

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

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### **Brazil: Amnesty International urges the government to protect Afro-Brazilians from racism-related violence and welcomes its support for establishing a National Human Rights Institution**

#### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Brazil***

Amnesty International welcomes Brazil's positive engagement with the UPR, including the consultations with civil society before the Working Group session and the subsequent debriefing. The organization also welcomes Brazil's commitment to involve civil society in the follow-up to the review.

Amnesty International also welcomes Brazil's support of the recommendation to thoroughly and impartially investigate reports of human rights violations committed by law enforcement officials, including while off-duty, and to hold those responsible to account.<sup>1</sup>

During the UPR Working Group session, Brazil noted "an increase in the number of people identifying themselves as black".<sup>2</sup> However, this circumstance has not been met with enhanced protection from racism-related violence. Amnesty International is concerned that Brazil faces "an epidemic of indifference" regarding the violent death of its youth. From 1981 to 2010, more than 176,000 people under the age of 19 were killed in Brazil. Recent studies have shown that an overwhelming majority of those killed are poor black males.<sup>3</sup> The recent killing, by criminal gangs related to drug trafficking, of 9 youths in the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro is not an isolated tragedy, but part a pattern of violence against Afro-Brazilians. We urge the government to take urgent and decisive action to end these and other serious human rights violations against vulnerable groups in Brazilian society, such as Indigenous Peoples.

Amnesty International welcomes Brazil's support for the recommendations to establish a National Human Rights Institution compliant with the Paris Principles.<sup>4</sup> The organization notes, however, that 18 years have elapsed since this discussion first began and urges Brazil to create a strong and independent institution without further delay.

#### **Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Brazil on 20 September 2012 during its 21<sup>st</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Brazil:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR19/019/2011/en>

#### Public Document

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/21/11, recommendation 119.120 and A/HRC/21/1/Add.1, paragraph 15.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, paragraph 88.

<sup>3</sup> Waiselfisz, Julio Jacobo. Mapa da violência 2011 : os jovens no Brasil. Instituto Sangari, Brasília, DF, Ministério da Justiça, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/21/11, recommendations 119.16-23 and A/HRC/21/1/Add.1, paragraph 8.