

**HE President Michel Temer**

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Zurich, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

**Concerns Police repression during peaceful protest in São Lourenço**

Your Excellency

We are appalled to learn that Brazilian police forces violently attacked a peaceful protest of women of the landless farmers' movement MST that took place on 20th of March in São Lourenço, in Minas Gerais, as well as a camp of the same movement. Hundreds of women had been protesting at a Nestlé water bottling plant in São Lourenço to show their rejection of the government's attempt to privatise water. The protest occurred at the same time as the World Water Forum is taking place in Brasilia. A big number of transnational corporations interested in water are participating in this Forum.

The protesters were attacked with rubber bullets, and consistently threatened by the police all the way back home. Furthermore, families in a MST camp were also attacked by the police, in an act of retaliation against the protest.

We condemn the repressive behaviour of Brazilian security forces, and express our solidarity with the MST women, who defend water as a common good and a human right. We urgently call on the Brazilian government to respect, and guarantee fundamental rights such as the legitimate right of the population to protest.

Sincerely,



Aurora García  
Coordinator, SOLIFONDS



Yvonne Zimmermann  
Committee member, Multiwatch