

A few months ago, we heard that Brazilian activist and comrade, sister Tamaris Rizzo, keynote speaker at RMT's reparations conference, was facing difficulties in Brazil, with political turmoil and social/ethnic cleansing in her community.

Tamaris, an activist for '21 days Without Racism,' alerted us to; 12 persons being shot dead in her local area, military rule over the police, and, personal difficulties with losing her teaching job because of her trade union and political activism.

Political unrest and state oppression in Brazil largely goes unreported in the UK - despite its significance to black activists here.

More than 4 million slaves were shipped to Brazil from the coast of Africa during the 16th century and onward. Brazil was the last country in 1888 to abolish enslavement in the Western world.

Black activists in RMT, recognising the union's support for the UN's International Decade for People of African Descent, invited sister Tamaris Rizzo to speak at RMT's National Black and Ethnic members' 2018 conference, with the possibility of extending her stay for TUC Black Workers.

With RMT's National Black & Ethnic member's 2018 conference taking place in the multicultural city of Cardiff, and its history of immigration struggle shared by National Union of Seaman (NUS, 1 of RMT's founding union) and activists like Chris Braithwaite.

With RMT being unable to invite sister Tamaris Rizzo, RMT have missed an opportunity for important immigrant labour discussion, and also to recognise RMT's progressive development. Being a Maritime and transport union, we're internationalists by default - or have at least always sought to strengthen our international links.

Tragically, recent news from Brazil is that Council woman and police critic Marielle Franco was shot dead in a targeted assassination, by two unidentified attackers in a car, firing nine shots into her vehicle on a downtown street Wednesday night (14th March 18) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Popular councillor Franco, a 38-year-old Black woman, was well-known for her social work in Brazil's poorest communities. She was an expert on the police brutality suffered by working class Black people. On Saturday she accused

police officers of being overly aggressive and using heavy-handed tactics. She had also recently denounced military intervention inside the Acarí community - after the military was put in charge of police operations a month ago.

Franco was a leading member of a leftist political party and was serving her first term in office. Her party had called for a march on the Friday previous to protest against rising violence in Rio.

Franco was seen as an important voice in the Afrikan community's struggle against police brutality. It is suspected para-military forces murdered Franco in retaliation for her denunciation of state-sanctioned violence.

A member of Brazil's LGBTI+ community, she is survived by a small child. She lived inside the Maré community and was said to be travelling to a "21 Days without racism" event when she was gunned down.

RMT National Black & Ethnic Member's 2018 conference sends its condolences to Brazilian comrades and solidarity to '21 Days Without Racism,' with its main event taking place on the same day as our conference opening - 21st March. Our determination to establish international links with our comrades, is to shine a light on the unreported and endemic oppression of Afrikans across the globe.





"MARCHA 21 DIAS 30 ANOS DEPOIS"

21
DIAS
DE ATIVISMO
CONTRA O RACISMO



21/03 a partir
de 13h



21 Days Without Racism Campaigners