

A photograph of a white van with several bullet holes on its windshield. A white skull sticker is on the right side of the windshield. Two men are standing to the left of the van. One man is wearing a dark vest and the other is wearing a yellow shirt.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

END MILITIA VIOLENCE AND
EXTORTION IN BRAZIL

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL





Your Excellency, Mr Eduardo Paes,

Hundreds of communities in Rio de Janeiro continue to live under the shadow of increasingly powerful *milicias*. Communities already suffering from entrenched poverty are being driven even further to the margins of society by the domination of these organized criminal gangs.

More than 400 *milicia* members have been arrested. However, little has been done to address the web of illegal economic activities – which extend to the control of essential services such as transport, gas and telecommunications – that fuel these criminal organizations.

We are calling on you to implement the recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry into *milicias* and to work with state authorities, companies and the Public Prosecutor's Office to create joint agreements to end *milicia* domination of services in these communities.

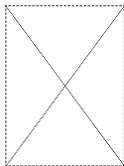
Only by ending these illegal rackets can the authorities tackle the *milicias'* reign of violence, extortion and persecution and fulfil their duty to ensure the human rights of all.

Yours faithfully

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



Exmo. Sr. Eduardo Paes

Prefeito

Prefeitura Municipal do Rio de Janeiro

Centro Administrativo São Sebastião

R. Afonso Cavalcanti, 455 Cidade Nova

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Brasil

Image: Brazilian police officers stand beside a bullet-ridden police car in Rio de Janeiro following a shoot-out involving police, suspected drug traffickers and *milicia* members, February 2007. Nine people were reportedly killed in the shoot-out.

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