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**@Beyond Despair: An
Agenda for Human Rights in
Brazil Appeal Cases**

**August 1994
AI Index: AMR 19/16/94
Distr: SC/CO/GR**

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED
KINGDOM**

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**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED
KINGDOM**

1.

Vigário Geral Massacre, Rio de Janeiro

Gilberto Cardoso dos Santos, 61, retired, father of 12

Jane da Silva Santos, 56, housewife, mother of 12

Lucia Silva Santos, 34, seamstress,

Lucinete Silva Santos, 27, dentists receptionist

Luzinete Silva Santos, 26, metal worker

Luciano Silva Santos, 24, print worker

Rubia Santos, 18, printworker, mother of 3

Luciene Santos, 15, student

Joacir Medeiros, 60, bar owner, father of 7

Guaracy de Oliveira Rodrigues, 33, nursing auxiliary

José dos Santos, 47, locksmith

Paulo Roberto dos Santos Ferreira, 44, bus driver, father of 1

Adalberto de Souza, 40, rail worker,

Luis Cláudio Feliciano, 28, metalworker

Paulo Cesar Gomes, 35, furniture restorer

Cleber Alves Marro, 24, printworker

Helio de Souza Santos, 38, unemployed

Amarildo Bahiense, 31, unemployed print worker

Clodoaldo Pereira, 23 food processing worker

Edmilson Jose da Costa, 23, mechanic Fabio Pinheiro Lau, 18, porter

Edmilson José da Costa's mother and sister discover his body in the street. c. Osvaldo Prado/O Dia

From around 11pm on Sunday 29 to 1 am on Monday 30 August approximately 30 men dressed in black, hooded and heavily armed with revolvers, pistols and AR 15 rifles carried out a two-hour assault on the shanty town (favela) of Vigário Geral, indiscriminately firing at and killing any residents they encountered.

In what was clearly a planned operation, the hooded men then divided into three different assault groups and entered the favela, climbing over back walls. They reportedly cut the wires of the favela's public address system and other means of communication. One of the groups reached a bar at no.12 Rua Antônio Mendes where several men were playing cards. They reportedly identified themselves as police, demanded the men's identity cards, threw them on to the floor, threw a stun grenade into the bar and started firing at the men, killing seven of them. The men had been celebrating Brazil's win over Bolivia in a televised football match.

The group then broke into the house of a family of evangelical worshippers directly across the road. When one of the assailants realised his hood had slipped and he could be identified, the men started to fire. They killed eight of the 13 family members. Among those killed were the head of the household, Gilberto Cardoso dos Santos, aged 61, who was in bed recovering from a recent operation, his wife Jane dos Santos, their 18 year-old daughter-in-law Rubia Santos who had given birth a month previously. Four of their daughters, including Lucilene dos Santos, who was to have celebrated her 16th birthday the next day, and one son were also killed. Four children under 10 years, escaped alive by climbing over a wall at the back of the house, carrying Rubia Santos's one month old baby.

Lucilene dos Santos was shot dead while preparing to sleep on the sofa the day before her 16th birthday.c. Estefan Radovicz/O Dia

Two other assault groups continued to fire indiscriminately at anyone they encountered on the paths of the favela, killings five other men. Amarindo Bahiense aged 30 and his brother in law Clodoaldo Pereira were coming home from a birthday party when they were shot dead in the street. Edmilson José Prazeres da Costa aged 23 was leaving his father's house with his wife Rose, 19, and three-year old child Juliete. Two hooded men held a gun to his wife's head, and when he intervened, they dragged him away. Although his father pleaded for his life, saying that he was 'an honest worker' they fired at short range at his chest, neck and head. At about 1 am the three groups of hooded men reportedly joined forces and left the favela.

Following the massacre the Governor of Rio de Janeiro publicly called the killings "an inadmissible act of revenge" by military police. On 28 August four military police from the 9th Military Police Battalion had been killed in a square at the entrance to the favela Vigário Geral, allegedly by drugs traffickers based in the favela. According to the Brazilian government, the four policemen had been involved in 'irregular activities' when killed.

Following an investigation, charges have been brought against twenty eight military policemen, 3 civil police and two members of the state Public Security Department for participation in the killings. However the Public Prosecutor has reported difficulties in trying to get other residents of the shanty town to testify, because they are too frightened to do so.

Vigário Geral massacre 1 September 1993, Rio de Janeiro. Residents gather round the coffins of the 21 slain residents. c. Mario Leite/O Dia

Please write to the authorities:

- ◆ Explaining that you understand that charges have been brought against a number of military and civil police for involvement in the Vigário Geral massacre.
- ◆ Asking if these police have been suspended from active duty pending the trial, and whether they are currently being detained
- ◆ Asking for information on the progress of judicial proceedings in the case
- ◆ Asking what steps have been taken to ensure the safety of and provide protection for witnesses
- ◆ Urging that all necessary measures are be taken to bring all those responsible to justice.

