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Brazil

We demand justice for Marielle Franco

- News from around the world -

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On March 14th, one of Brazil's most courageous social leaders was brutally assassinated on the streets of Rio de Janeiro. Marielle Franco, a city councilwoman and human rights defender, was shot four times in the head by unknown assailants in a passing vehicle shortly after leaving a gathering of young Black activists. Her driver, Anderson Pedro Gomes, was also killed.

Long before being elected to Rio's city council in 2016, Marielle was widely known as a tireless and fearless advocate for the rights of Afro-Brazilians, LGBT persons, women and low income communities. A gay Black woman born and raised in one of Rio's poorest neighborhoods, she campaigned relentlessly against spiraling police violence in the city's favelas.

Marielle's activism earned her many powerful enemies. She vehemently challenged the impunity surrounding extrajudicial killings of Black youth by security forces and, two days before her killing, had denounced the police's role in the killing of a young Black man named Matheus Melo. She was a leading critic of the military intervention in Rio de Janeiro and was the head of a city commission tasked with monitoring the intervention.

We are deeply concerned and shocked by this commando-style killing of a woman who was a voice for the voiceless and a symbol of resistance to state-perpetrated violence, militarization and anti-democratic forces. Given that Marielle's assassination bears all the hallmarks of a targeted assassination, we call for the creation of an independent commission comprised of prominent and respected national and international human rights and legal experts and tasked with carrying out an independent investigation of the murder of Marielle Franco with the full cooperation of state judicial and police authorities.

Shortly before her death, Marielle asked "How many others will have to die before this war will end." We call for justice for Marielle Franco and the daughter and the partner she leaves behind, and for an end to the killings and criminalization of activists, government opponents and low income people in Brazil.

Ava DuVernay Filmmaker

Rev. Jesse Jackson Civil rights activist

Anielle Silva sister of Marielle Franco

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Author, Nigeria

Arundhati Roy Author India

Angela Davis Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of California, Santa Cruz

Edward Snowden Whistleblower and President of Freedom of Press Foundation

Shami Chakrabarti UK Shadow Attorney General

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Pamela Anderson Actress
Gael GarcÃ-a Bernal Actor and director
Julian Assange Publisher, Wikileaks
Alfonso Cuaron Filmmaker
Opal Tometi Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter, Executive Director at Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Oliver Stone Filmmaker
Viggo Mortensen Actor
Yanis Varoufakis former Greek Finance Minister
Renata Avila Guatemalan human rights lawyer and digital rights advocate
Cheryl Carolus South African activist and politician
Jean-Michel Jarre Musician
Slavoj Žižek Philosopher, Birkbeck Institute for Humanities
Chris Williamson MP, No Coup in Brazil and Labour Friends of Progressive Latin America
Verónika Mendoza Frisch President of Movimiento Nuevo Perú (MNP), former congresswoman and presidential candidate of Peru
Brian Eno Musician and producer
Ken Loach Filmmaker
Kate Osamor UK Shadow Secretary of State for International Development
Tamika Mallory National Co-Chair of the Women's March on Washington
Winnie Wong Co-Founder of The People for Bernie, National Advisor Women's March
Bill Fletcher Jr. former president of TransAfrica Forum; racial justice, labor, and international activist

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