

47th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on the human rights of migrants

24 June 2021

Oral Statement by Conectas Direitos Humanos, in partnership with I-MiGRa, SEFRAS, GT de migração da Rede de Advocacy Colaborativo and Franciscans International

Delivered by Ms. Savia Cordeiro de Souza

Madam President,

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report. Nevertheless, we deeply regret the lack of mention of the Brazilian situation regarding the militarization of the borders and pushback practices, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conectas, in partnership with I-MiGRa and other organizations that work with migration and refugees' rights, would like to call attention to how the Brazilian government has implemented illegal and discriminatory policies against migrants and used the pandemic as an excuse for the continuation of these measures.

We are mainly concerned about the role of the Armed Forces, as the main actor responsible for coordinating the Operation Welcome, a humanitarian task force destined to assist Venezuelan migrants that cross the border with Roraima state, once there is lack of transparency and accountability of their actions.

Until June 2021, 30 decrees placing restrictions on entry into the country were published. These borders restrictions have impacted on the increasing of undocumented migrants as well as mass and immediate deportations. Furthermore, migrants have been left without access to international protection or asylum procedures.

We call on the Brazilian government to refrain from violating the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. We also call on this Council and the Special Rapporteur to closely monitor pushback practices in Brazil and the policies implemented by Operation Welcome by requesting an official visit to the country.

Thank you.