

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information (2) on UA 63/95 (AMR 19/03/95, 14 March 1995) and follow-up AMR 19/06/95, 25 April 1995 - "Disappearance" / Death Threats

BRAZIL Marco Antônio RUFINO DA CRUZ, black, aged 34, lawyer, civil servant, trade unionist
Bartolomeu HOMEM D'EL-REI PINTO, civil servant
Rutônio Jorge de SANT'ANNA, civil servant
Solange (family name unknown), secretary of trade union

Although official information received by AI members indicates that the investigations initiated by the police and the public prosecution service (Ministerio Publico) into the "disappearance" of Marco Antônio Rufino Da Cruz remain open, Amnesty International is concerned at their apparent lack of progress. According to reports, he "disappeared" on 26 November 1994 during a joint army and police anti-crime operation in Rio de Janeiro. It is believed that he was detained by members of the military police. The army and the police have denied having arrested him. No new information has come to light regarding his whereabouts and he remains "disappeared".

The chief of police in charge of the investigation was reported in the Brazilian press as claiming that Marco Antônio Rufino da Cruz was involved in drug-dealing and that he was killed by drug-traffickers. The lawyer working for his family remains concerned that no evidence has been produced to support this claim and fears that he was in fact abducted by members of the military police. Previous attempts by his colleagues to press for information on his whereabouts were reportedly met by anonymous death threats.

There are no reports of renewed threats against Bartolomeu Homem D'El-Rei-Pinto, Rutônio Jorge de Sant' Anna, members of the Civil Servants' Union, and Solange, secretary at the trade union offices. However, all three have stopped making public declarations on the case as a result of the anonymous death threats they received relating to their requests for information on the whereabouts of Marco Antônio Rufino da Cruz.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Portuguese, Spanish, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at the lack of information as to the whereabouts of Marco Antônio Rufino da Cruz and the apparent lack of progress in the investigation;
- expressing concern at the campaign of intimidation against those seeking information on his whereabouts which has inhibited them from publicly expressing their concern for his "disappearance";
- calling on the authorities to make every effort to establish his fate and to make public any progress in the investigation.

APPEALS TO:

President
Exmo. Sr. Presidente da
República Federativa do Brasil
Sr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso
Gabinete do Presidente,
Palácio do Planalto,

70.150 Brasília, DF Brasil

Faxes: +55 61 226 6241

Telegrams: Sr. Presidente, Brasilia, Brazil

Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency / Su Excelencia

Minister of Justice

Exmo. Sr. Nelson Jobim

Ministro da Justiça

Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco 23

70.064 Brasilia, DF, Brazil

Faxes: + 55 61 321 5172

Telegrams: Ministro Justica, Brasilia, Brazil

Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency / Su Excelencia

Governor of Rio de Janeiro

Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Sr. Marcelo Alencar

Palacio Guanabara,

Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n,

22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

Fax: + 55 21 553 6090

Telegrams: Governador Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency / Su Excelencia

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Tortura Nunca Mais (human rights organization)

Rua General Polidoro, 238 s/loja

CEP 22280, Botafogo, RJ, 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 2 August 1995.