

**United Nations Human Rights Council
40th Regular Session**

General Debate - Item 4

Joint statement by Conectas Direitos Humanos and others

Delivered by Ms. Camila Asano

Mr. President,

This is a statement on behalf of a broad coalition.

Many who speak truth to power in Brazil, such as Marielle Franco, pay with their lives for protecting human rights.

One year after the extrajudicial killing of Marielle Franco and her driver Anderson Gomes, the Brazilian authorities took very few steps to bring justice to the case.

Your excellencies,

Only yesterday two suspects to be the responsables for the act of the execution were preventively arrested. There is still a noisy silence on who ordered the crime. Tomorrow is the one-year anniversary of the execution.

Marielle was a city councilor for Rio de Janeiro known for defending the rights of young black people, women, residents of favelas and LGBTI people.

Marielle also played a key role in assisting families of police officers who died in duty, in a context of Rio de Janeiro's highly militarized public security policy. Her murder represents a threat to all human rights defenders in Brazil.

Marielle's strength, engagement and spirit of sisterhood should serve as a source of inspiration for the necessary work for human rights, in particular for the most marginalized groups.

It is time for Brazil to show the international community that it is truly engaged in the protection of all human rights defenders.

It is time for the Brazilian government to show that such attacks will not be tolerated.

Thank you.