether the newsletter is enacting concepts and functions associated with the watchdog role of journalism, namely analysing problems, investigating government claims, performing the classic investigative reporting role, and, of course, delivering surveillance, exposing wrongdoing and holding the government to account. With this in mind, there are three research questions that this research aims to answer:

**RQ1:** What themes about Brazil's LAI are present across the 147 issues of the newsletter analyzed in this research?

**RQ2:** How does the newsletter seek to inform citizens about LAI and mobilize them to use it?

**RQ3:** Does the newsletter perform duties associated with the watchdog role of journalism? How are these present in the newsletter's content?



### 3. METHOD

In order to study issues related to Brazilian LAI, it is important to highlight key theoretical concepts that are intrinsic to it. In Brazil, access to public information is a fundamental right, provided by both the Federal Constitution and the law 12.527/2011. It reads:

The Law of Access to Public Information 12.527/2011 aims to assure the fundamental right of access to information and must be implemented in accordance with the principles of public administration. The law has as its guiding principle the sharing of public information as a rule and secrecy as an exception, the proactivity of public sectors in making information of public interest available, the emphasis on technological mediation as an important dimension to guarantee the flow of information with the primary objective of stimulating a culture of transparency and social control of public administration.<sup>30</sup>

The thesis project's goal was to examine 147 issues of the “*Don't LAI to me*” newsletter published from January 21, 2019 to April 8, 2024. It is important to note that in this timeframe a total of 148 newsletters were sent out. I completed a full analysis of 147 issues. Only one<sup>31</sup> of these newsletters was left out of the main corpus of issues analysed, as it was an “erratum” email rectifying a mistake made in a previous newsletter issue and was not relevant for the thematic analysis proposed by this thesis. Out of the total 147 issues, 27 were special editions of the newsletter, or simply were not properly labeled or numbered. The goal was to carry out a thorough analysis to understand how *Fiquem Sabendo's* team of journalists addresses the deficits of using LAI and how they provide insights on the many ways journalists can act as watchdogs on behalf of the public. Accessing the newsletter's archive is easy, given all editions are stored on their [website](#). I was able to retrieve all “*Don't LAI to me*” issues via this online archive, except for

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<sup>30</sup> Presidência da República; Casa Civil - Subchefia para Assuntos Jurídicos. LEI Nº 12.527, DE 18 DE NOVEMBRO DE 2011. [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_Ato2011-2014/2011/Lei/L12527.htm](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2011-2014/2011/Lei/L12527.htm). Accessed on 18/03/2024. *Free translation by the author.*

<sup>31</sup> Newsletter 103 (Appendix section), “Erratum: internship opening - Issue not labeled or numbered”. Does not represent relevance to the analysis, it was a note informing they mistakenly sent out a draft with information on an internship opportunity.

issues 1 to 8, which were instead located on *Fiquem Sabendo*'s main website under the tab "Posts," tagged "Transparency."

As a subscriber of the newsletter myself, I was also able to access the issues in my own email inbox. I saved all 147 issues as PDFs to help me access them offline when needed.

Thematic analysis (TA) following Braun and Clarke's (2022, 2006) approach was chosen for this research as it is a method that is flexible, allowing the researcher to gather and handle a lot of information at the same time. It is a method that analyses data to group together themes and trends. This process helped me understand patterns and tendencies of how the newsletter diffuses LAI information, and the communication/editorial choices they made while addressing important topics and other pertinent governmental information. The thematic analysis process also helped locate recurring concepts in the newsletter content associated with access to information and the journalist's role as watchdog, as well as other theoretical roles of journalism. Braun and Clarke (2022, 2006) organize their method of TA in six different phases:

- 1) *Phase 1: Familiarisation* - This is where the researcher begins to understand that data they are going to be dealing with. That is, this is the moment where the researcher has to read and re-read the data and is encouraged to take notes on initial ideas and insights.
- 2) *Phase 2: Coding* - This phase involves a more systematic approach towards the data. That is, the research becomes more analytical and direct with the research questions in mind, and formalizes initial codes.
- 3) *Phase 3: Generating initial themes* - At this stage, the researcher is meant to see the codes through a common lens, that is, identifying shared patterns and concepts that could potentially help answer the research questions.

- 4) *Phase 4: Developing and reviewing themes* - At this stage, the researcher is expected to test the feasibility of the initial themes, and review them to see if they make sense considering the analysis that still has to be carried out. It is important to assess whether each individual theme highlights, relates to and indeed answers the research questions laid out in the project. At the same time, reviewing themes means they may collapse together or be divided into other new themes.
- 5) *Phase 5: Refining, defining and naming themes* - This is where themes are expected to be solidified and become very clear. Important tasks at this stage include the creation of a synopsis and strong name for each of the themes.
- 6) *Phase 6: Writing up* - As the authors explain, many phases of reflexive thematic analysis are considered a bit “informal,” because most of the notes and the writing done during these stages are meant for the researcher themselves. In *Phase 6*, these personal notes are expected to be polished and constructed in a coherent manner, with the specific requirements a research report demands (e.g. an introduction, methods section, conclusion).

Reflexive TA is a qualitative approach where, although very clearly delineated with steps (or phases), Braun and Clarke argue that “the process is *not* the method” (2022, p. 53). This was very perceptible throughout writing this thesis. The authors argue that the method is composed of sets of values that are embedded in the data, as well as assumptions, practices, orientations, skills and the researcher’s own “biases” and subjectivity (a great resource, as they highlight) while making sense of the data.

As the authors delineate, reflexive TA provides analytic and interpretative tools for a large body of data. It also has variations within the method, especially towards the orientation to data — for the present thesis project, a deductive thematic analysis was chosen. As Braun and Clarke

(2022) explain, this is “where the analysis is shaped by existing theoretical constructs, which provide the ‘lens’ through which to read and code the data and develop themes” (Table 1.2 ‘The variations of reflexive TA’, pp. 57-58).

This research project initially tried to follow the six phases of analysis as outlined by Braun and Clarke (2022). However, as they themselves warn, “[...] the different phases of reflexive TA are not always sharply delineated” (p. 90), and I found myself tackling multiple phases (1, 2, 3 and 4) at a time. As I was starting *Phase 1: Familiarisation*, reading that large body of data, rereading it, and engaging with “data as data,” as the authors recommend, I was able to work with a lot of fluidity. As I became more familiar with my data, the subsequent steps of the analysis started to unravel in a very intuitive manner.

My first step was to divide my initial set of 120 newsletter issues into batches to break down the load of work—and also to make the amount of data I was working with look less scary, especially as I would eventually be dealing with 133 pages of data extracted from the newsletters. I created four different documents with the intention of reading and taking notes on a preliminary analysis of about 30 issues at a time. To do so, I went straight to the newsletter’s archive to collect the titles and start translating them from their original Portuguese to English.

After translating the titles and writing down the publication date of each newsletter, I was able to see there were more newsletter issues that would need to be included in addition to the original 120, as there were many issues listed in the archive that were sent and not properly numbered or labeled as “*Don’t LAI to me.*” I carefully searched for these additional issues, and it was clear that I couldn’t ignore them, as they had major journalistic roles embedded in their content. Most of the time, these unnumbered issues were, in fact, special and/or celebratory issues that had data and information on extraordinary happenings in Brazil that the *Fiquem Sabendo* team likely rushed to get and send to subscribers. Upon first read, they contained evidence of

relevant journalistic roles I wanted to explore and understand with this thesis project, such as: the “authenticator,” the “empowerer” and “role model,” as unpacked in *Blur* (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011). My process was consistent as the analysis unfolded: for each batch document I would go to the newsletter’s online archive (except for the first 8 issues, where I had to manually look for at *Fiquem Sabendo’s* website, finding them in their “Posts” tab, categorized/tagged as “Transparency”). I copied each newsletter issue title and publication date, translated them to English, and started attentively reading each issue, identifying the main topic of each newsletter, how they would write about it and what exactly they wanted to share on the specific piece of information the newsletter contained.

The process was limited in some ways, which Braun and Clarke also address (2022). The six-phase path was demanding, and a great amount of analysis and reflection were required to find a narrative thread that connected the dataset and the initial themes together.

Another challenge worth mentioning is how my own personal experiences as a journalist, a researcher and a Brazilian citizen played an important role in this thesis project. I completed my bachelor’s degree in *Social Communications - Journalism* and started a career in journalism in Brazil right when Covid-19 hit and quickly became a pandemic. I remember just having started my career as a journalist and working remotely for the first time. My home office days included me constantly refreshing official websites, searching for figures, cases and casualties. It is impossible to forget how journalism lost space to fake news during this time and how citizens were thirsty for more transparency, seriousness and accountability from public authorities—and so was I. At that time, the Bolsonaro government was clearly ignorant and unprepared to face a pandemic, and encouraged Brazilians not to take the vaccine, but instead medicate themselves with a “Covid-Kit” (Furlan & Caramelli, 2021). This kit consisted of “drugs like hydroxychloroquine, ivermectin, and nitazoxanide and included other medications, like the

antibiotic azithromycin (Furlan & Caramelli, (2021, pp. 1-2). Being a recent graduate and novice journalist during the pandemic in Brazil was scary, as I spent many afternoons watching many government scandals unravel, including the Covid CPI (*Comissão Parlamentar de Inquérito*), which was a parliamentary inquiry commission created to investigate supposed irregularities in the federal government during the pandemic in Brazil. Having this much personal background and attachment to the materials covered in the “*Don’t LAI to me*” newsletter, it was no surprise that reading such a large corpus of newsletter content that contained so much important political information, human rights data and other sensitive topics all at once was burdensome. This ultimately affected my positionality as a researcher, and my subjectivity may have influenced how I engaged with the data. Even the analysis of text and documents can lead to levels of different emotional responses, so readers of this thesis may want to keep these particularities in mind, especially if they are researchers who might be considering similar work.

On another note, something helpful during the six phases of analysis was having a strong theoretical framework in mind. Having a solid grounding in relevant theoretical concepts, as explored in Chapter 2, greatly helped me identify initial codes, as I was taking into consideration roles like the watchdog and other concepts like transparency, accountability and democracy. As I engaged with each newsletter issue, I kept thinking and asking myself: “What connects all these issues together?”; “What are the journalistic roles they are performing/trying to perform?”; “How are they trying to mobilize people to use this information?”; “What are the newsletter duties I can associate the most with the watchdog role?”.

Another strategy I found helpful, which was also recommended by Braun and Clarke (2022, p. 55), was having research questions that were aligned with the “assumptions of a qualitative paradigm.” Writing them in post-it notes arranged around me while I was reading and doing thesis work ultimately helped me keep what I wanted to answer in mind at all times.

The results of this analysis and the main themes and subthemes discovered in the newsletter content are outlined in the next chapter.

## 4. FINDINGS

The purpose of this study was to understand how *Fiquem Sabendo*'s newsletter "*Don't LAI to me*" discusses key concepts related to the LAI, and what tools they provide to citizens to foster a more autonomous and dynamic approach towards government-held information and a more informed citizenry, all while keeping journalistic roles and concepts intrinsic to access to information in mind. As previously stated, "*Don't LAI to me*" is Brazil's pioneer newsletter focusing on the country's access to information system, and to date, there has been no research carried out that has collected and analyzed the content published across its issues, nor evaluated the newsletter's journalistic roles and relevance to transparency and access to information. In total, 148 issues of the newsletter were collected and 147 were retained for analysis, following Braun and Clarke's reflexive thematic analysis method outlined in Chapter 3.

This chapter reports on the findings of this analysis, and explains them according to the six phases outlined by Braun and Clarke (2022). The following sections begin by detailing initial thoughts and preliminary data evaluation techniques consisting, in particular, of the creation of keywords. This chapter then turns attention to an explanation of how codes were created, and finishes by outlining and exploring the main themes and subthemes this analysis led to.

### 4.1. Data analysis

Following the thematic analysis approach (Braun & Clarke, 2022), the first step was to collect the newsletter issues that were published within the timeframe covered in this research, namely January 21, 2019 to April 8, 2024. After doing this gathering work, translating the titles and writing down their publication dates, I read each issue and added keywords of the most interesting subjects, to help me identify what each individual issue was about later in the analysis



process. This idea, initially, was to make *Phase 1: Familiarisation* easier, with the intention of providing a transition into the other phases of analysis. As discussed previously in Chapter 3, the analysis process proved itself to be much more intuitive than anticipated. The keywords added to each issue analysed—what at first I thought were just personal notes—eventually showed themselves to be “preliminary” codes. These keywords summarized how the newsletter discussed certain topics and what the initial journalistic roles I could identify were, making part of the familiarization process also fall into the scope of *Phase 2: Coding*.

