

Human Rights Council - 43rd Regular Session  
General Debate - Item 4

Conectas Direitos Humanos in partnership with Abraji, Artigo 19 Brasil, Instituto Vladimir Herzog and Intervozes

Delivered by Mr Gustavo Huppes

Madam President,

We would like to call this Council's attention to the current situation of freedom of expression, freedom of the press and safety of journalists in Brazil, which are all deteriorating.

President Bolsonaro has treated the press and journalists as his enemies. According to a report by the National Federation of Journalists, in 2019 almost ten attacks to the press were made by the president each month.

The attacks are not only made through statements as they are also through concrete measures. Newspapers have been banned from covering Presidential trips, for instance.

We would like to call a special attention to the situation of women journalists in Brazil. Sexist and misogynistic offenses, with the clear intention of damaging credibility and intimidating female journalists are becoming more common and enforced by governmental authorities, including the president himself. Patrícia Campos Mello, Vera Magalhães, Constança Rezende and Miriam Leitão are a few examples of women journalists under attack in the country. They are victims of a smear campaign, especially through social media, that has been supported publicly by the President, important officials and members of the Brazilian Congress.

We call on this council, its members and its special procedures to publicly condemn attacks to journalists and to the press in Brazil as well as to closely monitor the situation of freedom of the press in the country.

Thank you.