(State Attorney General)

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

(State Governor)

Exmo. Sr. Governador do
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COPIES OF APPEALS TO

(Local non-governmental organization)

Centro de Articulação de Populações
Marginalizados
Rua Da Lapa No. 200, Sala 809
20 021 Centro, Rio de Janeiro
RJ, Brazil

(Newspaper)

Jornal O Dia
Rua de Riachuelo 359, 5 andar
20.235-900 Rio de Janeiro
RJ, Brazil

Vigário Geral massacre 1 September 1993, Rio de Janeiro. Residents lit candles near bodies of the 21 slain residents. c. Estefan Radovicz/O Dia

2.

**Wilson Brito dos Santos, student
Ademir Barbosa Correia, student and street vendor, Salvador, Bahia**

Wilson Brito dos Santos and his friend Ademir Barbosa Correia were walking home in a suburb of Salvador, Bahia, on the evening of 27 February 1992, when they were intercepted by a group of men dressed in civilian clothes. Without asking for any identification, the men handcuffed the two youths and threw them into the boot of a vehicle. Wilson reportedly noticed that one of the military policemen was a neighbour of his, and begged him for help, to no avail. In the early hours of the morning, the two young men were taken to a deserted area on the outskirts of the city. They were then hauled out of the boot of the car and ordered to sit cross-legged with their heads between their legs. One of the men ordered Wilson to raise his head and shot him in the eye, chest and leg. Ademir tried to run away and was shot dead. Wilson pretended he was dead and was thrown into the undergrowth by the men before they left. The following morning Wilson managed to catch the attention of a passer-by. He was taken to hospital where he recovered, although he lost the sight of one eye.

Wilson identified five military policemen as the killers. The five were charged with abducting and killing Ademir. In May 1992, the Commander of the Bahia state military police announced that the five men had been expelled from the police and would be sent to jail to await trial. Of the five military police charged, four were condemned to between 20 and 25 years in prison for the crime of "qualified homicide", and one was acquitted.

Ademir's mother, told of the imprisonment of her son's killers, said: "Men's justice is slow but sure". Tragically, her confidence in Brazilian justice proved misplaced. Before the end of the year Wilson had also lost his life at the hands of the military police.

On 19 November 1992 Wilson Brito was shot 12 times when police entered his shack, in the Pityaçu shanty town, in Salvador. Wilson died instantly but his wife, Sandra, who was shot three times survived. Two days before his death, Wilson had apparently gone to complain that military police officers had threatened him with death. The military police officer acquitted of his friend's murder was allegedly among his killers. After spending some months in jail, the four convicted military police officers were released and returned to active service in the Bahia military police, pending an appeal against their sentences.

Please write to the authorities:

- ◆ Expressing concern at the abduction and killing of Ademir Barbosa Correia on 27 January 1992 and the killing of Wilson Brito dos Santos on 19 November 1992 in Pityaçu, Salvador, both allegedly by members of the military police.
- ◆ Explain that you understand that four military policemen were condemned to prison sentences for the homicide of Ademir Barbosa Correia, but express concern at reports that pending an appeal against their sentence these military policemen have been returned to active service in the Bahia military police.
- ◆ Ask to be kept informed of developments in the case

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

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Exmo. Sr. Governador do
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Sr. Antonio José Inbassahy da Silva
Palacio de Ondina
Av. Luiz Vianna Filho
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(State Secretary of Public Security)
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Sr. Sergio Alexandre Meneses Habib
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Praca Piedade, S/N
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(Children/Adolescents Rights Centre)
Centro de Defesa da Criança e do Adolescente da Bahia
Rua Conceição da Praia 32
Comercio
40.000 Salvador, BA, Brazil

3.

The Magé Disappeared
the mothers of Acari and Edméia da Silva Euzébio, Rio de Janeiro

Viviane Rocha da Silva, 13
Udson de Oliveira, 16
Christiane Souza Leite, 16
Edson Souza Costa, 16
Antônio Carlos da Silva, 17
Luiz Henrique da Silva Euzébio, 17
Rosana Souza Santos, 18
Wallac do Nascimento, 18
Moisés Santos Cruz, 27
Luiz Carlos Vasconcelos de Deus, 31
Edio do Nascimento, 41

Three of the 'Mothers of Acari' hold up a press report on the Magé Disappeared. C. Americo Verlmelto/ Istoé

On 26 July 1990 eleven people, five of whom were minors, were abducted by a group of armed men from a farm in Magé, Rio de Janeiro state. Four years later, at the time of writing, their bodies had not been found, and on these grounds no prosecutions have proceeded.

