

were killed as a result of homophobic or transphobic hate crimes in 2013.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Religious groups continued to put pressure on the authorities to criminalize abortion in all circumstances - Brazilian law allows abortion in cases of rape, threat to the life of the woman and anencephalic fetuses. This limited range of possibilities results in many women resorting to clandestine, unsafe abortions. In September 2014, the cases of Jandira dos Santos Cruz and Elisângela Barbosa caused a national outcry. The two women died in Rio de Janeiro following clandestine abortions in clinics. The body of Jandira dos Santos Cruz was hidden from her family and burned by clinic employees.

ARMS TRADE

Brazil signed the Arms Trade Treaty on 4 June 2013, the first day it was open for signature. By the end of 2014, it had yet to ratify the treaty. The Brazilian government did not publish data on arms exports and refused requests under the Freedom of Information Act from researchers and journalists for details of the country's involvement in the arms trade, such as, for example, whether weapons had been exported to countries where mass human rights violations were being committed.

1. Brazil: Protests during the World Cup 2014: Final overview: No Foul Play, Brazil! Campaign (AMR 19/008/2014)
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR19/008/2014/en
2. Brazil: They use a strategy of fear: Protecting the right to protest in Brazil (AMR 19/005/2014)
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR19/005/2014/en
3. Brazil: At least nine killed overnight in north Brazil (AMR 19/013/2014)
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR19/013/2014/en
4. Brazil: Killers of community leader must be brought to justice (News story)
www.amnesty.org/en/news/brazil-killers-community-leader-must-be-brought-justice-2014-10-30

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Brunei Darussalam

Head of state and government: **Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah**

Lack of transparency and scarcity of information made independent monitoring of the human rights situation difficult. Amid strong international criticism, the amended Penal Code came into force on 1 May, although it was announced that its implementation would be phased. The new Code, purporting to impose Shari'a law, contained a number of provisions that violate human rights, widening the scope of offences punishable by the death penalty, expanding the imposition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, restricting the rights to freedom of expression and religion or belief, and discriminating against women. Also in May, the country's human rights record was assessed under the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism.

DEATH PENALTY

The new Penal Code¹ imposed death by stoning as a possible punishment for conduct that should not be criminal, such as extramarital sexual relations and consensual sex between people of the same gender, as well as for offences such as theft and rape. It also allowed for the imposition of the death penalty for child offenders and for offences such as mocking the Prophet Muhammad. However, while Brunei Darussalam retained the death penalty in law, it remained abolitionist in practice.

TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT

Brunei Darussalam has not ratified the UN Convention against Torture. The country's new Penal Code significantly expanded the

scope of corporal punishments that amount or could amount to torture (including death by stoning - see above).

A wide range of offences including theft were punishable by whipping or amputation. Judicial caning remained a common punishment for crimes including possession of drugs and immigration offences. At least three caning sentences were known to have been carried out in 2014. Under existing law, children could be sentenced to whipping; under the revised Penal Code children could also be sentenced to amputations. The Penal Code also introduced laws discriminating against women, including punishing abortion with public flogging.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Journalists continued to be censored. In February, the Sultan ordered a halt to criticism of the new Penal Code.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The Constitution protects non-Muslims' right to practise their religion, but laws and policies restricted this right for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. The revised Penal Code criminalized exposing Muslim children to the beliefs and practices of any religion other than Islam.

COUNTER-TERROR AND SECURITY

The Internal Security Act (ISA) permitted detention without trial for indefinitely renewable two-year periods, and was used to detain anti-government activists. An Indonesian detained without trial under the ISA since February was initially refused visits by his embassy for two months.

1. Brunei Darussalam: Authorities must immediately revoke new Penal Code (ASA 15/001/2014)
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA15/001/2014/en

BULGARIA

Republic of Bulgaria

Head of state: **Rosen Plevneliev**

Head of government: **Boyko Borisov (replaced Georgi Bliznashki in November)**

The reception conditions for asylum-seekers entering Bulgaria partially improved but concerns remained over access to Bulgarian territory and the integration of refugees. Prevention and investigation of hate crimes by the authorities was inadequate.

BACKGROUND

In July, the government coalition headed by the Bulgarian Socialist Party resigned following heavy losses in the European Parliament elections. Its year in power had been plagued by protests against government corruption and backroom dealing sparked by the controversial appointment of Delyan Peevski, a prominent media mogul and MP, as head of the Bulgarian Security Agency. New parliamentary elections were set for October 2014, less than 18 months after the previous round, which was also prompted by the resignation of the government. Following the elections, a new government under Prime Minister Boyko Borisov from the GERB party was appointed in November.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

In August 2013, Bulgaria experienced a large increase in the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants entering the country irregularly. By the end of 2013 over 11,000 people, many of them refugees from Syria, had crossed the border, compared to a total of 1,700 in 2012.

The Bulgarian authorities initially struggled to respond adequately. Hundreds of people in need of international protection ended up living for months in substandard conditions without access to asylum procedures. In January 2014, UNHCR, the UN refugee