

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Threats

16 September 1992

BRAZIL: Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura 'Didi' (rural worker)

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura 'Didi', an active member of the Rural Workers Union, Sindicato de Trabalhadores Rurais, STR, in Buriti, Bico do Papagaio region, Tocantins state, Brazil.

According to information received by Amnesty International Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura has been informed by the local police that he is at the top of the hit list of the local *pistoleiros*, gunmen. During the last few weeks Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura has been in hiding because he fears for his life. Local landowners and gunmen, reportedly acting on their behalf, allege that Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura made an attempt on the life of a rancher who is believed to have ordered the death of Father Josimo Morais Tavares (see Amnesty International's report Brazil: Authorized Violence in Rural Areas, AI Index: AMR 19/16/88).

Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura had previously been threatened in February 1987 after Father Josimo Morais Tavares' death, by one of the landowners who allegedly ordered the death of Father Josimo Morais Tavares. Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura worked closely with Father Josimo, who was coordinator of the Pastoral Land Commission in the diocese of Tocantinopolis. Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura is still active in the Catholic church and in the Rural Workers Union.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Bico do Papagaio, in the North of Brazil, has one of the worst records of rural violence in the whole of Brazil. While Amnesty International takes no position on competing claims in land conflicts, it is concerned that gunmen, allegedly acting on behalf of landowners, have carried out intimidation and killings of peasants, their leaders and their advisers with impunity. The Brazilian authorities at every level have, in most cases, failed to take effective action to prevent or investigate the killings or to bring those responsible to justice.

Amnesty International considers that persistent failure to prosecute the perpetrators of such abuses may be evidence of acquiescence in the crime by the state authorities concerned, and may encourage them to be repeated.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters either in Portuguese, French, Spanish, English or your own language:**

- expressing concern at the reported death threats to Luiz Francisco Fartas

Moura;

- urging that the death threats be thoroughly investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- requesting that immediate and effective steps be taken to ensure adequate protection for Luiz Francisco Fartas Moura so that he is able to carry out his work without fear for his physical safety.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice:

Exmo. Sr. Célio Borja  
Ministro da Justiça  
Ministério da Justiça  
Esplanada dos Ministérios  
Bloco 23  
70.064 Brasília, DF  
Brasil

**Telegrams: Ministro da Justiça, Brasília, Brasil**  
**Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR**  
**Faxes: + 55 61 2244657**

**Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency**

2) State Governor of Tocantins:

Exmo Sr. Moisés Avelino  
Governador do Estado de Tocantins  
Campos Palácio de Araguaia  
77.560 Miracema de Tocantins - TO  
Brasil

**Telegrams: Governador Tocantins, Brasil**  
**Faxes: + 55 63 862 1155**

**Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency**

3) State Secretary of Public Security:

Sr. Secretário de Segurança Pública  
do Estado de Tocantins  
Sr. Desembargador Julio Resplande de Araújo  
Av. Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek,  
Palácio Araguaia  
77.000 - Palmas - TO,  
Brasil

**Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Pública, Palmas, TO,**

**Brasil**

**Salutation: Sr. Secretário / Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Pastoral Land Commission:

Comissão Pastoral da Terra  
Araguaia Tocantins  
Rua Juscelino Kubitschek (Rua 5) N. 634  
Caixa Postal 134  
Curupi  
77.400 Tocantins  
BRASIL

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 October 1992.