The list of codes, which I called ‘keywords’ at first when categorizing the newsletters, are as follows:

- Educational/Fact-checking/Tutorial;
- News stories with LAI;
- Shows evidence;
- Elections;
- Call to action (to different objectives);
- CGU;
- Special edition;
- Institutional/authority/leadership;
- Updates on previously addressed matters;
- TCU;
- Pandemic/Coronavirus/Covid-19;
- Collab: Socio-environmental data monitor;
- Collab: International Center for Journalism (ICFJ) | LAI + FOIA;
- “Who’s using our data?”;

- Provides monitoring/surveillance;
- No Secrecy project;
- Infographic;
- LGPD;
- WikiLAI;
- Award/prize;
- Direct help to journalists/workshops;
- IBAMA;
- News stories with WikiLAI;
- Special comments/recommendations (from a lawyer or other specialist);
- Criticism towards the government;
- Secrecy;
- Transparency;
- Agenda Transparente;
- Lobby na Comida;
- FUNAI;
- Data Fixers project;
- FS community;
- Legislation comments/law excerpts/law explanations;

For this process of generating codes, I had decided that I would keep all keywords that appeared at least two times when analysing the newsletter issues. From there, it was time for *Phase 3: Generating initial themes*. As the Braun and Clarke (2022) clarify, this involves

identifying shared ideas and patterns between the codes, which led me to organize those initial keywords in the following manner:

- ***Fiquem Sabendo's* projects and collaborations with other organizations:**  
Collab: Socio-environmental data monitor; Collab: International Center for Journalism (ICFJ) - LAI + FOIA; No Secrecy Project; WikiLAI; Agenda Transparente; Lobby na Comida; Data Fixers; Comunidade Fiquem Sabendo (FS community).
- **Theory and/or legislation explainer:** Legislation comments/law excerpts/law explanations; Secrecy; Transparency; Special comments/recommendations (from a lawyer or other specialist); WikiLAI; Updates on previously addressed matters; Shows evidence; Elections; LGPD; Shows evidence.
- **Public bodies and state organizations of relevance:** Funai; Ibama; TCU; CGU.
- **Journalism field:** News stories with WikiLAI; Direct help to journalists/workshops; Award/prize; Infographic; “Who’s using our data?”; criticism towards the government.

Throughout the analysis, the code “Special Edition” showed itself to be a bit complicated. As noted earlier in this thesis, while collecting the newsletters it was not uncommon to come across published issues that were not labeled as “*Don’t LAI to me,*” or did not have an issue number (e.g. #14), or had wording such as “Exclusive” in the title. As they stood out, all newsletters that had such characteristics in their title received “Special Edition” as a preliminary keyword, or code. This was primarily done for organizational purposes. I thought of transforming the “Special Edition” code into an initial theme, however, it was difficult to find a narrative connection or a common thread among them. It was not every one of those

newsletters coded as “special edition” that uncovered notable government scandals or did exposés. Some of them did, but other issues were not as relevant or did not portray significant journalistic roles. Nonetheless, some of the issues that had “Exclusive” or “Special Edition” in their title addressed important LAI requests that led to large datasets being released. Issues like these had intrinsic journalistic roles such as:

- The “Adversarial” (Weaver & Wilhoit, 1986, 1996, as cited in Hanitzsch & Vos, 2018), which implicates journalists covering matters that confront political authorities, businesses and the government in general. These newsletter issues usually reported on scandals and exposés of wrongdoing;
- The “Watchdog” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2021) as these newsletter issues contained information that was the result of many months, or even years of constant monitoring and informing the public of wrongdoing hidden behind closed doors;
- The “Investigator” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011), as these newsletter issues shared information that was being kept secret, and exposed information that was at the heart of democratic ideals;
- The “Witness Bearer” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2021), as this content demonstrated constant observation from the newsletter’s team to what was happening in the political and national context, so they could explain and report it to the public.

Finally, I decided the best tentative theme for the “Special Edition” code to fall under was the “Journalism field,” as it combined topics directly associated with journalism, such as the sharing of news stories published in the Brazilian press that had information obtained via LAI requests, or showed infographics designed and conceptualized either from *Fiquem Sabendo* or its partner organizations.

## 4.2. The creation of themes

There were a number of codes that were fairly easy to combine into initial themes, as there existed clear similarities among them. For example, the codes “News stories with LAI,” “Award/prize” and “Criticism towards the government” all have journalism as their common thread—they shared news stories that had been published using data obtained via LAI, the awards and prizes the newsletter won were always related to a journalism award or journalistic organization and, finally, content that criticized the government clearly fit the “Adversarial”<sup>32</sup> journalism role; so it was intuitive to combine them into the “Journalism field” initial theme.

However, other keywords (or codes) were wide-ranging or so unique and complex that they did not immediately fit into any of the four tentative themes/categories noted above in section 4.1 Data analysis (pp. 46-50). Rather, after revisiting the initial codes and themes, it became clear they could act as larger “umbrellas” for these other tentative themes to fall under. These codes showed themselves as strong possible main themes, as they carried with them many journalistic roles and had potential to answer the research questions put forward by this thesis project. In the end, this was the case for the following codes:

- Educational/Fact-checking/Tutorial;
- Call to action;
- Institutional/leadership/authority;
- Provides monitoring/surveillance.

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<sup>32</sup> Weaver and Wilhoit (1986, 1996, as cited in Hanitzsch and Vos, 2018).

Starting off with **“Educational/Fact-checking/Tutorial,”** it is important to mention that this code was seen in the vast majority of newsletters analysed. This particular code stood out not only because of its complexity and frequency, but due to the journalistic roles embedded in it, and because of the questions related to it we can ask: Who are they trying to educate with these explanations? How are they fact-checking the information presented in the newsletters? The tutorials they provide are targeted to whom?

In terms of journalistic roles, the **“Educational/Fact-checking/Tutorial”** code fulfills the following journalistic roles previously discussed in Chapter 2:

- The “Interpreter” (Weaver & Wilhoit 1986, 1996, as cited in Hanitzsch & Vos, 2018), as this role entails collecting information and providing explanation and analysis of complex matters;
- The “Journalism of Verification” role (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011), where journalists are expected to provide a comprehensive report on the facts, putting them in context and helping to give the events covered more depth and meaning;
- The “Sense Maker” role (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011), where journalists search for connections among the facts and help the public understand the bigger picture, as well as facilitating reflection and thinking.

It is also possible to see this code fulfilling what Kovach & Rosenstiel (2021) describe in *Elements of Journalism*, namely “Engagement and Relevance,” where one of journalism’s responsibilities is to not just provide information, “but also provid[e] it in such a way that people will be inclined to both encounter it and consider it useful” (p. 253). Another important matter that the authors explain while scrutinizing this element is the process by which journalists decide

what to cover. *Fiquem Sabendo* was able to identify this gap in the news where journalists were deciding not to cover issues that would involve submitting access requests, and wouldn't search or use the LAI system as a way to find subjects to cover. As a response to this, the "*Don't LAI to me*" newsletter started doing this work themselves, giving journalists a little "push" and the "raw materials," so to say, to kickstart coverage that uses information accessed through the LAI in the name of public transparency.

The "**Call to action**" code was a very interesting one, as it appeared many times across newsletter issues, and had different purposes:

For example, a number of newsletters contained an invitation to "Join the task force for the *No Secrecy*" project (as seen in "*Don't LAI to me*" issues #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #10, #14, #16). This project had the goal of disclosing public documents from the federal government that had already lost their label as secretive, but were still being hidden from society;

The invitation to follow "*Don't LAI to me*"/*Fiquem Sabendo*'s social media profiles (as seen in "*Don't LAI to me*" issues #19, #20, #21, #22) and other *Fiquem Sabendo* initiatives (as seen in "*Don't LAI to me*" #79, #96, #101, #102, #108, #113) seeks to encourage newsletter subscribers to follow the work they do via social media and other projects in order to understand what the LAI is and how to use it, or even for readers to deepen their knowledge of the legislation.;

Another common type of invitation to "follow the lead": for example, as seen in "*Don't LAI to me*" #32, newsletter subscribers are encouraged to request reports on domestic violence from police in their respective states. Similarly, newsletter #38, discusses the use of public

money in ads about the reform of the pension system. It invited readers to “follow the lead” by asking:

*“How about asking for this information from other public bodies, including state and municipal ones? Even if they were done by private advertising agencies, cite these cases as a precedent. The money is public and so is its destination.”*

This “follow the lead” prompt or “call to action” helps encourage citizens to use the LAI and to get into the habit of making requests themselves.

### **Figure 13**

*Don't LAI to me #56: We are suing Abin for less secrecy with public documents. And you can help us.*

**É aqui que você entra.**

Para além da ação judicial, continuamos registrando pedidos e registrando recursos nos órgãos federais que mais desclassificaram documentos. No mês passado, uma decisão da CGU fez com que a Abin **tivesse de abrir uma pequena parte** das informações. Isto gera um bom precedente para a transparência: outras pessoas que solicitarem informações desclassificadas deste órgão, em tese, também terão direito de acessá-las. Mais do que isso: os documentos mostram que nem sempre há necessidade de classificação. Há até mesmo **informações** que já haviam sido noticiadas na imprensa. Por que haveria, então, sigilo?

Convidamos todos os inscritos nesta newsletter a registrar pedidos de informação ao Gabinete de Segurança Institucional da Presidência da República (GSI-PR) e pedir acesso a documentos desclassificados, tanto do GSI quanto da Abin. A lista completa de documentos desclassificados **pode ser acessada aqui**. Vamos mostrar ao governo que existe interesse público nesses documentos e que a sociedade civil está atenta!



**Note:** Figure 13 reads:

*“In addition to the lawsuit, we continue to file requests and appeals with the federal agencies that have declassified the most documents. Last month, a decision by CGU meant that Abin had to open up a small amount of information. This sets a good precedent for transparency: other people who request declassified information from this agency, in theory, will also have the right to access it. More than that: the documents show that there is not always a need for classification. There is even information that has already been reported in the press. So why should there be secrecy? We invite all subscribers to this newsletter to file requests for information with the Office of Institutional Security of the Presidency of the Republic (GSI-PR) and request access to declassified documents, both from the GSI and Abin. The full list of declassified documents can be accessed here. Let's show the government that there is a public interest in these documents and that civil society is paying attention!”*

Another invitation asks subscribers to donate to the crowdfunding campaign. It reads: “Helping those who work with data protection ultimately helps your right to access the truth,” (as seen in “*Don’t LAI to me*” issue #34). Something interesting about the direct request from their readership to donate is that they attribute the financial aid to a contribution toward enhancing public transparency. Other than that, their accountability towards the donations is very clear, as seen in the following explanation included in “*Don’t LAI to me*” issue #42”:

**Figure 14**

*Don’t LAI to me #42: In a pandemic year, number of Anvisa employees is the lowest since 2007*

E se você acompanha e aprova o nosso trabalho, invista em nossa equipe. **Nosso Catarse está de cara nova!** Graças aos nossos fiéis apoiadores, atingimos 61% da nossa meta de financiamento e estamos mais empenhados do que nunca em alcançar nosso objetivo: levantar R\$ 2.000,00 por mês.

O que vamos fazer com esse dinheiro? Contratar um profissional para focar integralmente na liberação de dados essenciais para o combate à crise da COVID-19 e nas ações do poder público no pós-pandemia.



*Note.* Figure 14 reads:

*“If you follow and approve of our work, invest in our team. Our Catarse<sup>33</sup> has a new look! Thanks to our loyal supporters, we reached 61% of our funding goal and we are more committed than ever to reach our target of raising R\$2,000 a month. What are we doing with this money, you may ask? We are going to hire a professional to focus entirely on releasing essential data to fight the Covid-19 crisis and on the actions of public authorities in the post-pandemic.”*

*‘During crisis times → transparency saves lives → we need you in this fight’*

A similar request can be seen in the following example:

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<sup>33</sup>Catarse is a crowdfunding platform in Brazil. It helps organizations and individuals raise funds for projects and initiatives, operating on a reward basis. When someone donates via Catarse, the project that received the money will usually offer incentives or products to contributors.

**Figure 15**

*Don't LAI to me #35: With financial crisis during the pandemic, number of FIES defaulters increases*

Você acredita na importância da transparência pública e do acesso à informação em tempos de crise? **Apoie a equipe da Fiquem Sabendo.**



*Note:* Figure 15 reads:

*“Do you believe in the importance of public transparency and access to information during crisis times? Support the Fiquem Sabendo team.*

*‘Support our work - Catarse’.*

In the special edition sent on July 27, 2020, another interesting example of a “call to action” is how they ask their readers to help them interpret some laws: “Do you understand the laws that regulate pensions? We are searching for specialists who can help! Can you help us understand the laws that regulate pensions from the federal government? Please email [contato@fiquemsabendo.com.br](mailto:contato@fiquemsabendo.com.br) or reply to this email.” These are examples of call to actions

that aim to invite citizens to get directly involved in the work that *Fiquem Sabendo* does, actively helping increase transparency in Brazil and putting the legislation into action.

Another frequent call to action across newsletter issues was for readers to provide feedback. For example, many newsletter issues would share surveys and forms for readers to fill out and report back on what their thoughts were on the type of content the newsletter contained and what other types of information people would like to see (as seen in “*Don’t LAI to me*” issues #73, #100, and others).

This “**Call to action**” code clearly fulfills the role of the “Populist mobilizer,” (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2018) as it objectively and clearly invites readers of the newsletter to perform important tasks. As Hanitzsch and Vos (2018) outline, this particular role has journalists actively encouraging citizens to perform and engage in civil duties, ultimately making journalists an important agent in political involvement. Other roles being fulfilled here include:

- The “Forum Organizer,” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011) which creates spaces for the readership to both express their opinions about and expectations of the newsletter, but also facilitate an environment where citizens could actively participate in their projects and overall news-making process;
- The “Empowerer” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011) is another role that we can see, since the newsletter team constantly reminds citizens of their importance in advocating for transparency, and consistently presents readers of the newsletter with opportunities to help and support their work.

The code “**Institutional/leadership/authority**” was also a major one seen throughout the newsletter analysis, as it usually reiterated the organization’s commitment to the public.

