

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 19/03/83

Distr: UA/SC

20 September 1983

Further information on UA 230/82 (AMR 19/10/82 1 October, AMR 19/17/82 16 December) – Legal concern

BRAZIL: Juvêncio Mazzarollo

In 1982 Juvêncio Mazzarollo, a journalist, was imprisoned after being convicted under the Law of National Security. He has been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience.

A number of Amnesty International members have recently received information from the Comitê Pro Liberação de Juvêncio Mazzarollo Contra Lei de Segurança Nacional (Committee for the Release of Juvêncio Mazzarollo and Against the Law of National Security), which provides details about his imprisonment. A translation by Amnesty International is given below:

"We are sending this report with the aim of providing information on the current situation of Juvêncio Mazzarollo because we know that many of those who sent messages of support are not familiar with his present situation. As you know, Juvêncio Mazzarollo was unjustly convicted under the notorious Law of National Security. Because of this, we have decided to describe the reasons for his conviction and his current situation.

Juvêncio Mazzarollo, editor and joint owner of the newspaper 'Nosso Tempo' in Foz do Iguaçu, graduate teacher, was charged under Article 42 of the Law of National Security and was convicted to one year's imprisonment on 27 September 1982. Before his conviction under this article, he had been granted conditional liberty for a separate charge under Article 33 of the Law of National Security. However, after his imprisonment an appeal was lodged which resulted in the removal of his right to sursis (conditional release) and the increase of his sentence by two years, in addition to the one year conviction under Article 42.

Juvêncio Mazzarollo was convicted for exposing he scandalous corruption in municipal, state and federal government in Foz do Iguaçu, for exposing the violent and arbitrary acts committed by the police, for defending peasants expelled from their land by the Itaipu Binacional (the construction of the Itaipu Dam/Hydroelectric Project), for his support for the settlers in Lote Grande who were driven off the land they had occupied with their families for twenty years and for exposing the intervention of the military in civil matters.

After the conviction under Article 42 of the Law of National Security on 27 September 1982, Juvêncio Mazzarollo was taken to the disused State Central Prison (Piquara Municipality) some thirty kilometres from Curitiba, where he was held in isolation. His lawyers the presented a petition for habeas corpus in October 1982 which was rejected. In addition, the Committee for the Release of Juvêncio Mazzarollo organized public events and demonstrations in protest against his imprisonment."

The letter goes on to describe the conditions under which Juvêncio Mazzarollo has been detained and concludes:

"On 28 September 1983 Juvêncio will complete one year's imprisonment. In theory the law allows a prisoner who has served half his sentence to serve the remainder in freedom (on parole). This is the issue which the Committee has taken up recently and therefore on 30 September 1983 there will be a demonstration in support of Juvêncio Mazzarollo and against the Law of National Security, organized by the Committee and the OAB (Brazil Bar

Association).

Finally the Committee requests that messages of support be sent to Juvêncio Mazzarollo and that appeals for his release be sent to the local and national authorities. The Committee expresses its gratitude to all those in Brazil and abroad who have supported Juvêncio Mazzarollo."

Further recommended action:

Urgent Action may send a further appeal on behalf of Juvêncio Mazzarollo, to coincide with the first anniversary of his detention, urging his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

Appeals should be sent to:

Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil
General João Baptista Figueiredo
Gabinete do Presidente
Palacio do Planalto
70.000 Brasilia
Brazil

(Presidente)

Ministro da Justiça do Brasil
Exmo. Sr. Ibrahim Abi Ackel
Ministério do Justiça
Esplanada do Ministérios Bloco B
70.000 Brasilia
Brasil

(Minister of Justice)

Copies of appeals may be sent to the Committee for the Release of Juvêncio Mazzarollo:

Comitê Pro Liberação de Juvêncio Mazzarollo
Rua Celestino Junior 473
CEP 80.000 Curitiba, Paraná
Brasil

And also to Brazilian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 31 December 1983.