

URGENT ACTION

BRAZILIAN ACTIVIST URGENTLY NEEDS PROTECTION

Thank you for all your letters so far on behalf of Brazilian activist Josilmar Macario dos Santos. He has now been included in the National Defenders' Programme. Please continue your pressure to ensure that he and his family do now receive practical protection.

Josilmar Macário dos Santos has been shot at and fears for his life after receiving death threats because of his campaign for justice for his brother, who was reportedly killed by police officers in Rio de Janeiro in April 2009.

Partly as a result of pressure from Amnesty International's membership, Josilmar was included in the National Defenders' Programme at the end of May. However, despite repeated requests, he and his family have still not received any form of protection and remain vulnerable to threats.

A taxi-driver by trade, Josilmar has been forced to stop working because of the risks involved. He and his family have been so anxious they have been having problems sleeping. Local NGO, Rede de Comunidades e Movimentos contra a Violência, (Network of Communities and Movements against Violence), have repeatedly contacted the National Defenders' Programme asking for protection to be provided. They have been promised on several occasions that a team would be sent to Rio de Janeiro, nothing has so far happened.

On 2 July 2010, Amnesty International wrote an official letter to the Special Secretary of Human Rights, Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi, copying the head of the Defenders' Programme and the State Secretary for Social Security and Human Rights, complaining about the lack of concrete measures in place as a result of Josilmar's inclusion in the Defenders' Programme. Although Amnesty International supported the creation of a National Defenders' Programme and recognises that it plays a vital role in the strengthening of protection for human rights defenders, a lack of resources and poor coordination with state level authorities have hampered its work. There have been many instances in the past of defenders experiencing long delays between inclusion in the program and provision of protection, putting their lives unnecessarily at risk.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Portuguese or your own language:

- Urge the authorities to fulfil their promises by immediately providing Josilmar Macário dos Santos and his family with full protection in accordance with their needs and wishes;
- Urge the authorities to thoroughly investigate all threats against Josilmar Macário dos Santos and his family, bringing perpetrators to justice;
- Calling for more effective implementation of the requirements set out under the National Defenders' Programme.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 AUGUST 2010 TO:

Federal Human Rights Secretary
Secretaria Especial de Direitos Humanos, Exmo. Secretário Especial Sr. Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi
Esplanada dos Ministérios - Bloco "T" - 4º andar,
70064-900 - Brasília/DF BRAZIL
Fax: + 55 61 2025-3464
Salutation: Exmo. Sr. Secretário

Diretor do Departamento de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos
Sr. Fernando Matos, Subsecretaria Nacional de Promoção e Defesa de Direitos Humanos, Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco "T" - 2º andar,
70064-900 - Brasília/DF BRAZIL
Fax: 55+ 61 3225-0440
Salutation: Prezado Sr.

And copies to:

A Rede de Comunidades e Movimentos contra a Violência
Rua Senador Dantas, 20, sala 1407 – Centro – Rio de Janeiro
CEP 20031-203 BRAZIL

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 115/10. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR19/006/2010/en>

Further information on UA: 115/10 Index: AMR 19/008/2010 Issue Date: 05 July 2010

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