

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
21st session, 10-28 September 2012**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

BRAZIL

Madame President,

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. We also welcome 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.¹

Madame President,

During the UPR Working Group session, Brazil noted "an increase in the number of people identifying themselves as black".² 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.³ The recent killing of nine youths in the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro by criminal gangs related to drug trafficking is not an isolated tragedy, but part of a pattern of violence against Afro-Brazilians that includes death squads linked to off-duty police officers. 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.

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

² Ibid, paragraph 88.

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

Madam President,

Amnesty International welcomes Brazil's support for the recommendations to establish a National Human Rights Institution compliant with the Paris Principles.⁴ We note, however, that 18 years have elapsed since this discussion first began and we urge Brazil to create a strong and independent institution without further delay.

Thank you, Madam President.

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