Content coded as such often used wording such as that seen in “*Don’t LAI to me*” issue #8: “Our commitment to you, subscriber, is to deliver a completely new document or tutorial every 15 days. Our goal is for you - citizen, activist, journalist, researcher or open data enthusiast - to make use of this information in an increasingly proficient way.”

Besides raising awareness of their goals as an institution, newsletters coded as “Institutional/leadership/authority” also cited initiatives and other past work they did that helped position them as an authority and leader in the matters of access to public information, transparency and open data journalism. A few examples of this are seen in issues where they mention the journalistic awards they have won, how many news stories were published in the press because of their findings, their support towards journalism events, workshops and congresses, and so on.

Similarly, the newsletter highlighted the many times their team was invited to participate in projects with other organizations in the ATI and journalism worlds, as well as the times they were invited to participate in government initiatives related to increasing transparency (as seen in “*Don’t LAI to me*” issues #16, #17, #21, #23, and others).

An important journalistic role present in these examples is the “Role Model” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011), as the newsletter presents evidence that the organization is living up to its claims and objectives, potentially inspiring others to do so as well. Lastly, the “**Provides monitoring/surveillance**” code is the clearest example of the watchdog role in the analysis. This was a keyword I used frequently, as the vast majority of newsletters analysed discussed topics that needed so much background information, research, explanation, constant refreshing of public bodies’ portals and regular access to information requests submissions. As expected,

the roles embedded in this code were the “watchdog,” the “investigator” and the “witness bearer” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011; 2021)

Considering how rich and complex the keywords “Educational/Fact-checking-Tutorial,” “Special edition,” “Call to action,” Institutional/leadership/authority,” and “Provides monitoring/surveillance” are, *Phase 3: Generating initial themes* merged with *Phase 4: Developing and reviewing themes*. As Braun and Clarke (2022) observe, *Phase 4* includes testing how viable the candidate themes are and assessing whether they demonstrate a clear narrative thread. During these phases, these themes were refined and consolidated into final themes. At this point of the analysis, the list of preliminary themes contained the following:

- ***Fiquem Sabendo’s* projects and collaborations with other organizations;**
- **Theory and/or legislation explainer;**
- **Public bodies and state organizations of relevance;**
- **Journalism field;**

And:

- **Educational/Fact-checking/Tutorial;**
- **Call to action;**
- **Institutional/leadership/authority;**
- **Provides monitoring/surveillance.**

As noted by Braun and Clarke (2022), *Phase 4* includes dealing with a lot of changes and constant testing to see how feasible the themes are. Thus, these tentative themes will collapse into others, or split into new themes. Arriving at *Phase 5: Refining, defining and*

*naming themes*, I noticed that the codes I considered to be “umbrellas” were my main guide to consolidate the preliminary themes into final categories, and to create descriptions of what they were. Finally, four main themes became apparent:

1. **Journalism’s educational role in public transparency:** This theme addresses newsletter content that tries to educate its readership—from providing context and explanations on complex political matters to giving step-by-step guidance on how to write a short, but comprehensive access request to a public body. This content is meant to educate not only journalists, but any citizen that might be just getting started in understanding how the world of public transparency works.
2. **Access mobilizers:** This theme relates to a much-needed role “*Don’t LAI to me*” plays in creating a collective consciousness on the importance of citizen participation and putting the LAI into practice. Moreover, this content implicates important public bodies that oversee the integrity and compliance with the law across the federal government, and makes sure to always “keep the ball rolling” in the journalism world by supporting workshops, giving lectures and participating in government initiatives as a social organization that represents citizens and their rights.
3. **Snoop and scoop:** This theme addresses the watchdog role of journalism, but adds the newsletter’s unique tone and personality to it. The newsletter often uses wordplay, and tries to make complex matters more understandable by making use of accessible language—all while advocating for citizens’ rights, reporting on matters that are at heart of public transparency, actively fighting corruption and wrongdoing.
4. **Key-keepers:** This theme refers to how the newsletter presents itself as a role model and an authority when it comes to accessing public information in Brazil. In that sense, they

introduce themselves not as “gatekeepers,” but key-keepers; if you want to learn about LAI, submit good requests, understand the process of appealing a decision, and so on, *Fiquem Sabendo* and the “*Don't LAI to me*” newsletter can help you find the keys to be able to do this.

An important feature of the newsletter that stood out during the thematic analysis of the “*Don't LAI to me*” content that further helped me create the titles for the four main themes is the number of puns and amount of wordplay used across the issues as comic relief, or as a way to catch readers’ attention and make some topics even more thought-provoking. Throughout the analysis, this proved to be one of *Fiquem Sabendo*'s strategies: to choose simple, yet witty and often amusing language to help make the universe of access to information seem less daunting. Thus, the newsletter ultimately instigates and encourages public interest in topics that are often so complex, and might be considered boring, and seeks to work against discouraging readers through the use of clever language and ways of playing with words. A few examples of this can be seen in:

- Issue #11, *Ghostbusters: Hunting ghost employees in the public service* - a very obvious reference to the blockbuster movie Ghostbusters, (June 17, 2019);
- Issue #12 *Public service BBB: what are civil servants discussing by email?* - referencing the reality show Big Brother Brazil (BBB), which has as its motto “let’s take a peek” (June 26, 2019);
- Issue #28 *Eu SEI de tudo: acessando officios, e-mails e documentos internos nos ministérios e agências*, which translates to “*I know it all [...]*”. The capitalized SEI references the government’s Sistema Eletrônico de Informações - (SEI), or Electronic Information System, which is a tool for managing electronic documents and processes,



and aims to promote administrative efficiency, according to the Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services. “Sei”, in Portuguese, translates to “I know” (02/03/2020);

- In a special (but not numbered) edition sent on May 11, 2020, the newsletter introduces their collaboration with Transparência Brasil and Abraji called *Socio-environmental Data Monitor*. The collaboration is part of a project funded by the Ford Foundation and called *Achados e Pedidos*. The expression “lost and found,” translates to “achados e perdidos” in Portuguese. When you drop the letter “r” in “perdidos,” you have the word “pedidos,” which means “requests.” A more literal translation of this would be “Findings and Requests.”

These are a few examples of the many puns, humour and general playfulness the newsletter often engages in. Although this trend emerged a number of times during the analysis, I decided not to use it as a code or a theme because, despite being interesting, there was no common narrative thread between its occurrences, nor a clear identifiable goal these “editorial/wording” decisions may have had.

The four main themes, and a number of relevant sub-themes, discovered through the thematic analysis are discussed in more detail in the following subsections.

#### **4.2.1. Theme 1: Journalism’s educational role in public transparency: a conscious citizenry is a more active one**

As discussed in Chapter 2, although Brazil has relatively decent legislation on access to public information *on paper*, Brazilian journalists don't make much use of this resource. Because of this, the LAI suffers from a lack of dissemination and consequently, access to public data is

hindered. Furthermore, because the LAI is usually connected to and deals with complicated issues and difficult political situations, many people have little interest in trying to understand how to use the LAI because they believe it is too difficult, time-consuming and far removed from their realities.

This is where *Fiquem Sabendo* comes into the picture and has sought to change and shape how citizens perceive the LAI by creating the “*Don’t LAI to me*” newsletter. Being able to identify this gap and understanding precisely what the lack of "popularity" of the access law implies for the lives of citizens, it has slowly but surely been working towards a more transparent, active and dynamic LAI.

***Sub-theme 1.1: Understanding the LAI scenario and citizen participation***

According to Seibt (2022), “Although citizens have direct access to [public] data, journalism and civil society organizations are important mediators in the scrutiny of public information” (p. 112). *Fiquem Sabendo* is constantly reinforcing its objectives in its main projects, which is the case of WikiLAI and *Agenda Transparente*, for instance—creating a strong network to promote citizen agency and public transparency. The newsletter does this in a number of ways, but its overarching educational role is highlighted in this theme.

The newsletter is educational at its core. In addition to the fact that many issues contain long explanatory texts on complex topics and hyperlinks to other *Fiquem Sabendo* articles that help put certain situations into context, “*Don’t LAI to me*” also publicizes a number of collaborations with other important institutions, such as Abraji and the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ). In these collaborations, the newsletter discusses *Fiquem Sabendo's* role in investigating, explaining and publicizing important issues in the country, ultimately educating

and informing the population about what is happening. More than that, *Fiquem Sabendo* takes on the role of training journalists and others on how to use and insert the LAI in their daily operations—whether that might be a national newsroom, or local initiatives in journalism. Their workshops and talks at universities also show, in practice, its commitment to teaching citizens about the right to know. Thus, the newsletter plays an important role in creating a collective conscience, since it is often possible for the government to distance itself from the population. This journalistic work of explaining and educating citizens, journalists, and activists implies clarifying how, in fact, political decisions directly influence the daily lives of the population.

It is important to note, however, that the newsletter does not limit itself to being a mere explainer of political matters. The role of the Sense Maker (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011) is very perceptible as well, as it ultimately helps people understand information through a compilation of connections and context with/to what is being discussed. The newsletter is not only a disseminator of information that comes through the government, but a bridge, a translator, an interpreter. According to Cunha Filho (2019):

In this context of well informed citizens, political agents would feel compelled to make decisions that would benefit citizens as a whole, or else they could be removed from office in the next electoral cycle. The reasoning, therefore, is that public transparency (T) enables society's political participation in the decision-making process (P), which, in turn, allows citizens to exercise accountability (A) of public officials. This reasoning is known as formula  $T \rightarrow P \rightarrow A$  (Fox, 2015). (p. 50).

In short, journalists and their sense making role are vital to well-informed citizenry. By monitoring governmental actions and reporting back to the public, providing timely and accurate coverage of political and other complex matters culminates in a society who's eager to keep officials accountable and to participate more effectively in democratic governance.

#### **4.2.2. Theme 2: Access mobilizers—a good LAI is a LAI constantly put into practice**

The educational role explained above facilitates a designated learning space within the newsletter. By having a well-informed and equipped readership, the newsletter then can start mobilizing them to take action, to actively participate in decision-making and to keep representatives accountable. Their constant “calls to action” throughout the newsletter issues is a good example of an active measure to combat the LAI’s poor use in the real world. That is, after comprehensively explaining a problem within the government, or sharing a newly created database, the newsletter often invites their readership to engage with this information and data themselves.

The newsletter’s contents not only seeks to drive public participation in democratic affairs, but also pushes the institutions that oversee the compliance with the LAI to be more accountable. Many newsletter issues describe how the team appealed a decision and brought up problems to the CGU, TCU and the CMRI. In this context, it is also important to mention how many public bodies the newsletter’s team researched and investigated throughout the issues — which was the case of Funai, Ibama, SUS, CGU, etc. Countless databases, investigations and problems were thoroughly explained; citizens were invited to act, donate, suggest topics and to continue similar work in the readership’s own communities or hometowns.

##### ***Sub-theme 2.1: Community building and sense of belonging***

Language used across the newsletter plays a big role in creating a sense of community. The newsletter often invites the readership to be a part of the “*Fiquem Sabendo* community,” which they explain is a great opportunity for people to be agents in the fight for transparency in their hometowns. The FS community was developed in the program *Acelerando Negócios*

Digitais (Accelerating Digital Businesses) by the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), supported by Meta. It is a new space powered by FS where members can talk about how to get access to locally-relevant data (as seen in “Organ waiting list in each state and transplants carried out in Brazil since 2012 - “*Don’t LAI to me*” issue #108”).

The creation of new spaces like the FS community is a clear example of how the newsletter carefully tries to spark interest and instill community values in its readership. However, participation in those spaces is crucial, because without citizens’ actions, there can be no actual changes. “*Don’t LAI to me*” knows this, so they provide updates on the FS community, which we can see in “Minha Casa, Minha Vida: one in three units went to families with a monthly income of up to R\$ 1,800; see data by UF - “*Don’t LAI to me*” issue #116”:

*A survey carried out by the FS community evaluated the accessibility of more than one hundred government portals, town halls, legislative assemblies and city councils. The result shows that the majority (77.36%) have some kind of tool, but 23 of the sites analyzed still neglect this important measure for democratizing access to public information.*

This type of update is important to inspire other people to join: seeing results and its implications in the real world is indispensable to spark interest among citizens and a common desire to actively change the *status quo*.

#### **4.2.3. Theme 3: Snoop and scoop: monitor → inspect → question → fact-check → report**

One of this thesis’ research questions asks whether the newsletter performs roles associated with the watchdog role and, if yes, how this becomes apparent in its contents. The following are a few examples instances where the newsletter exemplifies a watchdog orientation:

## Figure 16

*EXCLUSIVE: After a 3-year battle by Fiquem Sabendo, TCU forces federal state-owned companies to publish individual salaries - Don't LAI to me #Special*

### Nota da direção

“Essa é mais uma conquista histórica da Fiquem Sabendo com potencial de economizar milhões e até bilhões de reais aos cofres públicos!”, destaca Maria Vitória Ramos. Quem acompanha essa newsletter sabe que, em 2020, **abrimos as pensões e aposentadorias de inativos** de todos os servidores civis da União e, em 2021, todos os benefícios pagos aos familiares de militares. **Conseguimos todos os pagamentos feitos nos últimos 27 anos, totalizando R\$ 480 bilhões em valores líquidos feitos sem nenhuma transparência.** Esse esforço economiza pelo menos R\$ 6 milhões por ano, segundo estudo preliminar da Controladoria-Geral da União (CGU).

