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ORAL STATEMENT
Item [9]: General Debate

States must address the deep-seated foundations and structures that sustain racial inequality and discrimination

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Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the Advisory Committee's report and its recognition that systemic racism is "frequently rooted in historical legacies of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism." To effectively dismantle systemic racism, States must address the deep-seated foundations and structures that sustain present day racial inequality and discrimination. This requires States to reckon with the past. States must urgently address the legacies of slavery and colonialism and prioritize reparatory justice for these historical harms.

We welcome the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality's (EMLER) country visit to the USA and their findings with respect to the legacy of chattel slavery. Systemic racism impacts all aspects of life for Black, Indigenous and other racialized groups within the USA, but is pervasive and most acutely felt in the area of law enforcement, specifically with respect to the use of lethal force, the policing of protests and immigration enforcement. US officials must urgently implement root and branch reform of all law enforcement agencies within the USA in order to address systemic racism and bring their policies and practices in line with its human rights obligations.

We recall EMLER's recent observations on Brazil, which emphasize that impunity for crimes committed by the police is widespread. Despite extensive recommendations from international human rights mechanisms, persistent use of unnecessary and excessive force continues, result in unlawful killings that disproportionately affect the black population in Brazil. We are concerned about the public security crisis in the states of São Paulo, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro, where, between the end of July and September 2023, 123 people were killed in different police operations, 86 of them in Bahia. We welcome EMLER's upcoming visit to Brazil and strongly recommends a visit to these states to investigate the human rights crisis related to police lethality".

Thank You.