



**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations



**58th Session of the Human Rights Council  
Item 3 Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing**

*7 March 2025*

*Delivered by Raquel Ludermir*

...

Thank you Mr. President,

We welcome the report and recommendations of the SR on Adequate Housing and would like to follow up on the recommendations from your previous report 'Breaking the cycle', on the issue of criminalization of homelessness and poverty.

In the absence of official data, the Zero Evictions Campaign has worked collaboratively with over 175 organizations and social movements across the country to identify and report over 2.030 conflicts over land, housing and property. The results are unsettling: 1.5 million people in Brazil have been affected by forced evictions and displacements since 2020, with a disproportionate impact on women, non-white and low-income groups. This overlaps with an unprecedented housing crisis that affects 163 million people (or 76% of the country's population), as well as with the effects of climate crisis and socio environmental disasters in cities, that have destroyed housing and communities across the country.

We are deeply concerned with the recent increase in criminalization of homelessness and poverty under the umbrella of the so-called Zero Invasion Movement (a direct reaction to the Zero Eviction Campaign). Led by politically and economically powerful groups, the Zero Invasion initiative has filed at least 32 legislative proposals (at the national and local levels) to, among other things, exclude squatters from social programs like cash transfers, and to allow police forces to proceed with eviction without judicial orders. This is connected to increased levels of violence around evictions, and to threats against and killing of human rights defenders.

We urge the Brazilian Government and Congress to repeal laws that criminalize squatting and homelessness, and to take action in installing the appropriate structures to ensure the protections against arbitrary evictions, in alignment with the recommendations from the report on ending the criminalization of homelessness and poverty. We also urge the Government of Brazil to invite the SR on adequate housing to have a country mission to Brazil.

Thank you.