## O jornalismo que acabou com a falta de transparência das pensões no Brasil

por TAÍS SEIBT E MARIA VITÓRIA RAMOS · Aug 8, 2021 em JORNALISMO COLABORATIVO

*Note:* Figure 16 reads:

*Editors' note:*

*"This is yet another historic achievement by Fiquem Sabendo with the potential to save millions and even billions of reais for the public coffers!" says Maria Vitória Ramos. Anyone who follows this newsletter knows that, in 2020, we opened up pensions and retirements for all civil servants and, in 2021, all benefits paid to military family members. We have collected all the payments made over the last 27 years, totaling R\$ 480 billions in net amounts made without any*

*transparency. This effort saves at least R\$ 6 million a year, according to a preliminary study by the Office of the Comptroller General (CGU).*

*“The journalism that ended with the lack of transparency on pensions in Brazil”*

➤ Hamilton Mourão's unpublished invoices detail expenses on tour abroad amid pandemic

- Don't LAI to me #110. Part of the analysis for this newsletter reads:

*“The main topic addressed by issue #110 is FS’s newly added collection of public documents to their DocumentCloud. These documents are receipts that show expenses like R\$ 200 thousand spent on trips outside of Brazil during the pandemic. The newsletter also brings information on who was administering the corporate cards from 2003 to 2022. On another note, the newsletter shares that FS put together a dashboard to illustrate the financial impact to public accounts for the expelling of more than 300 military personnel (a punishment for their involvement with crimes) — which makes them “mortos fictos” and make their family members eligible for pensions”.*

As Seibt (2022) writes, one of the biggest challenges of receiving information from the government was the amount of documents that were not machine readable or that had errors or inconsistencies: “Dozens of spreadsheets with thousands of lines were unreadable by basic statistical software such as Excel and Google Sheets. *Fiquem Sabendo* combined the necessary technical programming knowledge to create an application for easy consultation of the information, which was then made available to the general public. Finally, based on cooperation between professionals, *Fiquem Sabendo* centralized communication with the CGU, reporting flaws and problems with records, providing corrections directly at the source and minimizing errors in publications, which

is the potential of data curation not only for journalism but also for public transparency.”  
(p. 114).

As these examples indicate, many of the newsletter issues cover the team’s investigation, or ‘snooping’ process. Their constant investigations and monitoring of public bodies lead to the creation of other projects, like the *Agenda Transparente*. It was through the constant surveillance of government records and politicians’ schedules to uncover who they were meeting with in public buildings and offices that *Fiquem Sabendo* team discovered, for instance, that past activities in the schedules of previous mandates were no longer available in public databases kept by the federal government (as seen in “Find people and themes in all of the Ministry of Defense's appointments under Bolsonaro using Agenda Transparente's keyword search - “*Don't LAI to me*” #Special”). In response to this missing information, *Fiquem Sabendo* filed dozens of access to information requests to get the records back—which ultimately exemplifies that their work is so much more than just searching and compiling records and documents, but constantly asking for data, processing the information in them, fact-checking them, organizing, and so on. This work demonstrates FS’s commitment to transparency and created the *Agenda Transparente* as a tool where citizens can monitor possible conflicts of interest in the exercise of public office.

#### **4.2.4. Theme 4: Key-keepers: LAI leaders and mentors**

“*Don't LAI to me*” is the pioneer newsletter in Brazil that focuses on access to information and, because of this, it inserts itself in the media as the leader in matters involving access to information, and the biggest authority on issues where LAI and journalism overlap. This can be seen in the constant reminders across the newsletter issues that reiterate how deeply



committed they are to sharing important information in a transparent and knowledgeable manner. Additionally, “*Don’t LAI to me*” regularly reminds its readers about the awards it has won and its ceaseless work as a civil society organization that advocates for the rights of citizens, in order to solidify its authority. Some examples of such reminders include:

- We opened the pensions of military personnel expelled from the Navy and Air Force - Don’t LAI to me #107: “Fiquem Sabendo has taken another step in its work to improve public transparency in the country: we have had our first piece of proposed legislation approved in the Chamber of Deputies. Filed by federal deputy Tábata Amaral (PSB-SP) and other parliamentarians, PL 2725/2022 was unanimously approved and now awaits consideration by the Senate. The law aims to make the right of access to the results of quality assessments and school performance of municipal, state and federal educational institutions compulsory.”
- Bolsonaro government has closed access to the list of those already fined for slave labour - Don’t LAI to me #68: they cite that Fiquem Sabendo was cited in the final report written on the Covid’s CPI, which was a parliamentary inquiry commission created to investigate and assess claimed irregularities in the federal government during the pandemic.

**Figure 17**

*We overturned the anonymity of those who deforested conservation zones - Don’t LAI to me #71*

## Esta é a última edição de 2021! Veja o que está por vir

Garantir transparência pública não é tarefa das mais simples. Não bastasse os problemas técnicos de acesso a dados públicos, o governo federal nem sequer esconde mais que **esconde dados** por questões políticas. Outro novo obstáculo é a interpretação indevida da **Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados** (LGPD), que tem sido motivo frequente para censurar documentos.

Os desafios exigem fortalecimento do nosso trabalho. Em 2021 lançamos a **WikiLAI**, o primeiro portal dedicado exclusivamente à Lei de Acesso à Informação, vencemos o Desafio da Inovação da Google News Initiative e vamos desenvolver uma plataforma para facilitar o monitoramento da agenda de autoridades, a **Agenda Transparente**. Nosso trabalho teve impactos concretos: fomos citados no **relatório final da CPI da Pandemia** e em **centenas** de reportagens da imprensa local, nacional e até **internacional**. Ganhamos **prêmios** e também fomos homenageados “**pelo apoio ao trabalho jornalístico**”.

Para 2022, podem aguardar novidades sobre a WikiLAI e o Agenda Transparente 😊 E claro, contem com a gente mais uma vez para estar na linha de frente da batalha pela transparência pública, pressionando tomadores de decisão por um governo mais aberto.

Se você quiser somar nessa luta também, **veja como apoiar nosso trabalho em [catarse.me/fiquemsabendo](https://catarse.me/fiquemsabendo) ou faça um PIX para a FS**. Vamos fiscalizar o poder público juntas e juntos!

Enquanto a próxima newsletter não chega, acompanhe a **@\_fiquemsabendo** nas redes para saber das novidades.

Agradecemos a todos que nos acompanham e nos vemos em breve!

Boas festas! 🍷

**Note:** Figure 17 reads:

*This is the last issue of 2021! See what's coming next*

*Ensuring public transparency is no easy task. Aside from the technical problems of accessing public data, the federal government doesn't even hide anymore that it [hides data](#) for political reasons. Another new obstacle is the misinterpretation of the [General Data Protection Law \(LGPD\)](#), which has often been used to censor documents. The challenges require us to strengthen our work. In 2021 we launched [WikiLAI](#), the first portal dedicated exclusively to the Access to Information Law, we won the Google News Initiative Innovation Challenge and we are going to develop a platform to make the monitoring of the authorities' agenda easier, the [Agenda Transparente](#). Our work has had concrete impacts: we were cited in the [final report of the Covid's CPI](#) and in [hundreds](#) of local, national and even [international](#) press reports. We won [awards](#) and were also honored "[for supporting journalistic work](#)". For 2022, you can look forward to news about WikiLAI and the Agenda Transparente 🥳 And of course, count on us once again to be at the forefront of the battle for public transparency, pressuring decision-makers for a more open government. If you'd like to join the fight too, see how you can support our work at [catarse.me/fiquemsabendo](https://catarse.me/fiquemsabendo) or send a PIX<sup>34</sup> to FS. Let's monitor public authorities together! While the next newsletter doesn't arrive, follow [@\\_fiquemsabendo](#) on social media to find out what's new. We thank everyone who follows us and we'll see you soon! Happy holidays!*



- On International Access to Information Day, you can't miss FS's new website - Don't LAI to me #Special: In this newsletter issue, they introduce *Fiquem Sabendo*'s new

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<sup>34</sup> Pix is how a direct banking deposit is called in Brazil, similar to what an Interac is in Canada.

website and define their work as complex, integrated, multidisciplinary. Part of the analysis of this issue reads:

*“We’ve overcome the labeling crisis (are we a data agency, a transparency NGO, a media outlet?), and today we understand that we occupy a space that didn’t exist before. That’s why it’s difficult to fit our work into any pre-existing category. Gustavo Faleiros, environmental investigations editor at the Pulitzer Center, understands the space we have conquered: ‘I’ve been following FS’s work since the beginning and I can say that they play a unique and very important role in Brazil. Nobody does what they do!’*

*And Kátia Brembatti, president of Abraji, joins the chorus: ‘I don’t know anyone in Brazil who does the work that Fiquem Sabendo does. It’s a story built up over all these years showing the relevance of the LAI to citizenship.’*

*The newsletter includes a call to action for folks to join the FS community and share some new features: New program available in their Education pillar: LAI for Communication professionals - in partnership with Abraji and funded by “The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives”.; Advocacy pillar: their bill was approved in the Chamber of Deputies. They also share how they have been acting towards influencing the government to more and better public policies and that the CGU invited them to guide the development of the 6th National Action Plan in Open Government in Brazil”.*

These newsletter excerpts exemplify how committed the “Don’t LAI to me” team is in showcasing themselves as pioneers in the access to information landscape in Brazil. By providing recaps like the ones shown above, they reiterate the tireless work they have been doing towards a more transparent country, and by training other journalists and interested citizens.

Roles like the “role model” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011) fit here, as they provide enough proof to show how committed they are with their own claims and promises of creating a network that facilitates more public transparency. Additionally, with projects like the WikiLAI, it is possible to see them fulfilling the role of the “smart aggregator” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011), for instance, as they monitor many sources to combine large volumes of LAI information on one website (WikiLAI).

### **4.3 Findings summary**

In short, the thematic analysis done on 147 issues of the “*Don’t LAI to me*” newsletter resulted in four major themes, namely (1) Journalism’s educational role in public transparency, (2) Access mobilizers, (3) Snoop and scoop, and (4) Key-keepers. These themes exemplify the newsletter’s position as a publication that aims to popularize the use of the LAI and to promote the engagement of citizens in the control of the federal government and its institutions. Additionally, the themes show the newsletter’s commitment to disseminate tutorials, databases and other information about the LAI or with data obtained via LAI.

A number of theoretical roles of journalism are also apparent in the newsletter's content, including: the watchdog, the sense maker, the role model, the adversarial, among others. The next chapter puts these findings into conversation with scholarship on the roles of journalism, and what is needed from journalists in terms of access to information and transparency.

## 5. DISCUSSION

The previous chapter outlined how textual data obtained from 147 issues of the “Don’t LAI to me” newsletter transformed through the phases of thematic analysis, and eventually led to the formalization of four main themes. This Discussion chapter seeks to outline how the research findings help answer this thesis's three research questions, and discusses the how the four themes presented in Chapter 4 translate to the LAI system’s reality in Brazil’s and, most importantly, how citizens, journalists, activists and politicians can benefit from the knowledge shared by *Fiquem Sabendo*’s “Don’t LAI to me” newsletter.

**5.1 Research question one:** What themes about Brazil’s LAI are present across the 147 issues of the newsletter analyzed in this research?

Putting the first research question in perspective, it is possible to say that both the Literature Review and the Findings chapters show how challenging the world of the LAI can be for Brazilian journalists and other citizens, with a general lack of knowledge about and low use of the legislation posing significant difficulties. *Fiquem Sabendo* identified these problems and created the newsletter “Don’t LAI to me” to “serve as a bridge between those who need information and the tools to obtain it.”<sup>35</sup> Each one of the four main themes that emerged from the thematic analysis demonstrate how the newsletter’s team fights these challenges. To reiterate, these themes are:

1. Journalism’s educational role in public transparency: a conscious citizenry is a more active one;

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<sup>35</sup>Fiquem Sabendo, WikiLAI. Available at: [https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Don%27t\\_LAI\\_to\\_me](https://wikilai.fiquemsabendo.com.br/wiki/Don%27t_LAI_to_me). Accessed on august 13th, 2024.

2. Access mobilizers—a good LAI is a LAI constantly put into practice;
3. Snoop and scoop: monitor → inspect → question → fact-check → report;
4. Key keepers: LAI leaders and mentors.

Regarding Theme 1, we saw in the Literature Review and in contextual information about access to information in the Brazilian context that the legislation is not greatly explored, especially by journalists. Aiming to change that, “*Don’t LAI to me*” provides a number of tutorials and learning opportunities to educate citizens both in the importance of the law, and in how to make the best use of it.

In issue #57, one of the topics addressed is the exchange of political documents and communications with embassies and consulates. There, they discussed how tricky access to those documents can be and shared some tips provided by the MRE (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to simplify the process—a clear example of its “smart aggregator” role.

Another example can be seen in issue #87, for instance, where the newsletter shares a few spreadsheets put together by their Data Fixers project. They provide a section titled “Understand how to read the spreadsheets,” where they explain how the information is organized, ultimately helping people with their interpretations and raising the data’s accessibility.

In *Theme 2: Access mobilizers*, the expression “call to action” is most appropriate to describe how present this theme is across the newsletter issues analysed. From invitations to follow them on social media, to join the FS community and special projects like the “No Secrecy Project,” the newsletter is very consistent in its role of mobilizing people to put their own knowledge of the access legislation into practice. Examples of this theme, as discussed in the Findings chapter, illustrate roles like the “populist mobilizer” (Weaver & Wilhoit. 1986, 1996, as

cited in Hanitzsch and Vos, 2018) and “interest-group journalism” (Kovach & Rosenstiel 2011), where its objective is to effect political outcomes.

