

URGENT ACTION

AT LEAST 14 PEOPLE KILLED DURING A PARTY

At least 14 people were shot dead and other nine were injured while enjoying a party in Cajazeiras, in the city of Fortaleza, Ceará state, on 27 January. Most of the victims were young, between 15 and 24 years old. An independent investigation into the killings must be carried out promptly, including determining any involvement by state agents.

Around midnight on 27 January, at least **14 people were shot dead and other nine were injured** while enjoying a party in the neighbourhood of Cajazeiras, in the city of Fortaleza, Ceará state, in northeast Brazil. Most of the victims were young, between 15 and 24 years old. Of the total of victims, eight were women and six were men.

The day after the shootings on 28 January, authorities of Ceará state provided a list of the victims of the killings, however, the total number of victims could be higher according to the people that live in the area. The other nine people injured were taken to Instituto Dr. José Frota (IJF), a local hospital in the city of Fortaleza. Five have been discharged, but four remain under observation. Media reports that were later confirmed by the Secretary of Public Security state that this event, already known within Brazil as “Chacina das Cajazeiras” (Cajazeiras Killings), is the biggest mass killing in the history of Ceará state.

The authorities of Ceará state have publicly stated that the motivation for the killings is still under investigation. Considering the context of widespread violence in Ceará state and the dynamic of previous mass killings, the potential involvement of state agents should not be excluded from a prompt, thorough and independent investigation into the deaths. The Governor of Ceará state, Camilo Santana, announced the implementation of a task force, in order to reach the authors of the crime. The State Secretary of Public Security, André Costa, described the episode as “an isolated case” and said that “there is no reason for panic”. At least one man was arrested allegedly suspected of involvement in the crime.

Please write immediately in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities of Ceará state to ensure a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances of the killings of at least 14 people in the neighbourhood of Cajazeiras, to make the results public and bring those suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials;
- Urging them to take all appropriate measures to guarantee effective assistance to the families of the victims of the killings, including psychosocial support and legal counseling;
- Urging the authorities to provide immediate protection to the witnesses of the fatal shootings, in order to prevent any sort of intimidation or threats.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 MARCH 2018 TO

Governor of Ceará state

Camilo Santana

Palácio da Abolição - Av. Barão de

Studart, 505 - Meireles, Fortaleza - Ce -

CEP: 60.120-000, Brasil

Email: gabinete@gabgov.ce.gov.br

Salutation: Dear Governor

State Secretary of Public Security

André Costa

Av. Bezerra de Menezes, 581 - São

Gerardo CEP: 60.325-003, Brasil

Email: andre.costa@sspds.ce.gov.br

Salutation: Dear Secretary

And copies to:

Ceará Committee on the Prevention of
Homicide in Adolescence

Renato Roseno

Av. Desembargador Moreira, 2807 -

Bairro: Dionísio Torres - CEP: 60.170-

900, Brasil

Email: comitê.ccpha@al.ce.gov.br

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR EDUARDO DOS SANTOS, Embassy of Brazil, 14/16 Cockspur Street SW1Y5BL, 020 7747 4500, info.london@itamaraty.gov.br twitter: @BrazilEmbassyUK, www.brazil.org.uk.
Salutation; Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Brazil is the country with the highest number of homicides in the world: there were 61,283 murders recorded in 2016, corresponding to a murder rate of 29.7 per 100,000 inhabitants. However, the logic of violence does not affect all members of society equally. Most of these homicides are committed in particular against the black youth resident of the favelas and outskirts of major cities.

In recent decades, the public authorities – at both the federal and state levels – have failed to adequately respond to the rising lethal violence in the country and to implement effective public security policies, including measures aimed at reducing homicides of the black youth and protecting their right to life.

Ceará is a state located in northeast Brazil, a region with the highest concentration of homicides in the country. According to official data provided by the Secretary of Public Security of Ceará, the state registered 5,134 murders in 2017 alone. Ceará state also has the highest number of killings of young people between 12 and 18 years old in Brazil. There is a pattern of non-investigation and lack of accountability regarding these homicides, which feeds the cycle of violence.

Before “Chacina das Cajazeiras”, another mass killing marked the history of Ceará. On 11 November 2015, 11 people were shot dead in the region of Messejana, in the outskirts of the city of Fortaleza, Ceará state. Due to the repercussion of the killings and civil society pressure on the authorities, the case was investigated and strong evidence that indicated off duty police officers’ participation in the killings was found. The case is known as “Chacina de Messejana” (Messejana Killings).