Governor Wilson Witzel Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro Palácio Guanabara R. Pinheiro Machado s/nº Laranjeiras 22.231-090 Rio de Janeiro/RJ BRAZIL

Dear Governor Witzel

On March 14, 2018, Rio de Janeiro city councillor and women human rights defender **Marielle Franco**, and her driver **Anderson Pedro Gomes**, were shot dead in their vehicle.

Marielle was well known in Rio de Janeiro for denouncing human rights violations, mainly against young people, women, black people and LGBTI people. She also worked to expose human rights violations committed by the security forces, including extrajudicial executions.

According to publicly available information, it appears that her killing was carried out by a professional with great ability to handle a firearm. More than 10 shots hit the vehicle, directly where Marielle was seated. She received four shots in the head and at least three shots reached the driver, Anderson Pedro Gomes. They both died at the scene. One of Marielle’s advisors was wounded.

According to media reports, experts identified that the bullets used in the crime belong to the Brazilian Federal Police. Media released security footage indicating that Marielle's car was being followed, strengthening the hypothesis that this was a targeted and premeditated attack.

The murders of Marielle and Anderson occurred in a context of recurrent threats and attacks against human rights defenders in Brazil, where perpetrators of these attacks have relative impunity.

I urge you to:

* Conduct a prompt, thorough, independent, and impartial investigation into the circumstances that led to the deaths of Marielle and Anderson, which identifies not only the perpetrators of the shooting, but also the intellectual authors, and that the results of these investigations are made public;
* Ensure that the investigations produce concrete evidence so that it allows the Public Prosecution’s Office to formally prosecute those responsible and bring them to trial;
* Ensure that the Civil Police have this case as a priority and have access to all the resources needed to carry on the investigation (human resources, forensic experts, technological resources, financial resources);
* Ensure that the investigation is carried on following all ethical standards and follow due process.

Yours sincerely