



36th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 11-29 September 2017

Item 6 –UPR Brazil

Oral statement delivered by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

UPR Brazil: on the conditions of prisoners in Brazil

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Mr. President,

APG23 welcomes the constructive participation of Brazil in the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and would like to commend the governments that made recommendations on the improvement of the prison system and the human rights conditions of detainees¹.

In 2003, APG23 members in Brazil started a volunteer visitation program to prisons throughout the country. Many people hosted in our welcoming centres and family-homes are former detainees or have relatives who are currently detained in prison. Moreover, the Association has been active in extra-prison reception activities by assisting people detained in criminal mental institutions. We also collaborate with APAC – the Association for Protection and Assistance of Convicts², promoting alternative prisons with a unique method that aims at the respect of human dignity. For such reasons, APG23 is quite familiar with the conditions of prisons and encourages in every way rehabilitation and social reinsertion of detainees.

Our submission for the UPR of Brazil focused on the Brazilian prison system denouncing the overcrowding, poor hygiene and sanitary conditions, ill-treatment, violence and even torture of detainees. We also underlined the lack of social integration and the stigma faced by the families of the detainees.

Brazil is a democratic state based on the fundamental principle of human dignity and respect to human beings' physical and psychological integrity. We urge the Brazilian government to accept the recommendations concerning the improvement of its prison system and respect fully the human rights of the detainees.

We recommend Brazil to expand through new regulatory instruments alternative measures to detention and promote collaboration with Civil Society giving a specific role to actors of civil society who have presented propositions to experiment alternative forms of detention to prison.

Finally, we recommend taking appropriate measures to support detainees' families through the creation of family support pathways aimed at reducing social exclusion and discrimination, and fostering access to social services, health care, social assistance, social security, education, and employment.

Thank you!

¹ A/HRC/36/11-Recommendations 136.75 to 136.85, recommendations 136.89 to 136.97 and recommendations 136.102 to 136.108

