



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Chemin Louis Dunant, 15 – 1202 - Genève*

Nº 018 /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 honour to refer to the joint communication AL BRA/13, dated Oct 27th 2021, from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and from 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 from the Brazilian Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights regarding the case of the aforementioned letter.

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



Geneva, January 28th, 2022.

To the
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR), Special Procedures Branch
registry@ohchr.or; sylvain.lidome@un.org

ANNEX

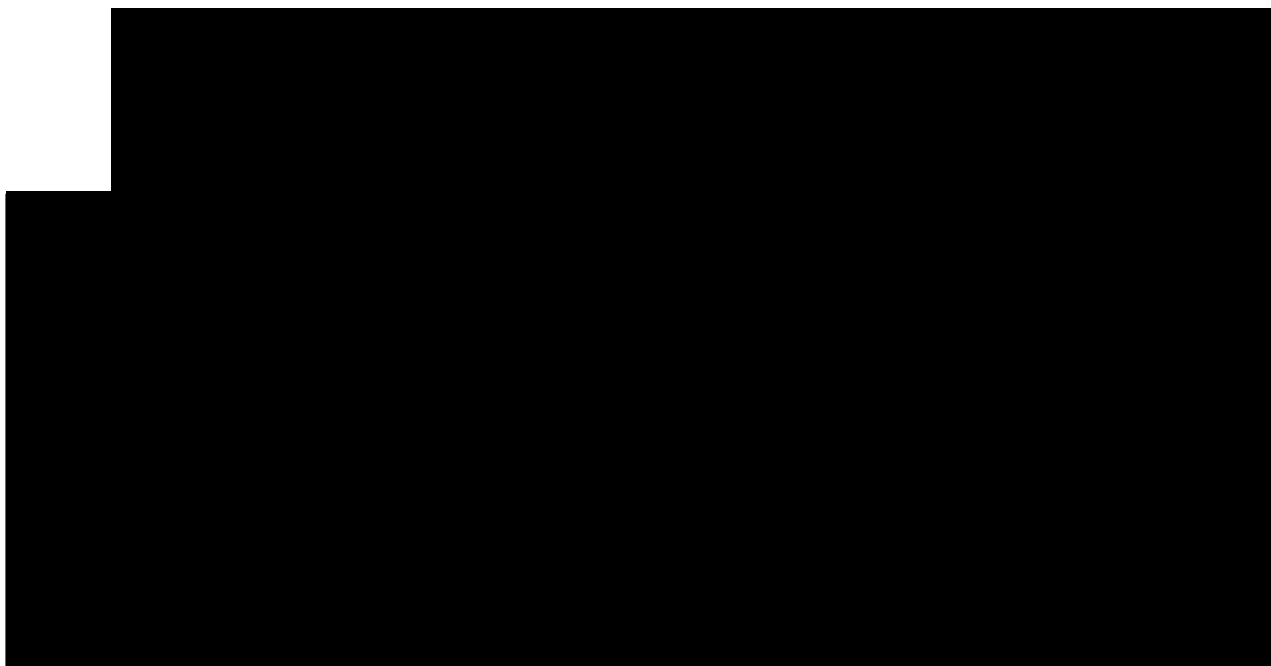
OBSERVATIONS REGARDING LETTER AL BRA 13/2021, DATED OCTOBER 27th 2021.

With regard to the request made in the letter AL BRA 13/2021, signed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, and by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on Afro-descendants, Dominique Day, on the situation of human rights defenders Anacleta Pires da Silva, Joécio Pires da Silva and Elias Pires Belfort, the following information was received from the Brazilian Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights.

The Government of the State of Maranhão has informed that, since 2015, there have been reports of threats against the three aforementioned human rights defenders, made by people inside and outside the Santa Rosa dos Pretos Quilombola Community, located in the municipality of Itapecuru-Mirim, State of Maranhão, Brazil.

The Government of State of Maranhão noted that conflicts in the region date back to the 1970s. The sale of land in the area, including land received from the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA), has caused conflicts, involving farmers and even large railway enterprises and mining activities.

In order to deal with this scenario, the Government of the State of Maranhão has implemented, until December 2021 the following measures in favor of the protection of human rights defenders working in the region:



The Brazilian National Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SNPIR), of the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights, kept in touch with the three leaders about their case.

According to the information gathered, Mr. Elias Pires Belfort, Mr. Joécio Pires da Silva and Ms. Anacleta Pires da Silva were summoned to appear at the 2nd Regional Police Station of Itapecuru-Mirim, state of Maranhão, in April 2021, to "provide clarification on matters of interest to the Administration of Justice." On April 29, Mr. Elias Pires Belfort and Joécio Pires da Silva have been to the police station and gave statements.

The Brazilian SNPIR was informed that there is a lawsuit in the local court 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 farm foreman. SNPIR contacted the attorney for the three leaders to obtain additional information about the case.