

Rio de Janeiro, June 25th 2018.

Mrs. Agnes Callamard

UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

eje@ohchr.org

Ref.: Update about rights violations and deaths of children and teenagers in police operations in Rio de Janeiro

JUSTIÇA GLOBAL hereby presents an update on Human Rights violations perpetrated by the Brazilian State against children and teenagers in *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro in the context of armed confrontation between police forces and drug dealers. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, already verified and constantly presented to this Special Rapporteur, persist and have reached children and teenagers as described below:

As reported before, children and teenagers who live in favelas (slum areas) in Rio de Janeiro, mostly afro-descendants, have been targeted by bullets fired at the so-called "wars" in the favelas.

In the last days, some horror scenes have been seen in Rio de Janeiro, which look like war scenes and are unacceptable to a country with international obligations on Human Rights. We have accounted at least eight people killed during two police operations on Wednesday, both set off in the morning at Pavão-Pavãozinho hill and in the favelas complex of Maré. The bloodiest action occurred in Maré, in the Vila do Pinheiro and Vila do João communities, where a total of seven people died. It was a joint operation among the Civil Police, the Brazilian Army and National Force that counted with hundreds of officers. The Army has used armored vehicles and in videos shared on the internet, it is

possible to see helicopters of Civil Police flying low and shooting over the territory, causing panic among residents.

One of the victims was **Marcos Vinicius da Silva**, 14 years-old. He was on his way to school when he was shot on his belly. Marcos was taken to a hospital, where he underwent surgery to remove the spleen. On Friday he would undergo a new operation. The hospital director issued a note stating the teenager's death on the Thursday 21st. His parents put the blame on the police: "The state is going to pay for the burial, yes, because it was this murderous police who broke the heart of another family"¹, affirmed Mrs. Bruna Silva, mother of Marcos. His father, on his turn, said that he saw the shot that killed his son came from one of the armored vehicles². The case took place in national and international media³.

The other six lethal victims were not identified yet. But according to Redes da Maré, a local NGO based in the favela, five of them were summary executed by the security forces. According to witnesses, the police officer used gloves and threw the victims' bodies from the second floor of the building in order to prevent criminal investigations⁴.

It urges to say that these operations are happening to revenge the death of a Civil Police Officer occurred in the favela of Acari on June 12nd. On the day of the policeman's funeral, on June 14th, a delegate of the Civil Police and commentator of a TV Channel (SBT Rio) named Marcus Amim stated that his corporation would "hunt" those

1 https://oglobo.globo.com/rio/eu-nao-tenho-que-doar-do-meu-filho-diz-mae-de-menino-morto-na-mare-em-video-22806394?utm_source=WhatsApp&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=compartilhar

2 Idem.

3 In English: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/21/brazil-latest-death-teenager-favela-raid-police-marcus-da-silva>

4 <http://redesdamare.org.br/maredenoticias/2018/06/20/a-ilegalidade-dos-caveiros-voadores/>

responsible. "All those involved in Acari today are enemies of the Rio de Janeiro Civil Police, we are going to hunt you wherever you are ... It's useless posting on your Facebook that child was shot ... Lies, it's useless, you cannot out of there [the favelas]. We're going at any time, there's no time for us", he said during the program. And he promised, "Nothing will stop us from finding, and if you resist to our action, we will stain the environment with your dirty blood. Do not dare to confront us, because we are going to the last consequences".

It is also important to be said that Rio de Janeiro's public security is under a Federal Military Intervention, as reported by Justiça Global to your honour in February of this year, and the Armed Forces are being used in the internal security, situation which is unconstitutional and runs counter to international human rights standards.

In February, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Torquato Jardim, during an interview⁵ about the Federal Military Intervention declared: "You see a cute kid, 12 years old, entering a public school. You do not know what they are going to do after school. It is very complicated". In the same interview, he publicized the understanding of the intervention as a war and affirmed, when asked if there would be deaths, that "there is no war that is not lethal".

It must to be said that it is completely unacceptable to a federal authority – the Mister of Justice! – to declare such things with no accountability in a country which has ratified international treaties of human rights and should be committed with them.

It is also important to highlight that JUSTIÇA GLOBAL, in July 2017, has reported to your honour the extrajudicial execution of five teenagers, which has originate the joint **Communication AL BRA 7/2017** among the Mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions; and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment

⁵ https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/app/noticia/politica/2018/02/20/interna_politica,660876/correio-entrevista-o-ministro-da-justica-torquato-jardim.shtml

of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. So far, according to the information available on the OHCHR's website, the **Brazilian State has not even responded to the communication**, evidencing once again the lack of commitment of Brazil to its international obligations in Human Rights.

Therefore, JUSTIÇA GLOBAL reports this new case of execution and victimization of a child by firearm projectiles in order to request this Special Rapporteur to call on the Brazilian State to respond for the human rights violations of afro descendant people who live in slum areas and peripheries, according to the international human rights treaties ratified by Brazil. We also request to be considered a public statement, such as a press release, in order to ensure the implementation of a public security policy that guarantees the lives of children and teenagers.

We appreciate in advance the attention to this report and remain at your disposal for any further information or additional measures that may be needed.

Best regards,



Sandra Carvalho / Guilherme Pontes
JUSTIÇA GLOBAL