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***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office  
and other international organizations in Geneva***

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1202 – Geneva / Switzerland*

Nº 355 / 2014

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to the joint allegation letter of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, of 4 April 2013, has the honor to attach herewith the comments of the Government of Brazil concerning case no. BRA 3/2014.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the OHCHR the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 27 August 2014.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
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***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office  
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In attention to the joint allegation letter of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, which expressed concern over actions and bills which would allegedly affect the right to participate in peaceful protests in Brazil, the Brazilian government provides the following answers.

Question (1) Are the alleged facts accurate?

The facts alleged above are currently under investigation by the competent authorities. The Judiciary - coupled with the Prosecutor's Office at the federal or state level, which is also mandated to act as *custos legis* on behalf of society for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms - have been acting independently and promptly to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for possible violations to the rights and freedoms specified by the Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; on the situation of human rights defenders; on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism on their joint allegation letter. Reports of excessive use of force by law enforcement agents during public gatherings in Brazil have been met with numerous measures whose aim is to investigate and punish perpetrators and to strengthen capacity-building and oversight mechanisms. Such measures were taken in order to protect the right to participate in peaceful protests, which is enshrined in the Brazilian Federal Constitution and consistent with international human rights standards. Allegations that this right would be under threat by any specific bill or policy have no grounds, as the principles which underpin the Brazilian legal system require that any bill or policy be in accordance with constitutional provisions.

Question (2) Please provide information on the regulations and operational procedures for law enforcement agents concerning the use of force in the context of public protests and whether they are compatible with international standards on the use of force and firearms.

All regulations and operational procedures for law enforcement agents concerning the use of force in the context of public protests are compatible with international standards on the use of force and firearms.

Human rights issues also integrate all courses offered to members of the National Public Safety Force ("Força Nacional de Segurança Pública" - FNSP), under the responsibility of the National Secretariat on Public Safety (SENASP), under the Ministry of Justice. In addition, a specific course on the use of instruments and techniques of less offensive potential is also offered to members of FNSP.

SENASP is also in charge of providing support for training and capacity building of law State-level enforcement officials. An online education platform called EAD-SENASP Network, which incorporates human rights contents in all its courses, has been developed with a focus on providing proper and widespread training.

The Brazilian government has adopted several initiatives aimed at improving the work of law enforcement officials. In designing such initiatives, due consideration was given to human rights principles.

A 60-hour long course on the "Proportionate Use of Force", launched in 2005, comprises modules on the "Use of Force by Public Safety Agents"; "Models of Proportionate Use of Force"; "Basic Principles on the Use of Force" and "Proportionate Use of Force". Since the inception of the program, 146,206 professionals have been trained. In 2013, 8,278 people took the course.

In 2009, the Federal Government held the 1st National Conference on Public Safety, which included state-level preparatory conferences in all 27 states of Brazil and was attended by more than 530 thousand people across the country, including representatives of civil society, civil servants and public safety personnel. During the preparatory process, topics such as the use of force and police lethality were thoroughly discussed. In order to foster the debate and share expertise, a specific seminar on the progressive use of force was held during the Conference.

In 2010, SENASP adopted the Guidelines on the Use of Force by Law Enforcement Agents, which is the main legal document regulating the use of force and firearms by law enforcement agents in Brazil. It was based on the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979; the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by the 8th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention in 1999; the Guiding Principles for the Effective Application of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by Resolution 1989/61 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council; and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatments, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 40th Session, in 1984. According to Interministerial Decree no. 4226, which spelled out the Guidelines: (i) the use of force must be based on international human rights standards; (ii) law enforcement agents must abide by the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, moderation and convenience in the use of force; (iii) licensing procedures must be developed for the use of each type of less offensive firearms or instruments that include periodical technical, psychological and physical evaluation, as well as periodical specific training; (iv) law enforcement agents must not hold firearms or instruments of less offensive potential if not duly qualified to perform their functions and will undergo specific training whenever a new type of weapon or instrument of less offensive potential is introduced in the institution; and (v) law enforcement agents should receive incentives to

use techniques and instruments of less offensive potential, whenever possible.

