



Confédération internationale
Société de Saint Vincent de Paul



NEW HUMANITY

45th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (14 September – 2 October 2020)

ITEM 2: General Debate

Joint Oral Statement delivered by Mouvement International d'Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants (MIAMSI)

Check against delivery

Mr President,

MIAMSI and the co-signing NGOs would like to bring to the attention of the Human Rights Council the Brazilian government attitude in coping with the Covid 19 pandemic that represents a serious threat to the right to life and to health of the Brazilian people.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Brazilian Government has made clear that its priority was to protect economy rather than save lives. Its communication denied the risks of the pandemic and opposed recommendations by the World Health Organisation.

This policy raised concerns amid sectors of the Central and Local Administration, including part of the same Government: Federal states and Local Governments have been enabled to take action to contrast the Covid 19 by a decision of the Supreme Court of Justice in divergence with the Central Government; meantime two Health Ministries have resigned.

Nevertheless, the Presidency of Brazil has followed its policy, which resulted in the increased vulnerability of the population to the pandemic. It vetoed, *inter alia*, a bill to impose the use of individual protection tools in specific occasions and bills enforcing the Government's support to indigenous and poor communities to reduce the effects of the pandemic.

The death toll in Brazil has now exceeded 100,000, most of them belonging to the poorest and most marginalised people.

We urge therefore the Brazilian Government to implement policies that ensure the right to life and health to Brazilian people, in particular the poorest.

Thank you

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