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Terra de
Direitos

Brazil, September 28, 2018.

Mr. **Clement Voule**, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Mr. **David Kaye**, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Mr. **Michel Forst**, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Mrs. **Dubravka Šimonović**, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

We, the undersigned organizations are writing to submit to the UN Special Rapporteur an **urgent appeal** in relation to the threats and attacks on women human rights defenders in Brazil.

The context is a very polarized scenario and the candidate from one of the conservative parties, Jair Bolsonaro, has made repeated public statements against women and minorities all over his campaign, stimulating his supporters to reproduce hate speech, and react with violence to any criticism to his ideas, especially in social media.

Women groups from all over the country started showing their opposition to Bolsonaro in social media and organizing other actions out of digital platforms against him. Since last month, successive episodes of digital and physical violence have been happening daily to these women. The organizers of the online initiative had their profile pages hacked, received direct threats of physical and sexual violence, were victims of doxing (personal data exposed) and there were even some cases of physical violence to some of them.

The Facebook group called “Women together against Bolsonaro”, which gathers more than 3 million women, was hacked on September 14th by people claiming to be supporters of the candidate, one of the group administrators had her profile on Facebook compromised and she started receiving hate messages and death threats. On September 24th, one of the organizers of the protest against Bolsonaro that will happen in the 29th was beaten in front of her house and had her cellphone stolen.

Hundreds of demonstrations against Bolsonaro are scheduled for this Saturday, 29th September, in several capitals and cities all over the country and the threats are intensifying even more in the last few days.



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The organizations here represented ask the United Nations human rights specialists in the area to request, through the competent bodies, to:

- a. Issue a public statement condemning the violence against women and calling Brazilian authorities to promptly investigate the cases of digital and physical attacks against Brazilian women engaged with Bolsonaro's opposition ;**
- b. Request Brazilian authorities to prevent any action from groups or individuals aiming to harm the protesters in the 29th, making sure the law enforcement agents do not act to prevent the demonstration or to dissipate it with violence;**
- c. Reinforce that the authorities must guarantee the right to freedom of expression and assembly of the protesters;**
- d. Demand that national bodies be available during the entire day of the protest on the 29th to assist emergencies and receive complaints;**
- e. Provide a channel where civil society and women HRDs can inform about situations of attacks and violence faced internationally;**
- f. Send a notice to the Brazilian State in defense of women HRDs rights and of freedom of assembly and expression and repudiating all acts of violence that happen against women, whether virtual or physical.**

This urgent appeal is signed by:

ARTICLE 19 Brazil

CFEMEA

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