

Born in July, 1951, Carlos Minc Baumfeld is married and has two children.

In 1967, when he was sixteen, Minc became vice-president of the Metropolitan Association of Secondary Students (Associação Metropolitana de Estudantes Secundaristas/Ames). As a student leader, he participated in resistance against the military regime then in effect in Brazil; as a result, in 1969, at eighteen, Minc was imprisoned and then sent into exile. In 1979, following amnesty given to Brazilian exiles, he returned to Brazil.

Minc is an economist, was assistant professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro's (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro/UFRJ) Geography Department, and obtained a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the Technical University of Lisbon (1978) and a PhD in Development Economics from the University of Paris 1 – Sorbonne (1984).

He was State Representative for Rio de Janeiro during six consecutive terms. Minc founded the Green Party (Partido Verde/PV), was elected for the first time in 1986, and reelected in 1990, 1994 and 1998, this time as a member of the Labour Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores/PT). In 2007, he was appointed Secretary of the Environment for the State of Rio de Janeiro.

In the Rio de Janeiro State Legislative Assembly, he was PT congressional bloc leader; president of the Environmental Defense Commission; president of the Special Commission for Verifying Law Compliance; and member of the Public Security Commission.

Altogether, 126 laws were approved whilst he was State Representative. His parliament work included topics such as environmental conservation, public security, health at work, ethics in politics and budget supervision in Rio de Janeiro State.

He was also vice-president of the Earth Defenders environmental association (Associação Ambientalista Defensores da Terra) and founder of the Permanent Assembly for Defense of the Environment (Assembléia Permanente de Defesa do Meio Ambiente).

In 1989, Minc received the United Nation Environment Programme's (UNEP) *Global 500 Roll of Honour*, given to those who become

internationally outstanding for their environmental achievements.

On May 27, 2008, Minc took office as Minister of the Environment.

He has written five books: *Como Fazer Movimento Ecológico* (Editora Vozes, 1985); *A Reconquista da Terra* (Editora Zahar, 1986); *Ecologia e Política no Brasil* (Espaço e Tempo/Iuperj, 1987); *Despoluindo a Política* (Editora Relume Dumará, 1994); and *Ecologia e Cidadania* (Editora Moderna, 1997), now in its third edition. Used in 120 public and private Brazilian schools, the book *Ecologia e Cidadania* discusses topics such as urban and work ecology, environmental education and the environment in history.