
Amnesty International

YOUTH GROUP ACTION



CAMPAIGN: Brazil

Brazil World Cup: One Goal – No Violence



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We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

In a nutshell

As the Brazil World Cup approaches, millions of people worldwide will be preparing to join in the excitement. However, as the celebrations begin Amnesty International is concerned about the increased use of violence by the police against protesters who are demonstrating against how money has been spent in the run up to the tournament.

For example, on 22 April 2014, 27 year - old Edilson Silva dos Santos was shot in the head and died during a protest in Rio. No-one has been held to account for his death. We are asking you to:

- Write to the authorities demanding an investigation into his death.
- Show solidarity with our new Amnesty office in Brazil
- If possible, organise a tournament or penalty shoot-out at your sports day or summer fair.

A year of mass protests

Over the past year, Brazil has seen mass protests of a scale never before seen in the country. In May 2013, Brazilians took to the streets, initially to protest against rises in transport fares in the run up to the World Cup. The focus of the demonstrations quickly widened to include dissatisfaction with inadequate public services, including healthcare and education, as well as government corruption and the forced eviction of communities in preparation for the World Cup.

What started as small demonstrations in a number of cities gathered in scale and as many as 300,000 people took to the streets of Rio de Janeiro during May and June 2013. Protests are continuing to this day.

Problems with policing

There are a number of issues relating to how the police have reacted to the demonstrations:

1. No training

Police and security forces are ill-equipped to deal with large-scale demonstrations. Research this year found that over 60% of the Brazilian police force felt that they had not received adequate training for work of this kind.

2. Excessive force

Police have been using excessive force to control protests – including tear gas and rubber bullets. In doing so, they have injured many civilians attending protests.

- A photographer covering the protests in São Paulo on 13 June 2013 lost his eye after being shot by police with rubber bullets.
- A street cleaner in Belem, Pará state, died on 21 June 2013 after police allegedly sprayed tear gas inside a place where she and other people were sheltering during a protest the day before.

3. Mass detentions

Hundreds of protesters were arrested during the 2013 protests. Some were immediately released and others were detained and charged. Lawyers for some of the detainees in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro told us that police prevented them from accessing the detainees on several occasions. Police prevented some detained protesters from contacting a lawyer or a family member for several hours after their arrest.

4. Not held to account

In the city of São Paulo alone, Police Internal Affairs opened 21 investigations into allegations of violations by the police during protests between June 2013 and January 2014. It is reported that, so far, none of these investigations have been concluded and no police officers have been held to account.

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Case Study:

Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva and Edilson Silva dos Santos

On 22 April 2014, Edilson Silva dos Santos was shot in the head and died in a protest in the Pavão- Pavãozinho community in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro. He was 27 years old and unarmed. Military police officers policing the demonstration were armed with firearms. No-one has been held to account for his death.

The protest was a reaction to the death of another young man, Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva (aged 26). His body was found dead in the backyard of a children's day care centre earlier in the day on 22 April. Initial investigations suggest he died around 1am during a police operation in the community.

Local people believe he was killed by the police. Suspicions were further aroused when later in the day the site of the murder was surrounded by military police. This made residents think that the crime scene might have been changed by the police. Medical investigations revealed that Douglas had died from a shot in the lung. It was during a spontaneous protest against Douglas' death that Edilson Silva dos Santos died.

Since Douglas' death, his mother, Maria de Fátima, has publicly called for justice. She told Amnesty International that she had been threatened by a man driving a car and carrying a firearm.

One Goal: No Violence

The right of assembly, that is, the right to come together to express common goals or opinions both publicly and privately, is protected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Protesting is not a crime, it's a human right. Instead of crushing potential protests, Brazilian authorities should instead be looking for ways to responsibly police demonstrations and allow citizens to peacefully protest without fear of arrest or violence. In short, in the lead up and during the World Cup Amnesty wants to see: **One Goal: No violence!**

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TAKE ACTION 1:

Demand justice for Douglas and Edilson

Write to the Governor of Rio de Janeiro using the points below or, if you prefer, do the creative version instead. In your letter:

- Ask him to conduct an independent investigation into the killings of Douglas Rafael Pereira and Edilson Silva dos Santos.
- Urge him to make sure that any police officers responsible for excessive use of force are brought to justice.
- Ask him to ensure the safety of Maria de Fatima and other community members who are seeking justice for the two killings.

Creative version

Get people to sign the football template at the end of this mailing (feel free to make your own version). We'll send these on to the Governor of Rio de Janeiro with a letter.

Please send letters/footballs to us by the end of term to:

Anne Montague

Community Organiser (Youth)

Amnesty International UK

17-25 New Inn Yard

EC2A 3EA

TAKE ACTION 2:

Send Solidarity to Amnesty Brazil

Amnesty International Brazil opened in 2012 and is already doing amazing things in challenging circumstances. We'd like to celebrate this fantastic work and stand in solidarity with them, the individuals and the communities they work with. During the world cup we want to show that we are all Team Amnesty Brazil!