*Theme 3: Snoop and scoop* was identifiable through the topics the newsletter investigated and the large bodies of data uncovered by the organization, as was the case with the civil pensioners story. Here, “*Don’t LAI to me*” was able to uncover data that was hidden from the public for more than 50 years. *Fiquem Sabendo*’s thorough investigation of the matter led to the unprecedented work of sharing historical data, correcting mistakes in spreadsheets and collaborating with the Ministry of Economy, updating the amounts paid to the pensioners according to inflation, and creating a [platform](#) with data scientist Fernando Barbalho to make accessing the data even easier. For this, *Fiquem Sabendo* was a finalist in the *Sigma Awards*, recognized as the world’s most influential prize in data journalism. They also won the national prize *Livre.Jor* and were a finalist in the *Cláudio Weber Abramo* award for the second time, showing strengths in investigative and prosecutorial journalism.

Additionally, the watchdog role is connected to justice, and these topics were extensively covered by the newsletter:

### **Figure 18**

*We’ve opened more than 700 reports of fines for slave-like labor - Don’t LAI to me #95*



## ■ Acesse mais de 700 relatórios de autuação por trabalho escravo

Quem acompanha essa newsletter há mais tempo deve se lembrar que a Fiquem Sabendo tem tentado, ao menos desde 2021, trazer mais transparência às informações sobre quem é autuado por **trabalho escravo** no Brasil. Queremos saber não só **quem foi autuado**, mas em quais situações - o que pode ser respondido por meio do relatório do auto de infração. Depois de muita **insistência** por quase dois anos, convencemos o governo federal a liberar estes relatórios, inclusive em **transparência ativa** (ou seja, a partir de agora irá disponibilizar por iniciativa própria, sem que algum cidadão solicite).

**Note:** Figure 18 reads:

*Those who have been following the newsletter for longer may remember that Fiquem Sabendo has been trying at least since 2021 to bring more transparency to the information about who is being fined for slave labor in Brazil. We want to know not only who has been fined, but in what situations - which can be answered through the infraction report. After a lot of insistence for almost two years, we convinced the federal government to release these reports, including in active transparency (meaning from now on they will be made available on the government's own initiative, without any citizen having to request it).*

Part of the analysis for this newsletter issue reads:

*"1.4 thousand people rescued from slave labor in 2023 and other historical series with data by UF to close the year - Don't LAI to me #114 - the main topic addressed is slave labor - 200 rescued men shocked the media in the beginning of the year. The newsletter writes that they have been constantly monitoring data on slave labor, and share that they now have a*

*spreadsheet with all operations since 1995, including year, city, state and number of workers rescued. On the same note, they share all operations monitoring child labor between 2017 and 2023”.*

*Theme 4: Key-keepers* was also present in numerous newsletter issues, including the following:

### **Figure 19**

*After Fiquem Sabendo’s complaint, government opens up 27 years of data of civil pensioners - Don’t LAI to me #Special*

**Após denúncia da Fiquem Sabendo,  
governo libera 27 anos de dados de  
pensionistas civis - Don't LAI to Me  
#Especial**

Veja o detalhamento dos quase 100 milhões de pagamentos realizados;  
CGU prepara publicação das pensões pagas a parentes de militares  
para o segundo semestre

FIQUEM SABENDO  
JUL 27, 2020

**Note:** Figure 19 reads:

*After Fiquem Sabendo’s complaint, government opens up 27 years of data of civil pensioners - Don’t LAI to me #Special*

*See the breakdown of almost 100 million of payments made; CGU prepares publication of pensions paid to relatives of military personnel for the second semester.*

*Fiquem Sabendo, July 27th, 2020.*

Part of the analysis of this newsletter issue reads:

*“This special issue brings updates on a topic that was discussed many times, in many past issues: data on the country’s pensioners. The newsletter shares a historical win with the TCU (once more): after a dispute that lasted for more than three years, now all payments from the Union to pensioners have to be public and accessible to all. What before was only two months of data from the last two years of 2019, now became 26 years of data available: from 1994 to May 2020. They explain other details from the TCU’s decision and how to access what is available. They provide a tutorial and guides on how to interpret the data and some of the platform’s flaws. The newsletter editors do a call to action asking the readership to donate to help them with their next “battles”; they also ask if there are any specialists on laws that oversee and regulate pensions that read the newsletter and would be available to help navigate the database”.*

This example illustrates how the newsletter inserts itself as an institution that actively fights for transparency: it was through their work and a three-year dispute with the TCU that the government finally agreed to open many years of data, ultimately showing how their work directly affects society through the uncovering of wrongdoing, and how important they are in this fight.

**5.2 Research question two:** How does the newsletter seek to inform citizens about LAI and mobilize them to use it?

Regarding research question two and how the newsletter mobilizes citizens and professionals like journalists to use the LAI, the findings point to a number of ways “*Don’t LAI to me*” attempts to get people involved through various “calls to action.”

As seen in Chapter 2, the LAI is not very popular among journalists; since the legislation came into force in 2012, only 1,408,197 requests<sup>36</sup> have been submitted, which is an average of a little more than 117,000 per year for the past 12 years. These figures are low if we consider that Brazil is a country that has a population of more than 200 million people, an antidemocratic history, and high levels of political corruption.

The analysis performed on the newsletter allowed us to see how needed the LAI is, as it is a great tool for transparency and democracy—in theory. Making practical use of this resource means actively fighting corruption and maintaining society’s right to know—the more people submitting access requests, the more room is created for legislation improvements, the creation of standards and precedents and, most importantly, pressure on the government. It is important to remember that voting is not the only democratic tool citizens have, and the LAI is a great other way people can exercise their citizenship.

To have people use the LAI and request information for themselves about their community and state governments, the newsletter *“Don’t LAI to me”* provides an extensive education. The published newsletters have many texts that aim to explain complex political matters, cases of corruption and government scandals, for example, which ultimately helped to put in context what was happening on a national level for readers of the newsletter—ultimately demonstrating how whatever was going on affected the lives of the Brazilian population directly. Additionally, the newsletter also always clarifies data obtained via LAI, which is important to help people make sense of the information and understand the real implications of them.

Kovach and Rosenstiel (2021) state that “A news organization needs to create content that is indispensable, unique, and of such quality and frequency that it makes its subscribers’ lives

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<sup>36</sup>CGU - Painel Lei de Acesso à Informação. Available at: <https://centralpaineis.cgu.gov.br/visualizar/lai>. Accessed on August 13th, 2024.

better” (p. 286). Through analysing the content of the “*Don’t LAI to me*” newsletter and the main themes found in it, it is possible to affirm the content provided and curated in them is not only relevant to citizens, but to journalists and so many more people, as it helps create a deeper understanding and collective consciousness about what the LAI is and why is it so important that people use it.

**5.3 Research question three:** Does the newsletter perform duties associated with the watchdog role of journalism? How are these present in the newsletter’s content?

As this work has analysed and discussed in Chapter 4, it is possible to affirm that the newsletter “*Don’t LAI to me*” indeed fulfills aspects of the watchdog role of journalism. It does so by staying constantly vigilant of the government: they are always on the lookout for documents that are about to lose their secrecy label, are consistently submitting access to information requests and demanding public interest data, fact-checking newly released government information, tracking expenditures and meetings held in public buildings and reporting and sharing data on human rights and environmental violations—that is, the journalists and writers involved in producing the content for “*Don’t LAI to me*” cover topics from all angles. The organization behind “*Don’t LAI to me*” tirelessly shares information about corruption in Brazilian federal universities, scandals within the Armed Forces and databases from DataSUS that contain critical information on the population’s health.

Despite such relevant and real-life implications, the watchdog role has some limitations when applied to the work the newsletter does. For example, in many cases their work has directly been affected by the limitations of the access legislation itself is one of the reasons why they call on their readers to join a number of initiatives and submit hundreds of ATI requests, like for the “No Secrecy Project,” for instance. In this particular example, *Fiquem Sabendo* aimed to assess

the reasons why some documents were labeled as “reserved,” which is the lowest level of secrecy that keeps them concealed for five years. The LAI demands that when this label expires, these documents are required to be disclosed via proactive transparency—but not every public body complies with this. The “No Secrecy Project” was created to request as many documents that recently lost their secrecy label as possible from countless ministries and other public bodies. Challenges for the project included the government institutions’ lack of compliance with the LAI (not proactively sharing of documents) and the number of documents that need to be individually requested by *Fiquem Sabendo* and volunteers from the “No Secrecy Project.”

In this case, the journalists’ findings and the quality of the resulting work were directly related to the number of ATI requests being submitted at the same time—lack of reliable help and support from others could undermine the effectiveness of their work and, as a consequence, encourage skepticism from citizens about the relevance and impact of their work in society. Additionally, it is no surprise how lengthy and costly journalistic investigations can be. As investigating, monitoring and vigilance are directly connected to the watchdog role, and considering that *Fiquem Sabendo* and their “*Don’t LAI to me*” newsletter are a non-profit organization, they constantly depend on donations and funding opportunities from other organizations, which ultimately can affect the maintenance and quality of their work.

However, the watchdog role was not the only role the newsletter fulfills, as shown in the Findings chapter. A few examples are the role of “Journalism of Verification” (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2011), as they provide thorough reports and analysis on facts; and the “Populist mobilizer” (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2018), because it invites readers to perform important tasks, reinforcing how important citizens are in civil duties. These roles help diversify what the newsletter does, and shows how wide-ranging and politically relevant it is—which ultimately

contributes to its national and international relevance, serving as a good example and opportunity for important journalism and freedom of information institutions around the world.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Although often burdensome to deal with, the Brazilian LAI is one of democracy's most valuable tools to hold those in power to account and share important information with the general public. The purpose of this thesis was to collect data and analyse how *Fiquem Sabendo's* newsletter "*Don't LAI to me*" uses the LAI, writes about it, and how it fights to make the LAI more widely known by constantly working to mobilize citizens and help them understand how to use it. In addition, this research aimed to understand how the newsletter performs a number of journalistic roles, especially the watchdog, and how it fosters democracy through education about and use of access laws.

The method used to conduct this research was a thematic analysis (TA) following the approach outlined by Braun and Clarke (2022; 2006). A TA was carried out on the content of 147 newsletter issues, revealing four main themes, namely 1. Journalism's educational role in public transparency;; 2. Access mobilizers;3. Snoop and scoop; and 4. Key-keepers.

These themes demonstrate how "*Don't LAI to me*" approaches the access legislation in Brazil in a number of ways. The findings of this research ultimately indicate that the newsletter does indeed exemplify a number of journalistic roles. It also points to consistent efforts to mobilize citizens into participating in democratic processes by making use of the access legislation. There is no known work that has extensively studied the "*Don't LAI to me*" approach and content, and I believe journalists and other researchers will be able to understand, through this thesis' results, the many ways it provides insights into the relevance of access legislation both to the country and Brazilian citizens. Reading and analysing such a large number of newsletters helped illuminate what the priorities and strategies "*Don't LAI to me*" are and how they use them to ensure political issues and other sensitive topics, like secrecy, are communicated in an accessible manner. Finally,



I hope this research will inspire further projects and collaborations that focus on raising Brazilians' legal literacy levels on access legislations, and ultimately enlighten and help shape views towards a more transparent government and increased citizen participation.

It is important to mention, however, the limitations this research has. As I had such a large corpus to analyse, it is possible this research may have overlooked additional nuances that were present in the issues of "*Don't LAI to me.*" Additionally, because the newsletter has been published since 2019, it was not uncommon to come across links that did not work anymore, governmental portals and systems that migrated to others, and even amendments and changes to the legislation over time, which required extra attention.

Another particularity that might be worthwhile mentioning is the fact that language used in legislation and political matters is often very specific and complicated, and reading it in its original Brazilian Portuguese and translating relevant material to English was a challenge. As discussed earlier, because of my direct connection to Brazil and being a journalist, my interpretations of the newsletter contents may have biased the analysis process. That said, as Braun and Clarke (2022) note, researcher subjectivity is an inevitable and often useful part of the thematic analysis process. This project and its findings indicate much room for further research and investigation, such as conducting similar studies in media from other countries with other RTI ratings, and assessing the impact of journalistic coverage on access to information by conducting interviews with the "*Don't LAI to me*" readership. Studying reader perception and collecting data on engagement rates with the LAI might also be enlightening for future research on this topic.

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## APPENDIX 1

### Issues of “*Don’t LAI to me*” included in this research

1. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo’s website under “Posts”, tag “Transparency”: <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/bolsonaro-anatel-contas-falsas>.  
Bolsonaro alertou Anatel sobre falsas contas de celular em seu nome - Don’t LAI to me #1.  
Bolsonaro warned Anatel about fake cell phone accounts/bills in his name - Don’t LAI to me #1. (29/01/2019).
2. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo’s website under “Posts”, tag “Transparency”: <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/edicao-2-newsletter>.  
Telegramas do MEC e mudanças na LAI - Don’t LAI to me #2.  
Telegrams from the Ministry of Education and LAI changes - Don’t LAI to me #2.
3. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo’s website under "Posts", tag "Transparency": <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/ufmt-documentos-sigilosos>.  
UFMT: até pesquisa sobre flauta sob sigilo na federal - Don’t LAI to me #3.  
UFMT (Federal University of Mato Grosso): even research on flutes is under secrecy - Don’t LAI to me #3.
4. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo’s website under "Posts", tag "Transparency": <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/documentos-ministerio-da-defesa-sigilosos>.  
FS libera 400 documentos do Ministério da Defesa até então sigilosos - Don’t LAI to me #4.  
Fiquem Sabendo opens up 400 previously classified documents from the Ministry of Defence - Don’t LAI to me #4.

5. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo's website under "Posts", tag "Transparency": <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/newsletter-edicao-5>.  
Marinha pede "só" 93 anos para entregar documentos que perderam sigilo - Don't LAI to me #5.  
The Navy asks for 93 years "only" to release documents that are no longer under secrecy - Don't LAI to me #5.
6. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo's website under "Posts", tag "Transparency": <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/veja-como-acessar-as-dividas-de-politicos>.  
Veja como acessar as dívidas de políticos com a União via Lei de Acesso - Don't LAI to me #6.  
See how to access politicians' debt to the Union using the Law of Access - Don't LAI to me #6.
7. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo's website under "Posts", tag "Transparency": <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/como-obter-curriculos-de-servidores-publicos>.  
Como obter currículos de servidores públicos - Don't LAI to me #7.  
How to access CVs of public service employees - Don't LAI to me #7.
8. Not listed in Archive. Available at Fiquem Sabendo's website under "Posts", tag "Transparency": <https://fiquemsabendo.com.br/transparencia/dont-lai-to-me-8>.  
O contraditório sigilo da reforma da previdência - Don't LAI to me #8.  
The contradictory secrecy on the reform of the pension system - Don't LAI to me #8.
9. Acesse os bastidores de projetos de lei em andamento - Don't LAI to me #9.  
Access the 'behind the scenes' of bills in progress - Don't LAI to me #9. (21/05/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/acesse-os-bastidores-de-projetos>.
10. Censura estatal nas redes sociais - Don't LAI to me #10.  
State censorship on social media - Don't LAI to me #10. (02/06/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/censura-estatal-nas-redes-sociais>.
11. Ghostbusters: Caçando funcionários fantasmas do serviço público - Don't LAI to me #11.  
Ghostbusters: Hunting ghost employees in the public service - Don't LAI to me #11. (17/06/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/assessores-fantasma-e-as-folhas-de>.

12. BBB do serviço público: o que os servidores estão discutindo por e-mail? - Don't LAI to me #12.  
Public service BBB: what are public service employees discussing by email? - Don't LAI to me #12. (30/06/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/bbb-do-servio-pblico-o-que-os-servidores>.
13. Digital influencer pró-governo: quem contratou e quanto pagou?  
Pro-government digital influencer: who hired them and how much did it cost? Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #13. (15/07/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/digital-influencer-pr-governo-quem>.
14. Relatórios sigilosos na PF: milicianos, crimes eleitorais e apreensões de fuzis na América Latina.  
Federal Police secret reports: militiamen, electoral crimes and rifle seizures in Latin America. Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #14. (29/07/2024).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/relatrios-sigilosos-na-pf-milicianos>.
15. FURO COM LAI: Entrevista com a jornalista Juliana Dal Piva.  
SCOOP WITH THE LAI: An interview with journalist Juliana Dal Piva. Issue not numbered. (11/08/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/furo-com-lai-entrevista-com-a-jornalista>.
16. Meio milhão de reais em uma lanchonete: os gastos dos ex-presidentes da República e suas equipes.  
Half a million reais in a diner: the expenses of former Presidents and their teams. Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #15. (12/08/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/meio-milho-de-reais-em-uma-lanchonete>.
17. Watching the Watchmen: o que os órgãos públicos estão investigando nas redes sociais? (Issue not numbered).  
Watching the Watchmen: what are public bodies investigating in their social media? Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #16. (27/08/2019).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/watching-the-watchmen-o-que-os-rgos>.
18. PF mapeou o crime organizado no RJ para grandes eventos em 2013. (Issue not numbered).



The Federal Police mapped Rio de Janeiro's organized crime before major events in 2013. Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #17. (09/09/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/pf-mapeou-crime-organizado-no-rj>.

19. Abrindo a porteira: investigando os resultados de concursos públicos.

Opening the floodgates: investigating the results of civil service examinations. Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #18. (23/09/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abrindo-a-porteira-investigando-os>.

20. Gastos sigilosos: Em oito meses, viagens de Jair Bolsonaro consumiram R\$3,7 milhões.

Secretive spending: in eight months, Jair Bolsonaro's trips cost \$3,7 million Brazilian Reais. Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #19. (07/10/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/gastos-sigilosos-em-oito-meses-viagens>.

21. Meio bilhão por mês: investigando contratações terceirizadas no governo federal.

Half a billion a month: investigating outsourcing in the federal government. Issue not numbered in the title, but when clicking it at the Archives page, it is listed as #20. (21/10/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/sem-concurso-terceirizados-no-governo>.

22. Governos municipais e estaduais integram lista de autuados por trabalho infantil; veja dados - Don't LAI to me #21.

Municipal and State Governments are part of list of child labour offenders; see details - Don't LAI to me #21. (04/11/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/governos-municipais-e-estaduais-integram>.

23. Melhorando dados públicos: CGU vê conflito de interesse em 1/3 dos pedidos de autorização de atividade privada de servidores - Don't LAI to me #22.

Improving public data: CGU sees conflict of interest in 1/3 of requests for authorization of private activity by public service employees - Don't LAI to me #22. (18/11/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/melhorando-dados-pblicos-cgu-v-conflito>.

24. Segurança e assessoria de ex-presidentes custam 3 milhões/ano - Don't LAI to me #23.

Security and PR for former presidents cost 3 million Brazilian Reais per year - Don't LAI to me #23. (02/12/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/segurana-e-assessoria-de-ex-presidentes>.

25. Site traz dados de saúde pública simplificados por município - Don't LAI to me #24.

Website provides simplified data on public health by municipality - Don't LAI to me #24.  
(16/12/2019).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/site-traz-bases-de-dados-sobre-sade>.

26. 2020 será o ano de defender ainda mais os dados públicos (e você tem tudo a ver com isso) - #Don't LAI to me ESPECIAL.

2020 will be the year of sticking up for public data even more (and you have everything to do with it) - #Special Don't LAI to me. (06/01/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/2020-ser-o-ano-de-defender-os-dados>.

27. EXCLUSIVO: Abrindo os dados de pensionistas e aposentados no Brasil - Don't LAI to me #25 (Edição de aniversário de um ano!)

EXCLUSIVE: Opening data on pensioners and retirees in Brazil - Don't LAI to me #25 (One year anniversary edition!). (13/01/2020)

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/exclusivo-quem-so-e-quanto-recebem>.

28. O manual que guiará as escolas cívico-militares no Brasil - Don't LAI to me #26.

The manual that will guide all civic-military schools in Brazil – Don't LAI to me #26.  
(03/02/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/por-mais-pedidos-respondidos-o-passo>.

29. Endividados e mais endividados - Don't LAI to me #27.

Indebted and more indebted - Don't LAI to me #27. (17/02/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/endividados-e-mais-endividados-dont>.

30. Eu SEI de tudo: acessando ofícios, e-mails e documentos internos nos ministérios e agências - Don't LAI me #28.

I know it all: accessing letters, emails and internal documents in ministries and agencies - Don't LAI to me #28. (02/03/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/eu-sei-de-tudo-acessando-ofcios-e>.

31. Julgando os seus pedidos - Don't LAI to me #29.

Judging your requests - Don't LAI to me #29. (16/03/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/o-judicio-no-centro-das-lais>.

32. Em meio a uma pandemia, é nosso dever monitorar a transparência pública - Don't LAI to me #30.

In the midst of a pandemic, it is our duty to monitor public transparency - Don't LAI to me #30.  
(30/03/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/em-meio-a-uma-pandemia-nosso-dever>.

33. LAIs da pandemia: Descumprimento de quarentena, mísseis na Coreia do Norte e mais - Don't LAI to me #31.

LAIs of the pandemic: non-compliance with the quarantine, missiles in North Korea and more - Don't LAI to me #31. (13/04/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/lais-da-pandemia-descumprimento-de>.

34. Servidores em home office no governo federal - Don't LAI to me #32.

Federal Government public service employees doing home office - Don't LAI to me #32. (27/04/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/servidores-em-home-office-no-governo>.

35. Monitor de Dados Socioambientais: meio ambiente, povos indígenas e comunidades quilombolas | Edição Especial Don't LAI to me.

Socio-environmental Data Monitor: the environment, indigenous peoples and quilombola communities | Don't LAI to me Special Edition. (11/05/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/reunindo-dados-abertos-de-meio-ambiente>.

36. Mais transparência nos documentos digitais: nós denunciemos e vencemos mais uma vez - Don't LAI to me.

More transparency in digital documents: we reported and won again - Don't LAI to me - Issue not numbered. (18/05/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/mais-transparncia-nos-documentos>.

37. Como está o tráfico de drogas na quarentena? - Don't LAI to me #33.

How's drug trafficking during quarantine? - Don't LAI to me #33. (25/05/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/como-est-o-trfco-de-drogas-na-quarentena>.

38. Se a informação não está classificada, você tem direito de acessá-la - Don't LAI to me.

If the information is not classified, you have the right to access it - Don't LAI to me - Issue not numbered. (01/06/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/se-a-informao-no-est-classificada>.

39. Os pedidos de impeachment contra presidentes brasileiros desde 1990 - Don't LAI to me #34.

Impeachment requests against Brazilian presidents since 1990 - Don't LAI to me #34. (08/06/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/os-pedidos-de-impeachment-contra>.

40. Com crise financeira na pandemia, cresce inadimplência no FIES - Don't LAI to me #35.

With financial crisis during the pandemic, number of FIES defaulters increases - Don't LAI to me #35. (22/07/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/com-crise-financeira-na-pandemia>.

41. Todos os militares do presidente - Don't LAI to me #36.

The president's military - Don't LAI to me #36. (13/07/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/todos-os-militares-do-presidente>.

42. Após denúncia da Fiquem Sabendo, governo libera 27 anos de dados de pensionistas civis - Don't LAI to me.

After Fiquem Sabendo's complaint, government opens up 27 years of data of civil pensioners - Don't LAI to me #Special. (27/07/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/aps-denncia-da-fiquem-sabendo-governo-17d>.

43. Quanto custa o “entra e sai” de ministros? Don't LAI to me #37.

How much does the “in and out” of ministers cost? Don't LAI to me #37. (10/08/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/quanto-custa-o-entra-e-sai-de-ministros>.

44. Investigando publicidade do poder público na internet - Don't LAI to me #38.

Investigating public power's advertising on the internet - Don't LAI to me #38. (24/08/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/investigando-anncios-do-governo-com>.

45. Exagerou o currículo para ocupar cargo. Quem investiga? - Don't LAI to me #39.

Lied on CV to get the job. Who investigates that? - Don't LAI to me #39. (08/09/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/exagerou-o-currculo-para-ocupar-cargo>.

46. Partidos políticos na máquina pública: cargos comissionados - Don't LAI to me #40.

Political parties in the machinery of government: commissioned positions - Don't LAI to me #40. (21/09/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/partidos-polticos-na-mquina-pblica>.

47. O setor de energia e a LAI - Don't LAI to me #41.

The energy sector and the LAI - Don't LAI to me #41. (05/10/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/o-setor-de-energia-e-a-lai-dont-lai>.

48. Em ano da pandemia, número de funcionários da Anvisa e o menor desde 2007 - Don't LAI to me #42.

In a pandemic year, number of Anvisa employees is the lowest since 2007 - Don't LAI to me #42. (19/10/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/em-ano-da-pandemia-nmero-de-funcionrios>.

49. Quanto custam as lives da quarentena? - Don't LAI to me #43.

How much do quarantine livestreams cost? - Don't LAI to me #43. (03/11/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/as-lives-da-quarentena-dont-lai-to>.

50. Ficha limpa, abuso de poder, compra de voto: os candidatos cassados em 2016 e 2020 - Don't LAI to me #44.

No criminal records, power abuse, vote-buying: the disqualified candidates in 2016 and 2020 - Don't LAI to me #44. (16/11/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/ficha-limpa-abuso-de-poder-compra>.

51. Anatel arrecadou só 8% das sanções aplicadas desde 1997: conheça os relatórios da CGU - Don't LAI to me #45.

Anatel collected only 8% of sanctions imposed since 1997: see the CGU reports - Don't LAI to me #45. (23/11/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/anatel-arrecadou-s-8-das-sanec-aplicadas>.

52. 8/10 denúncias no Disque 100 e Ligue 180 são por violência doméstica; veja os microdados - Don't LAI to me #46.

8/10 complaints in Dial 100 and Call 180 are for domestic abuse - see the microdata - Don't LAI to me #46. (07/12/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/8-em-cada-10-denncias-no-disque-100>.

53. Melhore seus pedidos de acesso em 2021 com estas dicas da Fiquem Sabendo - Don't LAI to me Especial #47.

Enhance your access requests in 2021 with these tips from Fiquem Sabendo - Special Don't LAI to me #47. (21/12/2020).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/melhore-seus-pedidos-de-informao>.

54. Quem são e quanto recebem os servidores militares que atuam nas escolas cívico-militares - Don't LAI to me #48.

Who are and how much the military servants make at the civic-military schools - Don't LAI to me #48. (18/01/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/quem-so-e-quanto-recebem-os-servidores>.

