



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-fourth session

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Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the  
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

**Joint written statement\* submitted by Terra de Direitos,  
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Civil, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Conselho Indigenista  
Missionário CIMI, Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos  
Humanos - IDDH, Justiça Global, Right Livelihood Award  
Foundation, Sociedade Maranhense de Direitos Humanos,  
non-governmental organizations in special consultative  
status, FIAN International e.V., Instituto Brasileiro de  
Análises Sociais e Econômicas (IBASE), non-governmental  
organizations on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[04 June 2020]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.20-08475(E)



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## Human rights situation in Brazil

This joint written statement aims to provide an in-depth view of the most pressing issues related to current human rights situation in Brazil, in order to dialogue with High Commissioner's annual report.

**Shrinking of civic space** reflects on the dismissal of the National Council for Human Rights coordinator, and relevant budget and staff cuttings. Women Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), who play a central role in the fight for collective, land, indigenous peoples, quilombolas and environmental rights, have been particularly targeted in growing attacks.

**Torture and ill-treatment** occur in a systematic, socially and racially organized manner, through overcrowding, unhealthy facilities, infiltrations, lack of sunlight, water rationing and inadequate food in places of detention. The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) has been gradually dismantled. During COVID-19, detainees were held incommunicado, had limited water and insufficient items of hygiene, aggravated by the precarious facilities.

Denialist postures and the dismantling of deficit policies for **memory and justice**: for two consecutive years, on the anniversary of the Military Coup, the Heads of the three armed forces, the President and the Vice-president greeted the action of the forces in that period. The President has participated in and supported protests against the Supreme Court and Congress, and in favor of a new AI-5. Since 2019, the participation of the military personnel in government has intensified.

Violence against the **LGBTI population** has increased. ANTRA's surveys show that the homicides of transsexuals and transvestites increased by 48% compared to the same four-month period in 2019, with crueler crimes. During the pandemic, institutional violence has prevented this population from accessing public policies and no specific action was taken to guarantee their protection.

**Freedom of expression and access to information** is under continuous threat. Two murders, two attempted murders and three death threats against journalists were registered until May. Since January 2019, Article 19 registered 340 statements from public authorities attacking or delegitimizing the work of journalists. In 500 days as president, Bolsonaro gave 1059 false or distorted statements (Aos Fatos).

Elements of **religious fundamentalism** defend a "single religious truth", denial of science, undermining of Covid-19 deaths and pressure to classify churches as an essential activity. According to an extreme right ideological policy, the organization of a "death liturgy" creates impediments for vulnerable groups to access the basic emergency income.

The COVID-19 crisis worsened the situation of **women** living in poverty, reaching 11 million bread-earning women, 52,6% of them black. Domestic workers have been considered in the category of essential services by local government lockdown decrees, becoming even more vulnerable. Domestic violence has increased during the pandemic, at a rate of 30% (under notified).

**Children and adolescents** have been driven to poverty and inequality. Among the main violations are: the lack of child and adolescent service policy in the pandemic; the dismantling of the National Council on the Rights of Children and the increase of domestic and sexual violence during the quarantine. Although Brazil is a CRC party, there are no mechanisms of individual complaints implemented.

The **austerity measures** introduced by Constitutional Amendment 95/2016, institute a freeze in social spending for 20 years, with meaningful reduction in public spending. Under **social and economic crisis**, the "save the economy" rhetoric has empowered a regressive agenda of workers' rights, allowing, for example, reduced wages and suspension of contracts during Covid-19, and denying inclusion of a series of professional categories in Basic Emergency Income scheme.

The more than 300 **indigenous peoples'** ethnic and cultural diversity is threatened by an integrationist policy. Freezing of demarcations jeopardizes their main way of enjoying rights, contributing to extreme poverty and marginalization. The "Marco Temporal" doctrine limits territorial rights to 1988, preventing restitution of traditional lands. The dismantling of

FUNAI, the insufficiency of COVID-19 specific measures, the exposure of the non-contacted peoples and the structural racism represent a serious risk of genocide.

Institutional racism against **quilombolas** and the systematic lack of public policies reflects the need for specific measures to stop COVID-19 dissemination in the quilombos, and effective measures to access to emergency basic income. Racism in the discourse of public authorities, the dismantling of bodies responsible for territorial policies are also examples of violations.

