



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva
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John Knox

Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of
a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Agnes Callamard

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Michel Forst

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

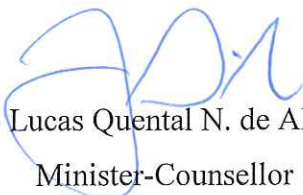
Geneva, 23 March, 2018

Dear Mr. Knox, Ms. Callamard and Mr. Forst,

I refer to the joint communication AL BRA 6/2017, dated 3 August 2017, on the death of
Mr. Rosenildo Pereira de Almeida in the municipality of Rio Maria on 7 July 2017, as
well as the killing of 10 persons on 24 May 2017 in the municipality of Pau D'Arco, in

the State of Pará. On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I attach the following comments.

Please accept the assurances of its highest consideration.



João Lucas Quental N. de Almeida
Minister-Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva

REFERENCE:

AL BRA 6/2017

23 March 2017

Regarding allegation letter AL BRA 6/2017, signed by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, John Knox; by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard; by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, about the deaths, in the State of Pará, of human rights defender Rosenildo Pereira de Almeida, in Rio Maria (July 2017), as well as the death of ten other human rights defenders dedicated to the right to land, in Pau d'Arco (May 2017), the Government of Brazil remains committed to clarify the facts, ensure an impartial investigation and bring perpetrators into account.

The death of Mr. Rosenildo Pereira de Almeida was recorded by Pará Civil Police under police report n° 209/2017.000549-2, followed by the ongoing investigation n° 209/2017.000245-5.

Pará Public Security State Department informed that there was no previous official complaints regarding threats against Rosenildo de Almeida registered in the Public Security Information System, in which crimes and threats are documented. The archives of Pará State Public Security Department, Civil Police and State Police ("Polícia Militar") also do not contain official complaints related to threats against Mr. Almeida.

Regarding the death of ten persons in the municipality of Pau d'Arco (May 24 2017), police investigation n° 208/2017.000019-8 was opened at the State level. Additionally, according to information provided by the Department of Federal Police, its police station in Redenção (DPF/RDO/PA) also opened police investigation n° 5/2017-DPF/RDO/PA in June 7 2017. The Federal Police findings are being examined by the 2nd Criminal Court of Redenção, since August 24, and under the scrutiny of the Office of the Public

Prosecutor. The case is confidential, in order to protect witnesses and safeguard evidence with full respect to due process of law.

Brazil takes the opportunity to reiterate its full commitment to the protection of human rights defenders, in line with our national legislation, the international human rights obligations and the Brazilian National Human Rights Plan (PNDH3). In 2007, Brazil established the National Programme to Protect Human Rights Defenders, updated in 2016, which aims to eliminate the causes of threats against human rights defenders by mobilizing governmental agencies to adopt measures of investigation, prevention and protection against human rights violations and impunity.

The Programme is based on the premise that we bear the responsibility to protect human rights defenders proactively. This understanding is fundamental to its successful implementation.

According to the General Coordination of Protection of Human Rights Defenders of the Ministry of Human Rights, in December 2017, the National Programme to Protect Human Rights Defenders (PPDDH) was responsible for the protection of 342 persons. The Programme covers all Brazilian territory. Specific protection teams undertake activities in the States of Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais and Pernambuco, and a Federal team is responsible for the Programme implementation in the remaining States. Most cases are related to indigenous peoples, the right to land, traditional afrodescendent communities (“quilombolas”) and environmental protection.

According to the Programme’s methodology, to be included in the initiative, some requirements must be fulfilled, such as: the individual has to confirm his/her will to be protected, he/she must represent a certain group and be recognized as a representative of the group and a connection between the threat suffered and the activities undertaken by the applicant as human rights defender must be demonstrated.

Though the Programme has been successful in addressing the needs of individuals who have requested protection, Brazil still faces challenges in this area. We recognize that

risks are greater in more distant and remote areas, especially for journalists, rural leaders, indigenous peoples, quilombolas and environmentalists. Efforts are under way to continue the decentralization of the Programme through partnerships among the federal and state governments, with a view to strengthen protection in the local level.