55. Parecer do TCU poupa Bolsonaro, mas “vê prejuízo ao erário” com fabricação excessiva de cloroquina - Don't LAI to me #49.

TCU's statement spares Bolsonaro, but sees “damage to the treasury” with excessive manufacture of chloroquine - Don't LAI to me #49. (01/02/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/tcu-poupa-bolsonaro-mas-v-prejuzo>.

56. Exército ignorou empresas que ofereceram insumos para cloroquina em outros anos em certame durante a pandemia - Don't LAI to me #50.

Army ignored companies offering chloroquine supplies in other years in a bidding during the pandemic - Don't LAI to me #50. (15/02/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/em-compra-durante-pandemia-exrcito>.

57. Documentos mostram tropeços do governo federal com desinformação na pandemia - Don't LAI to me #51.

Documents show the federal government stumbling on desinformation during the pandemic - Don't LAI to me #51. (01/03/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/documentos-mostram-tropeos-do-governo>.

58. Veja para onde foram os remédios distribuídos pelo governo federal na pandemia - Don't LAI to me #52.

See where the government distributed medications to during the pandemic - Don't LAI to me #52. (15/03/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/veja-para-onde-foram-remedios-comprimidos>.

59. A queda no orçamento dos órgãos de proteção ambiental no Brasil - Don't LAI to me #53.

The fall in the budget in Brazil's environmental protection public bodies - Don't LAI to me #53. (29/03/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/a-queda-no-orcamento-dos-orgaos-de>.

60. Comitê da Covid alertou sobre falta de comunicação e desinformação sobre vacinas - Don't LAI to me #54.

Covid Committee had warned about lack of communication and disinformation on vaccines - Don't LAI to me #54. (12/04/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/comite-da-covid-alertou-sobre-falta>.

61. Ministério da Saúde e a pasta que mais ignora a LAI - Don't LAI to me #55.

The Health Ministry is the department that most ignores the LAI - Don't LAI to me #55. (12/04/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/ministerio-da-saude-e-a-pasta-que>.

62. Estamos processando a Abin por menos sigilo com documentos públicos. E você pode nos ajudar - Don't LAI to me #56.

We are suing Abin for less secrecy with public documents. And you can help us - Don't LAI to me #56. (10/05/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/estamos-processando-a-abin-por-menos>.

63. Vacinas, cloroquina e Itamaraty: como acessar telegramas diplomáticos - Don't LAI to me #57.

Vaccines, chloroquine and Itamaraty: how to access diplomatic telegrams - Don't LAI to me #57. (24/05/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/vacinas-cloroquina-e-itamaraty-como>.

64. Governo usa LGPD para fechar acesso a relatórios de trabalho escravo - Don't LAI to me #58.

Government uses LGPD to close access to slave labor reports - Don't LAI to me #58. (07/06/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/governo-usa-lgpd-para-fechar-acesso>.

65. Itamaraty ocultou telegramas que mostram apoio de Bolsonaro a importação de cloroquina - Don't LAI to me #Special.

Itamaraty hid telegrams that show Bolsonaro's support to chloroquine importation - Don't LAI to me #Special. (15/06/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/itamaraty-ocultou-telegramas-que>.

66. Volume de madeira apreendida pela PF neste ano já é o maior desde 2018 - Don't LAI to me #59.

The volume of wood seized by the Federal Police this year is already the highest since 2018 - Don't LAI to me #59. (21/06/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/volume-de-madeira-apreendida-pela>.

67. Nova denúncia da Fiquem Sabendo obriga governo a abrir “caixa-preta” de pensões a militares.

New complaint by Fiquem Sabendo forces the government to open “black box” of military pensions. Not labeled as Don't LAI to me, not numbered. (28/06/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/nova-denuncia-da-fiquem-sabendo-obriga>.

68. Soldados de baixo escalão foram detidos por pedir auxílio emergencial - Don't LAI to me #60.

Low-ranking soldiers were arrested for asking for Emergency Aid benefit - Don't LAI to me #60. (05/07/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/soldados-foram-detidos-por-pedir>.

69. 860 estrangeiros foram resgatados de trabalho escravo nos últimos 14 anos - Don't LAI to me #61.

860 foreigners were rescued from slave labor in the past 14 years - Don't LAI to me #61. (19/07/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/860-estrangeiros-foram-resgatados>.

70. Pensionistas devem R\$2.2 bilhões em impostos para a União - Don't LAI to me #Special. Pensioners owe R\$ 2.2 billions in taxes to the Union - Don't LAI to me #Special. (26/07/2021). <https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/pensionistas-devedores>.

71. Ministério da Saúde promoveu apenas um tweet sobre vacinação contra a Covid - Don't LAI to me #62.

The Health Ministry promoted just a single tweet about Covid vaccination - Don't LAI to me #62. (02/08/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/ministerio-da-saude-promoveu- apenas>.

72. Quem são as pessoas que visitaram sete ministérios do governo federal - Don't LAI to me #63.

Who are the people who visited seven ministries of the federal government - Don't LAI to me #63. (16/08/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/quem-sao-as- pessoas-que-visitaram>.

73. CPI da Covid pediu, a FS já tinha os dados - Edição Especial Don't LAI to me.

Covid's CPI asked, FS already had the data - Don't LAI to me #Special Edition. (26/08/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/cpi-da-covid-pediu-a-fs-ja-tinha>.

74. Veja como o governo vem usando a lei de proteção de dados para negar informações - Don't LAI to me #64.

See how the government has been using the law on data protection to deny information - Don't LAI to me #64. (30/08/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/veja-como-o-governo-vem-usando-a>.

75. Empresas de segurança 'perderam', em média, 7 armas por dia nos últimos 4 anos - Don't LAI to me #65.

Security companies "have lost", in average, 7 firearms a day for the past 4 years - Don't LAI to me #65. (13/09/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/empresas-de-seguranca-perderam-em>.

76. Governo só impulsionou postagens sobre auxílio-emergencial nas redes em 2021; custo é de R\$ 1,2 milhão - Don't LAI to me #66.

The government only boosted posts about Emergency Aid on social media in 2021; cost is R\$ 1.2 million - Don't LAI to me #66. (27/09/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/governo-gasta-r-12-milhao-com-publicidade>.

77. Vacinas infantis em 2020 tiveram pior cobertura em 25 anos no Brasil - Don't LAI to me #67.

Childhood vaccines in 2020 had the worst coverage in 25 years in Brazil. - Don't LAI to me #67. (11/10/2021).



<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/vacinas-infantis-em-2020-tiveram>.

78. O governo Bolsonaro fechou o acesso à lista dos já autuados por trabalho escravo. Nos a abrimos - Don't LAI to me #68

Bolsonaro government has closed access to the list of those already fined for slave labor - Don't LAI to me #68. (25/10/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/o-governo-bolsonaro-quis-esconder>.

79. Numero de acidentes aéreos em MG e o maior em seis anos - Don't LAI to me #69.

Number of airplane accidents in Minas Gerais is the highest in six years - Don't LAI to me #69. (08/11/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/numero-de-acidentes-aereos-em-mg>.

80. O cara que abriu os arquivos da CIA: Michael Morisy vem para o lançamento da WikiLAI.

The guy who opened CIA files: Michael Morisy is coming for WikiLAI's launching. Not labeled as Don't LAI to me, not numbered. (17/11/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/o-cara-que-abriu-os-arquivos-da-cia>.

81. Preço da gasolina subiu acima da média nacional em 10 estados: veja os dados do seu - Don't LAI to me #70.

Gas prices rises above national average in 10 states: see data on yours - Don't LAI to me #70. (22/11/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/preco-da-gasolina-sobe-46-em-um-ano>.

82. Derrubamos o anonimato de quem desmatou em unidades de conservação - Don't LAI to me #71.

We overturned the anonymity of those who deforested conservation zones - Don't LAI to me #71. (06/12/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/nos-derrubamos-o-sigilo-de-quem-desmatou>.

83. Aproveite as férias da Don't LAI to me para conhecer a WikiLAI.

Take advantage of Don't LAI to me's vacation and get to know WikiLAI. Not labeled as Don't LAI to me, not numbered. (20/12/2021).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/aproveite-as-ferias-da-dont-lai-to>.

84. Corrupção: prisões pela PF caíram 44% em 2021 - Don't LAI to me #72.

Corruption: Federal Police arrests fell 44%\$ in 2021 - Don't LAI to me #72. (31/01/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/crimes-de-colarinho-branco-prisoos>.

85. Número de armas destruídas cai nos 3 primeiros anos do governo Bolsonaro - Don't LAI to me #73.

Number of destroyed firearms fall in the 3 first years of Bolsonaro government - Don't LAI to me #73. (14/02/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/numero-de-armas-destruidas-cai-nos>.

86. Impacto de chuvas prejudicou mais de 3 milhões em 2021 - Don't LAI to me #74.

Impact of rains harmed more than 3 million people in 2021 - Don't LAI to me #74. (07/03/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/impacto-de-chuvas-prejudicou-mais>.

87. (Re)Abrimos os dados de apreensões da Receita Federal - Don't LAI to me #75

We (re)opened data on Federal Revenue's seizures - Don't LAI to me #75. (28/03/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/reabrimos-os-dados-de-apreensoes>.

88. Todas as multas ambientais prescritas no Ibama - Don't LAI to me #76.

All environmental time-barred fines in Ibama - Don't LAI to me #76. (11/04/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/todos-as-multas-ambientais-prescritas>.

89. Evento: Investigamos como a nova lei de privacidade (LGPD) está afetando a transparência no Brasil - Don't LAI to me #Especial.

Event: We investigated how the new law on privacy (LGPD) is affecting transparency in Brazil - Don't LAI to me #Special. (20/04/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/evento-investigamos-como-a-nova-lei>.

90. Nota sob sigilo aponta risco de prescrição de multas ambientais - Don't LAI to me #77.

Confidential document points to the risk of environmental fines becoming statute-barred - Don't LAI to me #77. (25/04/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/nota-sigilosa-do-ibama-preve-que>.

91. GSI bate recorde de imposição de sigilos - Don't LAI to me #78

GSI breaks record for imposing secrecy - Don't LAI to me #78 - (09/05/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/gabinete-de-seguranca-institucional>.

92. Agenda Transparente, o novo serviço da Fiquem Sabendo para monitorar as agendas do Poder Executivo.

Agenda Transparente, Fiquem Sabendo's new service to monitor the agendas of the Executive Branch - issue not numbered/labeled as Don't LAI to me - (20/05/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/agenda-transparente-o-novo-servico>.

93. Crimes ambientais no sigilo: Ibama recusa mais informações e dificulta acesso a processos - Don't LAI to me #79

Environmental crimes in secrecy: Ibama refuses more information and makes it hard to access files - Don't LAI to me #79 - (06/06/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/crimes-ambientais-no-sigilo-ibama>.

94. Funai alertou em 2021 sobre ameaça de morte a servidores e que está no “limite mínimo” de operação - Don't LAI to me #80

Funai warned in 2021 about death threats to civil servants and that it is at the "minimum limit" of operation - Don't LAI to me #80 - (20/06/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/funai-alertou-em-2021-sobre-ameaca>.

95. Em boletim de ocorrência, servidor relatou intimidacao e perguntas sobre assassinato de “jornalista ingles” em unidade da FUNAI - Don't LAI to me #81.

In a police report, a civil servant reported intimidation and questions about the murder of an "English journalist" at a FUNAI unit - Don't LAI to me #81 - (02/07/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/em-boletim-de-ocorrencia-servidor>.

96. Magreza e obesidade infantil pioram no país: veja os dados do seu município, região ou estado - Don't LAI to me #82

Childhood thinness and obesity worsen in the country: see the data for your municipality, region or state - Don't LAI to me #82 - (18/07/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/magreza-e-obesidade-infantil-pioram>.

97. TSE recebe ao menos 1,5 mil links denunciados como desinformação eleitoral - Don't LAI to me #83

TSE receives at least 1.5 thousand links denounced as electoral disinformation - Don't LAI to me #83 - (01/08/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/tse-ja-pediu-remocao-de-ao-menos>.

98. As multas ambientais com risco de prescrição em 2022 - Don't LAI to me #84

Environmental fines at risk of statute of limitations in 2022 - Don't LAI to me #84 - (15/08/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/as-multas-ambientais-com-risco-de>.

99. ATUALIZAÇÃO: Polícia Federal erra e depois envia novos dados sobre inquiridos eleitorais - Don't LAI to me NOT NUMBERED.

UPDATE: Federal Police makes a mistake and sends new data on electoral inquiries - Don't LAI to me NOT NUMBERED - (18/08/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/atualizacao-policia-federal-erra>.

100. Processo de demissão de servidor e informação pública, diz CGU - Don't LAI to me #85

Civil servant dismissal process and public information, says CGU - Don't LAI to me #85 - (29/08/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/processo-de-demissao-de-servidor>.

101. Os brasileiros presos no exterior - Don't LAI to me #86

Brazilian citizens arrested abroad - Don't LAI to me #86 - (12/09/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/os-brasileiros-presos-no-exterior>.

102. Exclusivo: Os registros de visitas em órgãos federais durante o governo Bolsonaro - Don't LAI to me especial

Exclusive: The records of visits to federal agencies during the Bolsonaro government - Don't LAI to me Special - (21/09/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/exclusivo-os-registros-de-visitas>.

