

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 65/91 (AMR 19/06/91, 22 February) - Death Threats

**BRASIL: Carlos CABRAL PEREIRA
Roberto NETO da SILVA
Father Ricardo REZENDE
Valdério PEREIRA DOS SANTOS
Orlando CANUTO**

Amnesty International has learned with concern of attempts on the lives of Carlos Cabral Pereira and Roberto Neto da Silva. On 4 March, Carlos Cabral Pereira was walking in the company of Roberto Neto da Silva when several shots were fired at them by an unknown gunman from behind the local cemetery wall, near the spot where João Canuto de Oliveira, a former president of the same rural union of which Carlos Cabral is the president, was killed in 1985. Carlos Cabral Pereira was wounded in the back. He was taken to the local hospital where he was treated and later discharged. Roberto Neto da Silva was not injured in the incident. Both have temporarily left Rio Maria for their own safety. Neither of them, nor any of the other three named in UA 65/91, have yet received the requested police protection.

On 22 February 1991 Amnesty International expressed its concern for the safety of Carlos Cabral Pereira and Roberto Neto da Silva, together with that of father Ricardo Rezende, Valdério Pereira dos Santos and Orlando Canuto, all of the same township, who have been receiving repeated death threats.

Amnesty International's concern for their safety followed the assassination on 2 February 1991 of Expedito Ribeiro de Souza, president of the Rural Workers Union of Rio Maria (see UA 40/91, AMR 19/02/91, 6 February 1991). Expedito Ribeiro de Souza was the fourth leader of the Rio Maria Union to be murdered since 1985. A gunman has since been arrested by the police and charged with his crime, but those who ordered the crime (*mandantes*) have not yet been arrested. It is believed that the crime is related to disputes between rural workers and local landowners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members and leaders of rural trade unions representing peasant families in southern Pará have been the targets of death threats, assaults, abductions and killings. According to the Pastoral Land Commission, 173 rural workers have been killed since May 1980 in the diocese of Conceição do Araguaia, to which Rio Maria belongs. Amnesty International is concerned about widespread violence connected with lands conflicts in Brazil. While Amnesty International takes no position on competing claims in land disputes, it is concerned that gunmen allegedly acting on behalf of landowners have carried out intimidation and killings of peasants, their leaders and advisers with a high degree of impunity. The Brazilian authorities on all levels have persistently failed to take effective action to prevent or investigate the killings or to bring those responsible to justice.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- requesting that special police protection be immediately provided for Carlos Cabral Pereira and Roberto Neto da Silva;

- urging an inquiry into the shooting incident in which Carlos Cabral Pereira and Roberto Neto da Silva were involved, and urging that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- expressing your concern for the continuing high level of violence in Rio Maria.

APPEALS TO:

Sr. Ministro de Justiça do Brasil
 Sr. Jarbas Passarinho
 Ministério de Justiça
 Esplanada dos Ministerios
 Bloco 23
 70.064 Brasilia DF, Brasil
Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasilia, Brazil
Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR; 611088 MNJU BR; 6122313 MNJU BR
Faxes + 55 61 224 4357

Sr. Governador do Estado do Pará
 Sr. Hélio Mota Gueiros (**Up to 15 March**)
 Sr. Jáder Barbalho (**From 15 March**)
 Palacio Lauro Sodré
 Praça D. Pedro II
 66.000 Belém, PA, Brazil
 Telegrams: Governador Para, Belem, Brazil
 Telexes: 911012 GOPA BR or 916978 GOPA BR

Sr. Secretário de Segurança Publica
 Estado do Pará
 Sr. Mario Monteiro Malato (**Up to 15 March**)
 Rua 28 de Setembro 339
 66.020 Belém, PA, Brasil
Telegrams: Secretario de Segurança Publica, Belem, Brazil
Telexes: 911100 SSPB BR

Eleovaldo de Jesus Miranda (Civil Police Chief)
 Delegado de Polícia Civil
 68553 Rio Maria, PA, Brazil
Telegrams: Policia Civil, Rio Maria, Pará, Brazil

COPIES TO:

Comissão Pastoral da Terra (Pastoral Land Comission)
 Rua 14 de Abril N. 1400
 Centro Social Sagrado Coração de Jesus
 Caixa Postal 21
 Conceição do Araguaia
 CEP 68.540 Pará, Brasil

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 April 1991.