



**MISSION PERMANENTE DU BRESIL AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE**

Chemin Camille-Vidart 15, 1202 Genève

Nº 013 / 2022

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honor to refer to the joint communication OL BRA 13/21, dated 27 October 2021, from the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva would like to forward the attached observations of the Government of Brazil regarding the aforementioned letter.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 21st January, 2022.

*To the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR)
Special Procedures Branch
Chief*

ANNEX

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL REGARDING LETTER OL BRA 13/2021 (10/27/2021)

I appreciate the communication AL BRA 13/2021, concerning the situation of human rights defenders Anaclética Pires da Silva, Joécio Pires da Silva and Elias Belfort Pires. On behalf of the Brazilian government, I have the honor to convey the following response elements.

2. The State Secretariat of Maranhão reported that, since 2015, there has been threats against the three aforementioned human rights defenders, practiced by people inside and outside the Santa Rosa dos Pretos Quilombola Community, located in the municipality of Itapecuru-Mirim, in that state.

3. The Secretariat also noted that conflicts in the region date back to the 1970s. The sale of lots in the region, including those received from the National Institute of Colonization and Land Reform (INCRA, in Portuguese), has provoked conflicts, which involve farmers and even large enterprises related to railway projects and mining.

4. In order to face this scenario, the State Secretariat of Maranhão implemented, until December 2021, the following measures in view of protecting human rights defenders who work in the region:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED];

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. In addition, the National Secretariat on the Promotion of Racial Equality Policies (SNPIR, in Portuguese), of the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights, kept contact about the case with the three human rights defenders.

6. According to information collected, Elias Pires Belfort, Joécio Pires da Silva and Anacleta Pires da Silva, were summoned to attend the 2nd Regional Police Station of Itapecuru-Mirim/MA, in April 2021, to "give clarification on matter of interest of justice." On April 29th, Mr. Elias Pires Belfort and Mr. Joécio Pires da Silva went to the police station and testified.

7. SNPIR was informed that there is, in the local justice, a case against Ms. Anacleta Pires da Silva and Mr. Joécio Pires da Silva, for allegedly destroying a bridge that gave access to a farm and for threatening the alleged owner of the property and his employee. SNPIR contacted the lawyer of the three human rights defenders for additional information about the case.