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DCI Condemns Rape of 15 Year Old Girl in Brazilian Prison

Defence for Children International (DCI) expresses its shock and concern over the rape of a 15 year old girl in a prison in the state of Pará, Brazil.

Reports say the girl was arrested for petty theft in October and remained in pre-trial detention for a period of 26 days where she was held with adult male detainees and raped.

Brazil's actions in detaining a minor with adults and a girl with men are in direct violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Brazil is a State Party, as well as being contrary to the UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty. Up to this point, the government's reactions on the issue have mainly focused on disciplinary procedures for the rapists while remaining silent on the wider network of people - including police and prison officials - whose in/actions also permitted this crime to take place.

DCI calls on the government of Brazil to commit to promoting and protecting the rights of the child, bringing those responsible for this crime to justice, offering compensation and rehabilitation to the victim, and instituting safeguarding mechanisms to ensure that national and international laws protecting the rights of the child are fully enforced and implemented in the country.

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