

International call: We demand justice for Marielle Franco - On March 14th, one of Brazil's most courageous social leaders was brutally assassinated

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WE DEMAND JUSTICE FOR MARIELLE FRANCO



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

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ARUNDHATI ROY AUTHOR India

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EDWARD SNOWDEN Whistleblower and President of Freedom of Press Foundation

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NOAM CHOMSKY Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at MIT, political theorist

JANELLE MONAE Singer and Actress

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DAVID MIRANDA first LGBT Rio City Councillor, PSOL

GLENN GREENWALD Journalist

WAGNER MOURA Brazilian Actor and Director

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MÔNICA BENÍCIO Architect and companion of Marielle

LUCIANA GENRO Founder of PSOL, former Presidential candidate, Brazil

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BALTASAR GARZÓN International human rights lawyer

THANDIE NEWTON Actress and activist

CELSO AMORIM former Brazilian Foreign Minister

DANNY GLOVER Actor, film director, and activist

SHAUN KING Journalist and civil rights activist

PAMELA ANDERSON Actress

GAEL GARCÍA BERNAL Actor and director

JULIAN ASSANGE Publisher, Wikileaks

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P.S.

* <https://justiceformarielle.com>