In 2012, the Ministry of Justice funded a research conducted by "Sou da Paz" Institute, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, in order to assess the use of force by police institutions. The result of the study was made widely available through a publication titled "Thinking Safety" ("Pensando a Segurança").

In June 2013, the National Council for the Defense of the Rights of the Human Person ("Conselho de Defesa dos Direitos da Pessoa Humana - CDDPH), which was replaced by the National Council of Human Rights on June, 3, 2014 (Law No.12.986/14), adopted resolution no. 06/2013 on the prohibition of the use of firearms and on the restriction of the use of non-lethal armaments during demonstrations and public events, as well as during the execution of judicial orders for assuring the possession of real estate and rural properties.

Resolution no. 06/2013 regulated and restricted the use of non-lethal arms, such as stun grenades, pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullet for containing demonstrations. The resolution also forbids the use of those armaments against children, adolescents, older persons, pregnant women, people with disabilities and media and communications professionals. The use of non-lethal armaments, according to the resolution, can only occur "when needed to protect the physical integrity of public safety agents as well as third parties, or in extreme situations when the use of force is the only possible way of averting violent actions".

All state-level Secretariats of Public Safety in Brazil were notified of the content of the resolution and invited to adhere to it. As of today, the resolution was fully endorsed by the States of Acre, Amazonas, Alagoas, Rio de Janeiro and Rio Grande do Sul. The Prosecutor's Office at the federal and state levels in Bahia and Minas Gerais have also advocated for adherence to the resolution. The list of States currently assessing the adoption of the resolution includes Ceará, Santa Catarina and the Federal District. A new round of demarches will be made in order to increase the number of States adhering to the resolution.

Beyond the actions listed above, resolution no. 06/2013 inspired Bill no. 6500, which aims at ensuring the protection of human rights and the application of the non-violence principle in the context of demonstrations and public events, as well as during the execution of court orders.

On June 5, 2013, CDDPH established the Working Group to Regulate the Use of Force and Non-Lethal Armaments, in the Special Committee for Security and Human Rights. Composed of representatives of CDDPH; the National Secretariat for Human Rights; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Defense; the Ministry of Health; the Federal Police Department; and the non-governmental organization "Tortura Nunca Mais", the Working Group have been given, among others, the tasks of preparing in-depth studies on the regulation of the use of force and non-lethal armaments; analyzing allegations of violations; and proposing actions with the purpose of establishing a monitoring system and of improving public policies in this field. In October 2013, CDDPH sent a mission to Rio de Janeiro in order to investigate alleged abuses in the use of force and other violations during demonstrations. The mission, headed by then Minister-Chief of the

National Secretariat for Human Rights, Maria do Rosário Nunes, managed to secure (i) the full endorsement by the State Government of CDDHP resolution no. 08/2013, on the abolition of records/charges for resistance during law enforcement operations which result in the death of an alleged criminal, and (ii) the monitoring by the Office of the National Human Rights Ombudsman of public safety operations in the context of demonstrations.

Efforts have also been made to ensure the adequate use of force in law-and-order actions by the Armed Forces. A Normative Decree enacted in January 2014 by the Ministry of Defense underlines that the Armed Forces can be invited to act only in exceptional circumstances, as a subsidiary force, in previously defined areas, for a period as brief as possible, and only upon the explicit request of the State concerned. Their operational procedures can be found in the "Manual of Law-and-Order Enforcement" ("Manual de Garantia da Lei e da Ordem" - GLO), adopted by the Ministry of Defense.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice created in 2014 the Forum of Permanent Dialogue with the Public Safety Secretaries of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, with the purpose of seeking ways to avert acts of violence during manifestations and standardizing the action of police forces during demonstrations, in order to prevent abuses. The Forum has set four objectives, which include: a) creating a unified protocol for police action in those cases; b) establishing an Emergency Judiciary Service Unit, with the purpose of avoiding any arbitrary detention, which was tentatively adopted by São Paulo's State Court; c) establishing the Forum of Social Dialogue; and d) proposing a draft bill to regulate law enforcement operations during public gatherings.

