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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information of UA 51/81 (AMR 19/01/81 4 March, AMR 19/02/81, 26 August)

BRAZIL: Luis Inacio DA SILVA and 10 other trade unionists

The STM (Superior Military Tribunal) heard an appeal against the sentence imposed by the São Paulo military court last February 1981 on Luis Inacio DA SILVA (otherwise known as "Lula") and ten other trade unionists.

The hearing, which lasted for eight hours, took place on 2 September 1981 in Brasilia. The STM ruled that the previous trial had been improperly conducted and have ordered a re-trial. This means that "Lula" is still ineligible to stand for public office in the general elections due to take place in 1982, until he has been cleared of the charges. It is not known when the re-trial will take place.

Further recommended action:

Please stop all action on this case for the time being. We will issue a further follow-up with recommended actions as soon as we receive more news.