

**28th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3 – General Debate**

Statement Delivered by Conectas Direitos Humanos, together with Repórter Brasil

**In Defense of Brazil’s System List of Employers and Individuals Found Slave Labor Practices
(the “Dirty List”)**

Mr. President.

Conectas Direitos Humanos together with Repórter Brasil are gravely concerned that the President of the Brazil’s Supreme Court issued an interim relief, last December, suspending the effects of the so-called “Dirty List”, a federal ordinance by which companies and individuals found in exploiting slave labor are barred from receiving public subsidies, credit from public banks and tax exemptions.¹

The “Dirty List”, implemented in 2003, is internationally recognized² as as one of the most innovative and effective strategies to fight slavery. It has been also used, widely and voluntarily, as a benchmark by private financial institutions and companies.

Strikingly, this order was issued during the Court’s recess, when its President is authorized to decide on urgent issues only. Apparently, a concerted action by industry segments often included in the list was successful, through the back door, in obtaining temporary relief.

As a result, a normative vacuum now allows nearly six hundred companies and persons³ exploiting slave labor to benefit from public funding and tax advantages.

We request the special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery visit Brazil to evaluate the impact of the Supreme Court’s Decision on the fight against slave labor.

Thank you.

¹ Under this ordinance’s procedure, companies and individuals included in the “dirty list” will be monitored for a period of two years, during which they cannot be recidivist of the crime of slavery. They are obliged to take appropriate measures of non-repetition, as well as to pay fined and overdue labor taxes.

² Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Gulnara Shahinian. Addendum, visit to Brazil, (2010). UN Doc A/HRC/15/20/Add.4, para. 40.

³ This represents the number of legal entities and individuals included in the Dirty List the day before the Supreme Court order was issued.