Question (3) Please provide information concerning the charges brought against Luana Bernardo Lopes and Humberto Caporalli and how such measures are compatible with international human rights norms and standards as mentioned above.

According to information provided by the São Paulo State Secretariat of Public Safety, on October 7, 2013, during a demonstration held in the city of São Paulo, Humberto Caporalli and Luana Bernardo Lopes were arrested by a police officer on charges that they were holding explosive materials. Two days later, the São Paulo State Court determined that the criteria for determining the legality of the arrest had not been met and ordered their release.

Question(4) Please indicate or confirm the legal basis of the sentences applied against demonstrators, and how such measures are compatible with the above mentioned international human rights norms and standards.

During some demonstrations that have occurred in Brazil since June, 2013, some protesters were found to act with violence against public safety and property. The police acted to preserve public order, in accordance with Article 144, § 5, of the Brazilian Constitution and ensure the safety of those who intended to protest in a peaceful way, while seeking to protect the legitimate right to hold assemblies. The legal basis for some of the prisons are alleged offences related to personal injury or damage to property; unauthorized possession of firearms; keeping explosive devices with intent to endanger life or property; criminal acts against public

order; and criminal association, which are all typified in the Brazilian Criminal Code (Decree-Law No. 2.848, Dec. 7, 1940).

Question (5) Please indicate the legal basis of the arrests of professionals from the media, including journalists, during protests in Rio de Janeiro on February 2014.

Only in cases where journalists have committed offences during their work is there legal basis for their arrest. Any arrest of media professionals while exercising their legitimate right to report and cover the news is a legal offence. Brazilian authorities have been taking measures to curb and punish acts against journalists' rights.

The protection of the rights of journalists is one of the main concerns of the National Council of Human Rights, under which the Working Group on Human Rights for Media Professionals operates with the following goals: "i) analyze allegations of violations of media professionals' rights, sending their complaints to the competent government bodies and following their proceedings; ii) propose actions to help establish a monitoring system of complaints related to violations of media professionals' human rights, as well as adopt measures to improve public policies for this segment; and iii) propose guidelines for the safety of media professionals when facing situations of risk related to their work".

A public hearing held in June, 2013 by the Working Group indicated that news coverage of protests had become potentially risky for media professionals, many of whom reported being victims of disproportionate use of force by the police during demonstrations. Data survey regarding violations against media professionals during protests, conducted by non-governmental organizations ABRAJI, FENAJ and Article 19, indicated that these professionals were also a target for rioters.

A tragic example of violence against these professionals was the death of cameraman Santiago Andrade on February 10, 2014, four days after he was hit by an object launched by demonstrators when he was filming a demonstration in Rio de Janeiro. Two demonstrators, Fábio Raposo Barboza e Caio Silva de Souza, have been accused of the crime, and their process is underway in the 3rd Criminal Section of Rio de Janeiro Justice Court.

As pointed out in Article 5 of resolution no. 6/2013 of the CDDPH, "The activities of journalists, photographers and other media professionals are essential for the effective respect for the human right to freedom of speech, in the context of demonstrations and public events, as well as in the coverage of the execution of court orders for maintenance of possession and repossession. Single paragraph: journalists, photographers and other communications professionals will receive special protection during the exercise of their profession, and any obstacle with resort to force to their action is forbidden".

