



# **By word of mouth: producing investigative podcasts**



# **“Border of Fear”**

**A feature on policing in ghettoized neighbourhoods, the people who live there and the police who work out there, started in 2018.**



**“Border of Fear” could have turned  
into a true crime podcast**









## **Bottom of ep.1 “Border of Fear”**

**Over the next 13 episodes, we will closely follow this case and everything that resulted from it. But it’s important to make this clear right from the start: if what you’re looking for is simply to find out who is telling the truth about that night, who is guilty or innocent, this is not the right podcast for you. “Border of Fear” is not a crime chronicle — or a true crime podcast, as it’s often called — nor does it aim to establish the definitive version of what happened on new year’s eve 2015 into 2016.**

**This is an investigative journalism project about the policing of ghettoized neighborhoods, the people who live there, and the police officers who work there. It’s about how the story of that night is bigger than the story of that night.**

**We’re going to deal with complex, sometimes traumatic subjects, and above all, topics you may already have strong opinions about. That means it might be difficult to hear some of the stories we’ve been told. We’re going to give time and space to dozens of police officers, residents of marginalized neighborhoods, victims of police violence, investigators, activists, lawyers, judges, and political representatives. Only if you stay with us until the end will you understand the full story — even if the journey is uncomfortable. All we ask is that you trust us to listen to all sides, whatever they may be for you — you just have to wait, and give us time to get there.**





# The method





# Who to interview?





**Script Time**





# **Radical empathy and transparency**





**Editing the story while we're investigating**



# Exploring voice messages





**Leaving the newsroom (for real)**



**Keeping the recorder on**





**Keeping the recorder on**



# Challenging authority





**Bringing the audience with us**



**How we got there**





**Talking like (real) humans**



# Using archive tape



# **Finding solutions for anonymous sources**





# **Investing in sound design and original soundtrack**



# Group edits



# **Stealing techniques from entertainment**



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# border of fear

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Soundtrack

0:00 / 2:17



200

audio recordings

4

years of investigations

60

original soundtracks

30

illustrations

### We are now:

- Editing text of episodes 13 e 14
- Performing fact checking for the episode 13
- Mixing the soundtrack for the series
- Awaiting court decisions about access to public security force documents on Sensitive Urban Zones
- Updating statistics using freedom of information requests to public bodies
- Developing the page for episode 9 on the website
- Editing episode 5 website text
- Writing episodes 8, 9, 10 and 11 for the website
- Revising the website text for episodes 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 and translating into English
- Preparing our communications strategy and materials







## **“Border of Fear” series structure**

**Ep.1: The new year’s eve through Pedro’s vs Paulo’s eyes. A fiction.**

**Ep.2: Who is Pedro? + the history of Chelas and Zona J.**

**Ep.3: From the origins of policing to today’s cops.**

**Ep.4: The labour struggle of police officers.**

**Ep.5: A historiography of “problematic neighbourhoods”. Archive.**

**Ep.6: “Places of exception” - how is it to be policed in ghettoised neighbourhoods?**

**Ep.7: “The chicken or the egg” - how is it to police ghettoised neighbourhoods?**



## **“Border of Fear” series structure**

**Ep.8: The new year’s eve through journalists eyes.**

**Ep.9: The script - attack, detain, accuse.**

**Ep.10: An interview with the Inspector General for Police.**

**Ep.11: Who is Paulo?**

**Ep.12: Reform vs abolition.**

**Ep.13: The court.**

**Ep.14: The judge, the judgment.**



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