

São Paulo Police Use "Power Rangers" Disguises to Stop Crime

March 2025

During Carnival in Brazil, many people wear costumes of famous superheroes like Batman and Spider-Man. This year in São Paulo, some police officers wore costumes too, but they were working in secret. These undercover officers, who pretend to be regular people to catch criminals, dressed up as the Power Rangers--characters from a popular 1990s TV show about a team of superheroes who fight evil.



A video showed officers disguised as the red, blue, yellow, green, and black Power Rangers stopping a suspected phone thief while a crowd cheered them on, chanting “Power Rangers! Power Rangers!” In another part of the video, one Power Ranger held up several stolen phones that had been recovered. The governor of São Paulo even shared the moment online, saying, "It’s morphin’ time!"—a famous phrase from the show.

Brazilian police have used creative disguises like these to catch criminals during big festivals. Large crowds make it easier for thieves to steal from people, so officers dress up as partygoers to blend in. This strategy has helped reduce crime during Carnival. Compared to the same time last year, there were far fewer reports of stolen phones and robberies.

The police don’t just dress as Power Rangers. In the past, they have used other disguises too. Recently, an officer dressed as El Chapulin Colorado (The Red Grasshopper), a famous Mexican comedy superhero, was seen arresting a suspect.

Comprehension Questions:

1. The first paragraph mentions "undercover officers." What does undercover mean?
 - a) Officers who wear bright uniforms.
 - b) Officers who work in secret.
 - c) Officers who are sleeping under blankets.
 - d) Officers who do not catch criminals.
2. Why did the police dress as Power Rangers?
 - a) To entertain the crowd
 - b) To celebrate Carnival
 - c) To secretly catch criminals
 - d) To promote the Power Rangers show
3. Why did the crowd cheer while they arrested a man?
 - a) They were confused about what was happening.
 - b) They supported the police officers’ actions.
 - c) They were upset about the police intervention.
 - d) They thought the Power Rangers were real.

4. Why did the governor of São Paulo share the video?
- To criticize the police for dressing up
 - To encourage people to dress as superheroes
 - To show support for the police's strategy
 - To announce new episodes of Power Rangers
5. Why do thieves find it easier to steal during Carnival?
- People are distracted and in large crowds.
 - Police officers are not working during Carnival.
 - Everyone is wearing costumes.
 - Thieves are also dressed as Power Rangers.
6. Brazilian police used disguises. What is another word for "disguise"?
- celebration
 - weapon
 - jiu jitsu
 - costume
7. What does the article say about crime during Carnival this year compared to last year?
- Crime increased this year.
 - Crime stayed the same.
 - Crime decreased this year.
 - Crime was not reported this year.
8. How did the thieves react to the disguised police?
- They did not expect the police to wear costumes.
 - They were happy to see the police in costumes.
 - They knew the police were wearing disguises.
 - They were not afraid of the police.
9. Which of these statements is false?
- Police officers dressed as Power Rangers to catch criminals.
 - The governor of São Paulo did not support the police's actions.
 - The crowd cheered for the disguised police officers.
 - Crime rates during Carnival decreased compared to last year.
10. What is the main idea of the article?
- The Power Rangers are popular in Brazil.
 - Police in Brazil used costumes to catch criminals during Carnival.
 - Carnival in Brazil is fun event where many people wear costumes.
 - Thieves in Brazil steal many phones during Carnival.

Speaking and Writing Activities:

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group
- Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.

- Do you think dressing as superheroes is a good way for police to catch criminals? Why or why not?
- Carnival in Brazil is a huge festival with music, dancing, and costumes. What is a big celebration or festival in your country? What do people do?
- What are some things people should do to stay safe in crowded places like festivals or concerts?