Among the recommendations issued by said Working Group at the end of its activities in February, 2014, is the creation of an Observatory of Violence against Media Professionals:

#### "VIII. The Observatory of Violence against Media Professionals

The Media Professionals' WG proposes that the Observatory be structured in three segments so as to make it possible to deal with the violations

against media professionals during their professional activities in a flexible manner, according to their level of severity and to the specific measures that may be necessary. It will be composed of: a. a Unit to Receive Cases, in charge of receiving accusations, processing them and following up on investigations; b. a System of Indicators, as part of a web platform which will allow anybody to access a database to be constantly updated on the violence against media professionals in the country; c. a Protection Mechanism to Media Professionals, as part of the National System of Protection run by the Secretariat for Human Rights of the President's Office, which must act in the protective domain, taking into account the specificities inherent to the professional practice of media professionals. It is proposed that the Observatory be coordinated by the Secretariat for Human Rights of the President's Office (SDH/PR) in partnership with the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) in Brazil and the United Nations Information Center in Brazil (UNIC Rio) Its headquarters should be located in Rio de Janeiro, at the UNIC-Rio Office, and it should be managed by a bipartite Executive Committee composed of civil society organizations that fight violence against media professionals and by representatives of State sectors that play a key role in this matter. (...) "

Question (6) Please indicate the legal basis for the infiltration of the organization Xingu Vivo and how such measures are compatible with international human rights norms and standards as mentioned above. Please indicate if a complaint has been lodged by or on behalf of the aforementioned association and its members. Please provide information on powers of investigation provided under law n. 12.850 and its compatibility with international human rights norms and standards.

The allegation that the organization Xingu Vivo was infiltrated by federal intelligence officers with the purpose of investigating their activities is currently under investigation. This allegation has prompted the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office in the city of Altamira, in the State of Pará, to start an administrative proceeding with a view to examining the matter and adopting the appropriate legal measures (Administrative Proceedings n. 1.23.003.000038/2013-25).

In Official Letter no. 0470/2013/PRM-ATM-GAB3, dated September 12, 2013, Federal Prosecutor Bruna Menezes Gomes Silva informed that, as of said date, the allegation that the Brazilian National Intelligence Agency (ABIN) had participated in an action against the MXVPS was "fragile".

The non-governmental organization called "Movimento Xingu Vivo Para Sempre" (MXVPS) is a group of environmental organizations and social movements from the Altamira region which for many years has expressed its opposition to the Belo Monte hydroelectric power plant project. Besides being supported by local, national and international organizations, the MXVPS gathers representatives of riverside communities, fishermen, workers and rural workers, indigenous people, Altamira inhabitants, movements for the protection of the rights of women, for the protection of the rights of those affected by the construction of large dams, and religious and ecumenical organizations.

In the context of the Brazilian policy of promoting and protecting human rights defenders and the free exercise of their activities, Ms. Antônia Melo da Silva, coordinator of the MXVPS, has been under police protection

provided for in the National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders since July 2011.

The claim that law 12.850 on Criminal Organizations would have been used as the basis for the investigation of the activities of the organization Xingu Vivo can only be properly assessed once the infiltration of such organization by federal agents is proven. As mentioned above, an administrative proceeding with a view to examining the matter and adopting the appropriate legal measures is currently under way.

Regarding the powers of investigation provided under law 12.850 and its compatibility with international human rights and standards, it is important to clarify that the purpose of this law is not to interfere with the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, which the Brazilian Government values, fosters and seeks to protect. Rather, the aim of said legislation is to regulate the activities of criminal organizations, i.e., "organizations dedicated to gaining a number of advantages [...] by committing criminal offenses whose maximum penalties are higher than four years or that have a transnational character".

With respect to the powers of investigation provided under law 12.850 and its compatibility with international human rights norms and standards, the eventual infiltration by the police into the alleged criminal organization in order to obtain evidence of a criminal offense must be duly and previously authorized by a detailed judicial authorization, which will also establish the limits of such activity, according to article 10 of the law. According to the law, the eventual infiltration into criminal organizations needs to comply with the principles of legality (judicial authorization) and necessity (the infiltration will only be authorized if it is proven that it is the only means of obtaining evidence available), in full accordance with international human rights norms and standards.

Although article 15 of the law allows access to some data of individuals under investigation, the type of data which can be accessed without judicial authorization refers exclusively to registration data which communicates public information about the person, such as his/her address, the name of his/her parents, marital state, profession, education, place of birth, nationality, birth date, telephone numbers, civil identification numbers and Internet Protocol numbers, as informed to the electoral courts, telephone companies, financial institutions, Internet service providers and credit card companies.