103. Errata - Vaga de estágio

Erratum: internship opening - Issue not labeled or numbered - (23/09/2022)

**Not analysed.**

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/errata-vaga-de-estagio>.

104. Cai numero de inqueritos da Policia Federal contra pornografia infantil - Don't LAI to me #87

Number of Federal Police inquiries against child pornography falls - Don't LAI to me #87 - (26/09/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/cai-numero-de-investigacoes-da-policia>.

105. EXCLUSIVO: Abrimos o processo dos militares condenados por tortura durante a ditadura - Don't LAI to me NOT NUMBERED

EXCLUSIVE: We opened the trial of military personnel convicted of torture during the dictatorship - Don't LAI to me NOT NUMBERED - (07/10/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/exclusivo-abrimos-o-processo-dos>.

106. Os pedidos de informação negados com base no sigilo dos 100 anos desde 2015 - Don't LAI to me #88

Information requests denied on the basis of 100 years of secrecy since 2015 - Don't LAI to me #88 - (11/10/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/todos-os-pedidos-de-informacao-negados>.

107. Abrimos os dados do Cadastro Ambiental Rural - Don't LAI to me #89

We open the data from the Rural Environmental Registry - Don't LAI to me #89 - (24/10/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abrimos-mais-dados-do-cadastro-ambiental>.

108. Universidades viram alvo de ações judiciais após comissões de heteroidentificação - Don't LAI to me #90

Universities are target of lawsuits after hetero-identification commissions - Don't LAI to me #90 - (07/11/2022).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/universidades-sofrem-processos-na>.

109. Abuso de álcool tem alta em população indígena - Don't LAI to me #91  
Alcohol abuse on the rise among indigenous populations - Don't LAI to me #91 - (21/11/2022).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abuso-de-alcool-tem-alta-em-populacao>.

110. Abrimos o currículo dos militares que fiscalizam as urnas eletrônicas - Don't LAI to me #92  
We open the CVs of the military who oversee the electronic ballot boxes - Don't LAI to me #92 (05/12/2022).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abrimos-o-curriculo-dos-militares>.

111. 10 propostas para um Brasil Sem Sigilo em 2023 - Don't LAI to me #Especial.  
10 proposals for a Brazil without secrecy in 2023 - Don't LAI to me #Special - (19/12/2022).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/10-propostas-para-um-brasil-sem-sigilo>.

112. Entregamos ao governo lista com documentos que perderam sigilo, mas seguem sem ser divulgados - Don't LAI to me #especial  
We've given the government a list of documents that have lost their secrecy but remain undisclosed - Don't LAI to me #Special - (10/01/2023).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/fiquem-sabendo-entrega-ao-governo>.

113. Exclusivo: Veja quais foram os gastos do cartão corporativo de Bolsonaro - Not labeled or numbered.  
Exclusive: See what Bolsonaro spent on his corporate card - Not labeled or numbered (12/01/2023).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/veja-quais-foram-os-gastos-do-cartao>.

114. Abrimos os gastos do cartão corporativo de todos os ex-presidentes desde 2003. Nos ajude a revelar mais dados - Don't LAI to me #especial.  
We've opened up the corporate card expenses of all former presidents since 2003. Help us reveal more data - Don't LAI to me #special - (17/01/2023).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abrimos-os-gastos-do-cartao-corporativo>.

115. Exclusivo: Acessamos as notas fiscais do cartão corporativo da Presidência - Don't LAI to me #93  
Exclusive: We access the President's corporate card invoices - Don't LAI to me #93 - (23/01/2023).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/exclusivo-acessamos-as-notas-fiscais>.

116. Apoiador de garimpo na região dos Yanomami se sentia protegido por “lei de Bolsonaro”: leia multas do ICMBio na região - Don't LAI to me #94.

Supporter of mining in the Yanomami region felt protected by "Bolsonaro's law": read ICMBio fines in the region - Don't LAI to me #94 - (06/02/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/apoiador-de-garimpo-autuado-no-entorno>.

117. Exclusivo: Abrimos os gastos do cartão corporativo da Vice-Presidência da República - Don't LAI to me #especial.

Exclusive: We reveal the Vice-President's corporate card expenses - Don't LAI to me #especial - (13/02/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abrimos-os-gastos-do-cartao-corporativo-983>.

118. Abrimos mais de 700 relatórios de autuações por trabalho análogo à escravidão - Don't LAI to me #95.

We've opened more than 700 reports of fines for work analogous to slavery - Don't LAI to me #95 - (27/02/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abrimos-mais-de-700-relatorios-de>.

119. Acessamos os relatórios dos grupos de transição do governo federal - Don't LAI to me #96 - We access the reports of the federal government's transition groups - Don't LAI to me #96 - (13/04/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/acessamos-os-relatorios-dos-grupos>.

120. Presidência da República tem + de 1 mil pessoas bloqueadas nas redes, ignora CGU e oculta perfis - Don't LAI to me #97.

Presidency of the Republic has more than 1,000 people blocked on its networks, ignores CGU and hides profiles - Don't LAI to me #97 - (27/03/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/presidencia-da-republica-tem-de-1>.

121. Telegramas mostram viagem urgente de Eduardo Bolsonaro ao Bahrain em missão oficial - Don't LAI to me #98

Telegrams show Eduardo Bolsonaro's urgent trip to Bahrain on official mission - Don't LAI to me #98 - (10/04/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/telegramas-mostram-viagem-urgente>.

122. Levantamos o sigilo do contrato de Gustavo Lima com a Caixa, em decisão inédita - Don't LAI to me #99

We lift the secrecy of Gustavo Lima's contract with Caixa, in an unprecedented decision - Don't LAI to me #99 - (24/04/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/levantamos-o-sigilo-do-contrato-de>.

123. Começamos a tirar o sigilo das renúncias fiscais - Don't LAI to me #100

We've started to remove the secrecy of tax waivers - Don't LAI to me #100 - (08/05/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/comecamos-a-tirar-o-sigilo-das-renuncias>.

124. Vamos representar o seu direito de acessar dados públicos em conselho no governo federal - Not labeled or numbered.

Let's represent your right to access public data in a federal government council - Not labeled or numbered - (16/05/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/vamos-representar-o-seu-direito-de>.

125. Veja as multas ambientais da Petrobras desde os anos 90 - Don't LAI to me #101.

See Petrobras' environmental fines since the 1990s - Don't LAI to me #101 (22/05/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/as-multas-ambientais-da-petrobras>.

126. Menção a crise Yanomami diminui em agendas do governo federal - Don't LAI to me #102

Mention of the Yanomami crisis decreases on federal government agendas - Don't LAI to me #102 - (05/06/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/mencaao-a-crise-yanomami-diminui-em>.

127. Agência que fiscaliza mineração tem menor número de servidores e pode perder R\$20 bilhões - Don't LAI to me 103.

Agency that oversees mining has fewer employees and could lose R\$ 20 billion - Don't LAI to me 103 - (19/06/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/agencia-que-fiscaliza-mineracao-tem>.

128. BNDES oculta nome de desmatadores com empréstimo - Don't LAI to me #104.

BNDES hides name of deforesters with loan - Don't LAI to me #104 - (04/07/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/bndes-oculta-nome-de-desmatadores>.

129. Saiba quem são e onde atuam as pessoas e empresas autorizadas a usar recursos hídricos no Brasil - Don't LAI to me #105

Find out who the people and companies authorized to use water resources in Brazil are and where they operate - Don't LAI to me #105 - (17/07/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/saiba-quem-sao-e-onde-atuam-as-pessoas>.

130. Todos os encontros do Inbra e do Ministério da Mulher sob Bolsonaro - Don't LAI to me especial - Numbered as #106.

All the Inbra and Women's Ministry meetings under Bolsonaro - Don't LAI to me special - Numbered as #106 - (07/08/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/todos-os-encontros-do-incra-e-do>.

131. Encontre pessoas e temas em todos os compromissos do Ministério da Defesa sob Bolsonaro usando a busca por palavra-chave do Agenda Transparente - Don't LAI to me #Especial.

Find people and themes in all of the Ministry of Defense's appointments under Bolsonaro using Agenda Transparente's keyword search - Don't LAI to me #Special - (25/08/2023).  
<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/encontre-pessoas-e-temas-em-todos>.

132. Abrimos as pensões de militares expulsos da Marinha e da Aeronáutica - Don't LAI to me #107.

We opened the pensions of military personnel expelled from the Navy and Air Force - Don't LAI to me #107 - (11/09/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/abrimos-as-pensoes-de-militares-expulsos>.

133. Fila de espera por órgãos em cada estado e transplantes realizados no Brasil desde 2012 - Don't LAI to me #108.

Organ waiting list in each state and transplants carried out in Brazil since 2012 - Don't LAI to me #108 - (25/09/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/fila-de-espera-por-orgaos-em-cada>.

134. No Dia Internacional do Acesso à Informação, você não pode deixar de conhecer o novo site da FS - Don't LAI to me #Especial.

On International Access to Information Day, you can't miss FS's new website - Don't LAI to me #Special - (28/09/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/no-dia-internacional-do-acesso-a>.

135. Registros de visitas ao Alvorada mostram encontro da alta cúpula militar com Bolsonaro fora da agenda oficial - Don't LAI to me #109.

Records of visits to the Alvorada show that the top military brass met with Bolsonaro outside the official agenda - Don't LAI to me #109 - (09/10/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/registros-de-visitas-ao-alvorada>.

136. Notas fiscais inéditas de Hamilton Mourão detalham gastos em tour no exterior em meio a pandemia - Don't LAI to me #110.

Hamilton Mourão's unpublished invoices detail expenses on tour abroad amid pandemic - Don't LAI to me #110 - (23/10/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/notas-fiscais-ineditas-de-hamilton>.

137. Brasil deve R\$ 2,5 bilhões para organismos internacionais: documento traz detalhes - Don't LAI to me #111

Brazil owes R\$2.5 billion to international organizations: document details - Don't LAI to me #111 - (06/11/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/brasil-deve-r-25-bilhoes-para-organismos>.



138. Quem são os militares da ativa que figuram como sócios, diretores ou administradores de empresas - Don't LAI to me #112

Who are the active military personnel who are partners, directors or managers of companies - Don't LAI to me #112 - (20/11/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/quem-sao-os-militares-da-ativa-que>.

139. Governo recebeu lobistas da indústria alimentícia 5x mais do que terceiro setor em reuniões sobre Reforma Tributária - Don't LAI to me #113

Government received food industry lobbyists 5x more than third sector in meetings on Tax Reform - Don't LAI to me #113 - (04/12/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/governo-recebeu-lobistas-da-alimentacao>.

140. 1,4 mil pessoas resgatadas de trabalho escravo em 2023 e outras séries históricas com dados por UF para fechar o ano - Don't LAI to me #114

1.4 thousand people rescued from slave labor in 2023 and other historical series with data by UF to close the year - Don't LAI to me #114 - (20/12/2023).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/14-mil-pessoas-resgatadas-de-trabalho>.

141. Bolsa Família: quase metade das crianças beneficiárias não teve acompanhamento de saúde em 2023 - Don't LAI to me #115

Bolsa Família: almost half of beneficiary children had no health follow-up in 2023 - Don't LAI to me #115 - (22/01/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/bolsa-familia-quase-metade-das-criancas>.

142. R\$ 215 bi em renúncias e benefícios fiscais (finalmente) no Portal da Transparência - Don't LAI to me #Especial

R\$ 215 billion in tax breaks and benefits (finally) on the Transparency Portal - Don't LAI to me #Especial - (25/01/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/r-215-bi-em-renuncias-e-beneficios>.

143. Minha Casa, Minha Vida: uma em cada três unidades foi para famílias com renda mensal de até R\$ 1.800; veja dados por UF - Don't LAI to me #116

Minha Casa, Minha Vida: one in three units went to families with a monthly income of up to R\$ 1,800; see data by UF - Don't LAI to me #116 - (05/02/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/minha-casa-minha-vida-uma-em-cada>.

144. EXCLUSIVO: Após 3 anos de batalha da Fiquem Sabendo, TCU obriga empresas estatais federais a publicar salários individualizados - Don't LAI to me #Especial

EXCLUSIVE: After a 3-year battle by Fiquem Sabendo, TCU forces federal state-owned companies to publish individual salaries - Don't LAI to me #Special - (08/02/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/exclusivo-apos-3-anos-de-batalha>.

145. Após decisão do TCU, começamos a abrir folhas de pagamento de estatais via LAI; veja os dados - Don't LAI to me #117

After TCU's decision, we started opening state payrolls via LAI; see the data - Don't LAI to me #117 - (26/02/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/apos-decisao-do-tcu-comecamos-a-abrir>.

146. Serpro e Ebserh: veja as folhas de pagamento - Don't LAI to me #118

Serpro and Ebserh: see their payrolls - Don't LAI to me #118 - (11/03/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/salarios-nas-estatais-confira-as>.

147. Apreensões de drogas caem na GLO; reuniões sobre dengue e envio das vacinas - Don't LAI to me #119

Drug seizures fall in GLO; meetings on dengue and vaccine shipments - Don't LAI to me #119 - (25/03/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/apreensoes-de-drogas-caem-na-glo>.

148. O lobby das Bets: como atuam as empresas de apostas - Don't LAI to me #120.

The Bets lobby: how betting companies operate - Don't LAI to me #120 - (08/04/2024).

<https://news.fiquemsabendo.com.br/p/o-lobby-das-bets-como-atuam-as-empresas>.