José Eduardo Ciotola Gussem General Public Prosecutor of the State of Rio de Janeiro Av. Marechal Câmara, 370 -Centro Rio de Janeiro/RJ BRAZIL

Dear Attorney General

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;
* Provide support to the civil police in the investigation.
* Ensure that a task force or team of Public Prosecutors is allocated to work on the case
* Ensure that the Public Prosecutors are fulfilling their role of external oversight of police activities, making sure that the civil police carry out the investigation in a timely manner that they follow all ethical standards and due process, that they don’t suffer any political or external interference.
* Ensure that Marielle and Anderson´s case is a priority

Yours sincerely