Question (7) Please provide details, and where available results, of any inquiries, medical examination, and judicial or other inquiries carried out in relation of the death of Mr. Santiago Ilídio Andrade. If no inquiries have taken place, or if they have been inconclusive, please, explain why. Please clarify whether compensation has been made available to the family of the victim.

The death of Mr. Santiago Ilídio Andrade has been investigated under police inquiry no. 01.0603/2014, under the responsibility of the 17th Police District in Rio de Janeiro. According to the Rio de Janeiro State Prosecutor's Office (Official Letter SGDH no. 21 from May 7, 2014), on February 6, 2014, around 6 p.m., Mr. Fábio Raposo Barbosa and Mr. Caio Silva de Souza placed an explosive device on the pavement of Duque de Caxias Square (downtown Rio de Janeiro) and activated it. By doing so,

the investigation has concluded so far, they took a risk that led to the death of Mr. Santiago Andrade, a cameraman that was covering the protests. The injuries caused by this incident led to the death of Mr. Andrade on February 10, 2014. According to the accusation brought by the Prosecutor's Office against Mr. Fábio Raposo Barbosa and Mr. Caio Silva de Souza, "the crime occurred due to a vile reason, in other words, with the purpose of undermining the legitimacy of a popular manifestation through violent actions whose foreseeable results were harmful to the physical integrity of the participants and to public property". Both defendants are accused of committing the crimes of explosion and intentional homicide aggravated by three reasons: vile reason, victim's impossibility to defend himself, and use of explosive device.

The accusation was deemed admissible by the Rio de Janeiro State Court of Justice (3rd Criminal District). On April 25, 2014, the first witnesses were heard. On May 23, 2014, there was a hearing where arguments for the defense were presented. On that occasion, the defendants invoked their constitutional right to remain silent. The judge heard closing arguments from both defense lawyers and prosecutors, and decided on August 19 that the defendants will have a trial by jury.

It is impossible at this point to clarify whether compensation will be made available to the family of the victim since the police investigation is still under way.

Question(8) Please provide information on the aforementioned legislation, including the status of draft bills, regulating peaceful assemblies and their compatibility with international human rights norms and standards, in particular with the principle of proportionality.

The rights to freedom of speech and assembly are at the core of the Brazilian legal framework. The 1988 Federal Constitution provides that "the expression of thought is free (.)" and that "all persons may hold peaceful gatherings, without weapons, in places open to the public, regardless of authorization, provided that they do not frustrate another meeting previously called for the same place, subject only to prior notice to the competent authority". Such rights are spelled out in clauses of the Brazilian Constitution not subject to amendment.

Senate Bill no. 503/2013 typifies the crime of vandalism as the promotion of collective acts to destroy, to cause damage to or to set fire on public or private buildings, urban equipment, facilities for passengers' transportation, vehicles and monuments. The bill is currently under exam in the Committee of Constitution and Justice of the Senate. It has recently been reported on by Senator Randolfe Rodrigues, who voted for the rejection of the Bill.

Question (9) Please provide information on the status of the aforementioned draft laws providing a definition of terrorism, and their compatibility with international human rights norms and standards, in particular their compatibility with the principle of legality.

The Ministry of Justice is of the view that it is important to develop legal provisions aiming at preventing terrorist acts and defining the measures that may be taken by authorities to that end. These provisions must also provide the legal basis for punishing those responsible for such acts, in compliance with international obligations of Brazil in the

field of terrorism prevention and repression. It is clear that this process must be carried out with caution in order to ensure that, in typifying terrorism or adopting harsher punishment to those who commit terrorist acts, fundamental rights of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, among others, are fully respected. Certain rules and principles will also have to be followed, such as proportionality between the offense and the respective sanction.

The Constitution itself sets forth in subsection VIII of Article 4 that Brazil repudiates terrorism, and in its Article 5, XLIII, it establishes that terrorist acts are not subject to bail or to grace or amnesty, and their leaders, agents, and those who omit themselves while being able to avoid such crimes will be held liable.