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Introducing Amnesty Brazil

Have a look at this great short video introducing the work of Amnesty Brazil:

<http://tinyurl.com/mfnvhmg>

What to do:

Take photos of people with our new football themed placards. You can do individual or group photos. Why not take a photo of your school/college football team?

‘One goal – no violence’

‘Love football – love human rights’

We will share these with Amnesty Brazil office. They may also share your images with the individuals and communities they work with.

Please ensure people are happy for their photo to be used in this way! They can always cover their face with the placard if they don't wish for their photo to be used.

See the **Resources** section for how to order your placards.

Send your photos to by the end of term to:

activism@amnesty.org.uk



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TAKE ACTION 3: Sports Days / Summer Fair events

Here are a couple of ideas for how to incorporate both fundraising and campaigning on this issue into Sports Days or Summer Fairs.

Penalty kick for a pound



Organise a penalty shoot-out. All you need is a goalkeeper, some goalposts, a collection tin and some Amnesty badges to have a go at this fundraising idea.

Setup a goal during break times or at your Sports Day or Summer Fete. Charge a pound for people to have a go taking a penalty past the goalkeeper and, if they score, they win a badge. To add extra incentive you could put your head teacher/PE teacher in goal!

Campaigning:

Once people have taken their penalties and paid their pound you can show them what it goes to by inviting them to take one of the above actions.

Organise a full football tournament



What you'll need:

Teams: first and foremost you'll need teams to take part. Keep them small so you'll get enough to hold a tournament, five or six-a-side should be enough.

Pitches: you'll need somewhere to play the matches. If your school has pitches you can use then

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great. If not, you could see if there's a local park that would allow you to use their facilities free of charge.

Equipment: you don't need much other than a ball to have a game of football. Though if you want to avoid a jumpers for goalposts scenario then you should source some goalposts and a net. You'll also need bibs to distinguish between one team and another. You should be able to source all of this from your school's PE department.

Format: now you have everything in place you need to decide on a format. Having a group stage means that each team will get to play more than one game but you will need at least 6 teams to do this.

Example format for 8 Teams:

The teams are split into two groups of four: Group A and Group B. Everyone in Group A plays each other winning one point for a draw and three for a win and everyone in Group B does the same. The teams that finish in the top two positions in each group go through to the semi-finals where the winners of each group play the runners-up of the other. The winners of these games go on to play each other in the final.

Fundraising:

You can ask that all teams make a donation to Amnesty to take part in the tournament. You could also invite parents along to watch in return for a donation. Contact us to order collection tins and stickers to use on the day (see Resources section).

You could also use this as an opportunity to organise a World Cup sweepstake. People could pay in £5 each and the person who picks the eventual winners gets half the kitty with the rest going to Amnesty.

Campaigning:

Invite teams and spectators to take one of the above actions.

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Resources

Placards:

You can order placards from our mailing house on 01788545553 quoting the relevant product code. They are also available to download from: www.amnesty.org.uk/youth.

'One goal – No violence' – Product code BWC001

'Love football – love human rights' – Product code BWC002

Poster

'One goal – No violence' – available to download in A3 and A4 sizes from:

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

Collection Tins and badges:

Please email: fundraise@amnesty.org.uk

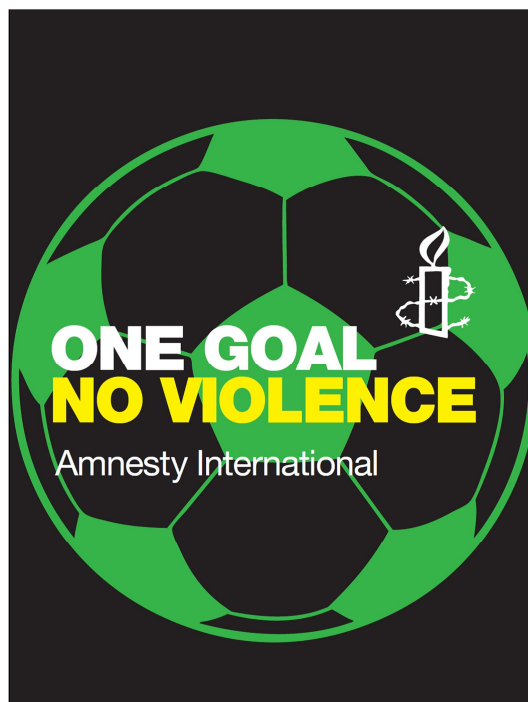
Further Reading

To find out more about Brazil, have a look at the BBC's country profile:

<http://tinyurl.com/2aw6on>

To find out more about human rights in Brazil read our latest annual report:

<http://tinyurl.com/l4f246u>



Justice for Douglas



Justice for Edilson