

HE Mr N R Jorge  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Federative Republic of Brazil  
177 Dyer Road, Hillcrest Office Park  
Woodpecker Place, 1st floor  
Hillcrest, Pretoria, 0083  
South Africa

27 March 2018

**RE: CONCERN ABOUT THE ATTACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN BRAZIL**

Your Excellency

We wish to express our deep concern at the increase in attacks on human rights defenders in your country, and to urge you to demonstrate your commitment to ending them by conducting a thorough and **independent investigation** to find the perpetrators of these crimes.

Ubumbano Solidarity is an initiative of the ACT Alliance in Southern Africa, and is a collaboration of 30 faith-based and non-governmental organisations in the region working for social justice. We believe that a fair, just and equal society is possible, but it demands that our governments – your government - commit to a plurality of views in the political arena, and works to safeguard the rights of those who champion the cause of marginalised and poor communities.

We stand in solidarity with those who bear the burden of injustice and violence in society. We urge that your government, and governments throughout the world, protect their citizens and carry out the mandate given them by their people to improve the lives of all.

In Brazil in 2018, there have already been eight murders of activists and human rights defenders, including the highly publicised death of Marielle Franco. We remember those who have died in the pursuit of justice and equality:

1. Paulo Sérgio Almeida Nascimento –in Pará (+13/03/2018),
2. Márcio Oliveira Matos líder do MST – in Bahia (+26/01/2018),
3. Leandro Altenir Ribeiro Ribas – community leader in Rio Grande do Sul (+19/01/2018),
4. Jefferson Marcelo – community leader in Rio de Janeiro (+04/01/2018),
5. Carlos Antônio dos Santos – community leader in Mato Grosso (+08/02/2018),
6. George de Andrade Lima Rodrigues – community leader in Recife (+23/02/2018),
7. Valdemir Resplandes – community leader and MST activist – Pará (+09/01/2018).

We ask that your government expedites the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions to the country to look at the increasing violence and the need for a clear policy on the matter.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Green-Thompson

**Change Manager** - Ubumbano Solidarity: *An initiative of the ACT Alliance South Africa*

+27 83 442 4497