Senate Bill 499/2013 was proposed by a Joint Committee integrated by members of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate mandated with proposing rules to regulate some provisions of the Constitution and other laws. Under the bill, persons who spread terror or panic, causing death, injuries, damages to health or freedom would be considered terrorists, with sentences of imprisonment of up to 30 years. The sanction could be increased in cases of use of weapons of mass destruction or attacks against public transportation or transportation under international protection, public agents, crowded places or authorities. Those who in any way help others in committing terrorist acts would also be held accountable. The bill also defines "terrorism against things", which would be the unlawful attack that causes terror or panic against public goods or social services, such as hospitals, schools, stadiums, roads, bridges, public buildings and other public property, to be punished with up to 20 years of imprisonment.

Senate Bill 499/2013 is intended to help implement three international conventions which directly concern the fight against offenses to life and physical integrity in cases of terrorist acts, namely the 1971 Organization of American States Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes Against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance and the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, both ratified by Brazil in 1999, and the 1979 Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, ratified by Brazil in 2000.

The latter, in its Article 1, paragraph 1, provides that any person who detains and threatens to kill, to injure, or to continue to detain another person, in order to compel a third party, namely, a State, an international intergovernmental organization, an individual or a legal person, or a group of persons, to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of the hostage commits the offense of taking hostages, which is a manifestation of international terrorism.

Senate Bill 499/2013 is currently being discussed at the National Congress and it is under exam in the Senate Committee for Social Affairs.

A second Senate Bill - that has taken number 236/2012 - is aimed at the reform of the Brazilian Penal Code. Article 239 typifies the crime of terrorism. According to it, terrorism is considered a crime when the result of the criminal conduct is the population's terror. The criminal

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conduct itself can consist of acts such as kidnapping or keeping someone in forced confinement and using, holding or carrying explosives, toxic gas, poisonous gas, biological contents or other instruments able to cause damage.

The sentence could vary from 8 to 15 years of imprisonment. The new Penal Code will also revoke the 1983 National Security Law.

An increased severity of punishment for terrorist acts might unintendedly have a negative impact on basic rights and guarantees of peaceful assembly and association.

Another Senate Bill on this subject - Bill 236/2012 - is currently being discussed at the National Congress and it is under exam in the Senate's Subsection of Legislative Coordination.

A third bill - Senate Bill 728/2011 - was proposed with the aim of establishing rules regarding public safety during the 2013 Confederations Cup and the 2014 World Cup.

With 52 articles, it related to the definition of crimes and administrative sanctions, mechanisms to speed up procedures, provisional measures, special rules for repatriation, deportation, and the exercise of the right to go on strike before and during the aforementioned events, among other measures. In its article 4, it also defined terrorism as the act to provoke or disseminate terror or widespread panic through offenses against the physical integrity of a person or the deprivation of his or her liberty, for ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or xenophobic reasons.

On May 9, 2014, the bill's rapporteur voted for the full rejection of the text.

According to the Secretariat of Legislative Affairs of the Ministry of Justice, in all cases, a great deal of caution was exercised to ensure that efforts to define the crime of terrorism or establish increased punishment for terrorist acts fully respected fundamental rights and guarantees of peaceful assembly and association.

#### Conclusions

The manner in which public demonstrations in Brazil have been dealt with by the pertinent public bodies testifies to the strength and maturity of democracy in the country.

Bodies such as the Secretariat of Human Rights of the President's Office (SDH/PR), the Ministry of Justice, State and Municipal governments, the National Council of Justice and the National Council of the Prosecutor's Office have all acted, within their respective areas of competence, in order to (i) meet the demands arising from the protests; (ii) implement systemic reforms to tackle their root causes; and (iii) carry out actions to prevent future violations during demonstrations.

The Brazilian government remains firmly convinced of the importance to promote and protect the right of citizens to participate meaningfully in the country's political life, including through peaceful demonstrations.