

UA 322/99

Fear for**BRAZIL Adamor Guedes, Gay rights activist**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of gay rights activist Adamor Guedes after his office was burgled and an attempt was made, two days later, on his life. The organization believes that this is an attempt to prevent him from carrying out his human rights work.

Burglars broke into the offices of the *Associação Brasileiro de Gays, Lésbicas e Travestis (ABLGT) - Região Norte*, Brazilian Gay, Lesbian and Transvestite Association - Northern Region, of which Adamor Guedes is Secretary, on 29 October 1999. On 31 October, while Adamor Guedes was on a routine visit into Manaus town centre to talk to transvestite sex workers and monitor human rights violations, two transvestites led him off at gunpoint to a deserted plot of land and tried to strangle him with a nylon cord. When his shouts attracted the attention of nearby residents the transvestites claimed the Adamor had been trying to rob them. Adamor Guedes received bruising and other injuries.

Although Adamor Guedes reported the attack to the police they have so far failed to open an investigation or to take a statement from him.

The burglary and attempted murder of Adamor Guedes came after a public announcement by the ABLGT - Northern Region - that they would appeal against the results of a police inquiry into the police beating, on 20 February, of a transvestite sex worker know as "Bruna" in which several policemen and a police chief were involved. The denunciation of the beating by the ABLGT resulted in an internal civil police enquiry but the outcome was that only one policeman was disciplined, by an 11-day suspension from service.

Fears for the safety of Adamor Guedes and others working for the ABLGT have forced them to severely curtail their work.

Adamor Guedes has been threatened with death before, in 1992, in connection with his gay rights work.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Human rights defenders in Brazil are vulnerable to death threats, intimidation and attacks by police, death squads and hired gunmen, which operate with official acquiescence.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Portuguese or your own language:**

- expressing concern that civil police in Manaus have allegedly done nothing to investigate the attempted murder of Adamor Guedes;
- expressing concern that the burglary of Adamor Guedes' office on 29 October, and his attempted murder on 31 October, may be a consequence of denunciations he has made about police ill-treatment, and to stop him working on behalf of human rights;
- expressing concern that Adamor Guedes' life is at risk and calling on the authorities to take steps to protect him;
- calling for a full investigation into the attempt on his life and on the burglary of the ABLGT offices, and asking that those responsible are brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**Secretary of State for Human Rights

Exmo. Sr Secretário de Estado dos Direitos Humanos

Sr. José Gregori

Secretaria de Estado dos Direitos Humanos\_

Ministério da Justiça\_

Esplanada dos Ministérios,

Bloco T, Ed Sede, Sala 420\_

70064-901 - Brasília - DF - Brazil

**Telegrams: Secretaria Direitos Humanos, Brasília, Brazil****Faxes: + 55 61 223 2260\_****Salutation: Exmo. Sr. / Dear Sir**Amazonas State Governor

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado do Amazonas

Amazonino Armando Mendes

Sede do Governo Rod Dep.

Vital de Mendonça, KM 9

69048-660 - Manaus - AM - Brazil

**Telegrams: Governador, Manaus, AM, Brazil****Faxes: + 55 92 654 5409 (this number might be difficult to get through to but is correct)****Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency**Amazonas state Public Security Secretary

Secretaria de Segurança Pública

do Estado do Amazonas

Av. Joaquim Nabuco, 919, Centro

69020-030 - Manaus - AM - Brazil

**Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Pública, Manaus, AM, Brazil****Faxes: + 55 92 622 3725****Salutation: Exmo. Sr. Secretário / Dear Secretary****COPIES TO:**

Associação Brasileiro de Gays, Lésbicas e Travestis (ABLGT) - Região Norte

Rua Lima Bacuri, 221

69005-120, Manaus, AM, Brazil

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 27 January 2000.