

URGENT ACTION

POLICE OPERATION KILLS TWO AND INJURES OTHERS

At least two people were killed and one seriously injured in police operations in favelas in Rio de Janeiro on 8 and 9 September. Two boys, aged 13 and 16, were shot dead and a 33-year-old woman was shot in the face and is in grave condition. Residents of one favela report that police operations are still ongoing, with heavy shooting.

During the morning of 8 September, 13-year-old **Cristian Soares** was playing football in the favela of Manguinhos in Rio de Janeiro, the capital, when a joint operation of the civil and military police entered the community and started shooting. Cristian Soares and other children, together with residents of the favela, ran to hide from the gunfire. One bullet hit Cristian and he died immediately, sometime before noon. Eyewitnesses said police officers tried to remove his body without due diligence and alter the crime scene. Residents prevented them from doing so as they mobilized to protect the area, and were threatened and intimidated by the police officers. Video evidence shows that police officers were not wearing any kind of identification during the operation. After the killing, residents of Manguinhos protested and closed the streets in the surrounding area.

On the same day, a military police operation in the favelas of Maré, also in Rio de Janeiro, resulted in long periods of gunfire and shootings. Residents could not leave their homes, nobody could go in or out of the complex, part of the houses were left with no electricity and schools cancelled classes. A 33-year-old woman was shot in the face and is currently in critical health condition. On 9 September, military police resumed operations in the Maré favela and residents report heavy shooting. A 16-year-old boy was shot dead during the operation. Residents also report that other people were injured but, due to the ongoing heavy shooting, it was difficult to obtain further information. While the shootings continue, residents are once more unable to leave their homes or go to work, and all activities from schools have again been suspended.

Please write immediately in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- Ensure that law enforcement officials respect the right to life and, in particular, do not use firearms except to protect against an imminent threat of death or serious injury, as stipulated in the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;
- Calling on the authorities to conduct thorough, prompt and impartial investigations into any death or serious injuries that resulted from the use of police force, ensure that anyone found responsible is brought to justice and that victims receive adequate reparations;
- Urging them to ensure that the Public Prosecutor's Office in Rio de Janeiro fulfils its constitutional role of exercising external control of police activity, promoting effective actions to monitor the use of lethal force by the police.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 OCTOBER 2015 TO:

Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro

Luiz Fernando de Souza
 Palácio Guanabara
 Rua Pinheiro Machado s/nº, Laranjeiras.
 Rio de Janeiro, RJ,
 CEP 22.238-900, Brasil
 Email: agendaspezao@gmail.com
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/LFPezao>
 Twitter: @LFPezao
Salutation: Dear Mr. Governor

Head of Public Prosecutor's Office

Marfan Martins Vieira
 Av. Marechal Câmara, nº 370, 8º andar
 Centro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
 CEP 20020-080, Brasil
 Email: assessoria-pgj@mprj.mp.br
 Twitter: @MP_RJ
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/MPRJ.Oficial>
**Salutation: Dear Mr. General
 Prosecutor**

And copies to:

Human Rights Commission of the Rio de
 Janeiro State's Assembly
 Dep. Marcelo Freixo
 ALERJ - Palácio Tiradentes
 Rua Primeiro de Março, s/n, sala 307
 Praça XV - Rio de Janeiro, RJ
 CEP 20010-090, Brasil

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has long documented the shocking 'shoot first, ask questions later' tactic used by police in Rio de Janeiro during their security operations in favelas. On 3 August, the organization launched the report "*You killed my son: homicides by the military police in the city of Rio de Janeiro*" (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR19/2068/2015/en/>) denouncing the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force by police in Rio de Janeiro and strong examples of extrajudicial executions. Over a 10-year period (2005-2014), 8,466 cases of police killings were registered in the State of Rio de Janeiro, including 5,132 only in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Although the numbers dropped between 2007 and 2013, they increased by 39.4% between 2013 and 2014. The number of on-duty police killings represents a significant percentage of the overall amount of homicides: 15.6% in 2014 in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Cases of police killings are rarely investigated and brought to justice and impunity fuels the cycle of violence. When reviewing the status of all 220 investigations of police killings opened in 2011 in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Amnesty International found that after four years, only one case led to a police officer being charged. As of April 2015, 183 investigations were still open. The research also revealed the profile of the victim of police killings: young black men from the favelas. From 2010-2013, nearly all of those registered as being killed during police intervention in the city of Rio de Janeiro were men (99.5%), 79% black and 75% young people between 15 and 29 years old.

Police operations in the favela of Manguinhos, Rio de Janeiro, have a record of killings and other police abuses. Johnathan de Oliveira Lima was 19 years old when Military Police officers of the Manguinhos Pacification Police Unit (UPP) killed him on 14 May 2014. Paulo Roberto Pinho de Menezes, known as "Nêgo", was 18 years old when UPP Military Police officers killed him on 17 October 2013. Neither of their cases have been brought to justice yet.

On 6 November 2012, Amnesty International and local NGOs Network for Development of Maré (Redes de Desenvolvimento da Maré) and Favela Watch (Observatório de Favelas) launched the local campaign *We are from Maré and we have rights* to distribute some 50,000 information packs to people living in the complex of favelas of Maré, Rio de Janeiro. The campaign was aimed at preventing human rights violations that usually take place during police operations in favelas. The Maré complex is home to some 132,000 people, spread across 16 communities. It is a diverse community, a collection of slums and informal settlements located between Rio de Janeiro's main access routes, and lies close to the international airport. Its residents share the space with organized criminal groups and militias (*milícias*) – criminal gangs made up largely of former or off-duty law-enforcement agents. The relationship between the police and Maré residents has been marked by violence and abuse, which has affected particularly young black residents.

For more information, see the following Amnesty International resources:

Brazil: Killing of 13-year-old boy in police shootout shows reckless security strategy

(<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/09/brazil-killing-of-13-year-old-boy-in-police-shootout-shows-reckless-security-strategy/>), *'Trigger happy' military police kill hundreds as Rio prepares for Olympic countdown*

(<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/08/brazil-trigger-happy-military-police-kill-hundreds-as-rio-prepares-for-olympic-countdown/>) *Brazil: Slum campaign on human rights ahead of police operation*

(<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2012/11/brazil-slum-campaign-human-rights-ahead-police-operation/>) and campaign video *We're from Maré and we have rights* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWBMk00IL_k)

Name: Cristian Soares (m) and other residents of the Manguinhos and Maré favelas in Rio de Janeiro

Gender m/f: both

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