

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

With deep sadness, the **Urgent Action Fund - Latin America and the Caribbean** manifests its indignation in the face of Marielle Franco's murder. She was a well-known Brazilian activist fighting for the rights of black women and a councilwoman who was critical of the armed intervention in Rio de Janeiro.

This young, black, feminist woman was murdered yesterday in the city center, after participating in the debate *Black Women Moving Structures*. As UAF- LA, we believe this to be a politically motivated assassination due to her extensive work in the defense of black women and those who inhabit favelas and the peripheries, in addition to her work denouncing police violence.

Marielle Franco was the fifth most voted councilwoman in the last municipal elections in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), held in 2016. Two weeks ago, she was elected rapporteur of the Commission to Investigate the Militarization of Security in Rio de Janeiro, which has the task of reviewing the federal intervention approved by President Michel Temer in January, granting full control of the State Security Forces to the Army, something that has already been criticized by other NGOs, OHCHR, and IACHR.

We join our voices to those of the Feminist, Black, and LGBTI Movements, to demand justice and to express our solidarity with all these people and our sisters at the Fund-Elas. We also echo Marielle's own reflection, who had written on her social networks one day before, "how many more must die for this war to end."

We demand an immediate, independent, and rigorous investigation so that this assassination does not remain in impunity and justice is achieved.

**#JusticeForMarielle**

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