**Environmental Rights** are at risk without participation. Examples include the reduction of opportunities for civil society participation in the National Environment Council; the defense of the expansion of agribusiness projects and the unscientific contestation of deforestation data. During the pandemic, support has been given to the approval of legislative measures allowing the regularization of lands deforested and degraded until 2018, as well as enabling the self-declaration of property regarding occupied lands without titling (Bill nº 2,633/20).

**Lack of public investment in education** and social inequality is aggravated by the pandemic. To tackle discrimination, it is preferable to suspend classes and not count complementary activities as official school days. Remote activities should prioritize ties between families and schools. Regarding digital tools, it requires providing appropriate platforms, internet, and training for professionals, considering workloads, job stability, wages, and security. Quality school meals should be guaranteed, to be distributed or collected in schools, ensuring food security.

Between 2007 and 2017, more than 400,000 **Afro-Brazilians** were killed under police violence, gang disputes, victims of structural racism. In Rio de Janeiro state, 290 people died in police operations in March and April, with the recurrence of child deaths as a result. In May 2020, official data indicate that Afro-descendants in São Paulo are 62% more likely to die from Covid-19. Black people sustaining inadequate housing conditions, unemployed and in the informal labor market will be most affected by the pandemic.

A large flow of Venezuelan **migrants and refugees** have been arriving through Roraima. This population is even more vulnerable during the pandemic, without adequate housing or social protection policies. In May, in Boa Vista, the city evicted hundreds of migrants, without a court order nor a later shelter plan. Ordinances that restricted entry into the country impose discriminatory treatment on Venezuelan migrants and refugees. Failure to comply with the Ordinance could imply disqualification or lead to immediate deportation.

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Amazon Watch - Agentes de Pastoral Negros Articulação de Mulheres Brasileiras - Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil - Articulação Internacional dos Atingidos e Atingidas pela Vale - Articulação para o Monitoramento dos Direitos Humanos no Brasil Artigo 19 - Brasil Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transsexuais - Associação Nacional de Travestis e Transexuais - Campanha Nacional pelo Direito à Educação - Centro Cultura Maranhão - Centro de Estudos e Defesa do Negro do Pará - Centro de Estudos das Relações Raciais e Desigualdades Central de Cooperativas e Empreendimentos Solidários do Brasil - Centro de Apoio aos Direitos Humanos "Valdício Barbosa dos Santos" Centro de Defesa da Vida e dos Direitos Humanos Carmen Bascarán - Centro de Direitos Humanos do Sapopemba - Centro de Estudos sobre Justiça de Transição da UFMG Coalizão Negra por Direitos Coletivo GRITO Coletivo Sapato Preto Lésbicas Negras da Amazônia Coletivo TAOCA Collectif Alerte France Brésil Comité Libérez Lula - Paris Comitê Paulista Pela Memória, Verdade e Justiça - CPMVJ - Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Quilombolas Conselho Nacional de Igrejas Cristãs - Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviços - Criola - Educação e Cidadania de Afrodescendentes e Carentes FEBrasil FIAN Brasil Fórum Ecumênico Act Brasil - Brasil Frontline Defenders Brasil Fundação Luterana de Diaconia- Geledés – Instituto da Mulher Negra Grupo Tortura Nunca Mais - Bahia Ilê Omolu Oxum – Iniciativa Negra por Uma Nova Política Sobre Drogas Instituto Políticas Alternativas para o Cone Sul - Instituto Vladimir Herzog Irohin - Centro de Documentação, Comunicação e Memória Afro Brasileira Justiça nos Trilhos Koinonia - Presença Ecumênica e Serviço Mahin Organização de Mulheres Negras Marcha das

Mulheres Negras de São Paulo - Movimento Negro Unificado Movimento Nacional de Direitos Humanos Núcleo de Preservação da Memória Política Plataforma DHESCA Processo de Articulação e Diálogo Internacional - Rede Brasileira de Conselhos - Rede de Cooperação Amazônica - Rede de Mulheres Negras de Alagoas Rede de Mulheres Negras de Pernambuco - Rede de Religiões Afro-Brasileiras e Saúde SOS Corpo - Instituto Feminista para a Democracia Swiss Indigenous Network - UNEAfro Brasil UNEGRO - União de Negros pela Igualdade, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.