The intelligence section of the Military Police had, however, identified the abductors as military police officers from the 9th Military Police Battalion in Rocha Miranda, Rio de Janeiro state, and as detectives from the Cargo Theft Department, Delegacia de Roubos e Furtos de Cargas (DRFC), from the 39 Police Station, Delegacia Policial, of Pavuna, Rio de Janeiro. The police report indicated that military police officers had been extorting some of the victims before the abduction.

Mothers of the Magé "disappeared" who actively campaigned for a complete investigation, have repeatedly received death threats and been harassed by members of the military police that patrol the Acari shanty town, favela, where they live. This culminated in the killing in downtown Rio de Janeiro of one of the mothers, Edméia da Silva Euzébio.

Edméia da Silva Euzébio, mother of one of the Magé Disappeared, who was herself killed on 15 January 1993. c. Jaime Silva/Enfuse

On the afternoon of 15 January Edméia da Silva Euzébio and a friend, Sheila da Conceição, were walking in downtown Rio de Janeiro when they realised that they were being followed by two unknown men in a car. The women attempted to run away but the occupants of the car chased them and, after reportedly calling Edméia da Silva Euzébio's name, shot both of them dead. After the killings the men ran back to the car and escaped. She had testified a few days previously in court about police involvement in the case.

Among those charged with the killing of 21 residents of the Vigário Geral shanty town in Rio de Janeiro in September 1993 are a number of those named as suspects in the original military police intelligence report on the 1990 Magé "disappearances". During the course of the Vigario Geral investigation a number of excavations were made to find the bodies of the Magé eleven, but as of July 1994 these had been unsuccessful.

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Expressing concern about the "disappearance" of the Magé 11 in July 1990 and the killing of Edméia da Silva Euzébio in January 1993.
- ◆ Asking whether the investigation into the Vigário Geral0 massacre in September 1993 has lead to any further progress being made in :
 - locating the bodies of the Magé Eleven or
 - identifying those responsible
- ◆ Urging that all steps be taken to ensure the safety of the 'Mothers of Acari' who have campaigned to learn the truth about the fate of their loved ones
- ◆ Urging that all those responsible for the "disappearances" and for the killing of Edmeia da Silva Euzébio and Sheila da Conceição be promptly brought to justice.

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(Newspaper)
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4.

Killings of Children in Bras da Pina, Rio de Janeiro

The dead bodies of of three children were found on the steps of a church in Rio de Janeiro on 18 June 1994. Two girls and a boy, aged between 12 and 15, were found in the early hours of the morning of Saturday 18 June, semi-naked in front of Santa Cecilia Church, in the Bras de Pina quarter, in the northern zone of Rio de Janeiro. The bodies had been arranged to form a cross on the tarmac. The boy had his hands tied behind his back. All had shotgun wounds to the head, chest and limbs. According to the police the children had been killed in other part of town and then taken to the church and left there. According to reports, the children were the tenth victims in 1994 of death squad-style extrajudicial executions in the Cordovil, Bras de Pina and Vila da Penha region of Rio de Janeiro. Other victims reportedly included prostitutes, beggars and mentally handicapped people. Only three days before the children's bodies were found, a 30 year-old-man had been killed on the steps of the same church. Several other bodies had been found in 1994 in the vicinity of the church. A neighbour reported said, "our street has become a graveyard"

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Expressing concern at the killing of Elaine Cristina de Alencar and Maria Cristina Felix da Silva and a boy aged between 12 and 15 whose bodies were found displayed outside the Santa Cecilia Church in Bras da Pina quarter of Rio de Janeiro incircumstances suggesting they had been the victims of extrajudicial execution.
- ◆ Expressing your understanding that several bodies have been discovered in similar circumstances outside the church in 1994.
- ◆ Calling for a full and impartial investigation of this case, and of others in the locality, and that all those found responsible should be brought to justice.

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(Newspaper)
Jornal O Dia

5. **Lynchings: Matupá, Mato Grosso and Olaria, Rio de Janeiro**

Official complicity in lynchings can be seen particularly clearly in the lynching of three robbers in Matupá, Mato Grosso state, which was filmed by an amateur video cameraman. The incident took place in November 1990. The video, which was broadcast on national and international television, shows the police negotiating with three robbers who are holding a family hostage. The police officer in command repeatedly reassures the robbers that they will not be killed if they give themselves and the hostages up. Eventually the robbers release the hostages unhurt and are hustled into a police car. The police commander appears jubilant. The scene moves to an area on the edge of town. The three robbers are lying in a pile, apparently unconscious, surrounded by a large group of people, which includes police officers, two local councillors and local businessmen. Suddenly the robbers burst into flames. One of them moves convulsively, and the mob shouts abuse at him. The dying man pleads for mercy and cries out that it was a policeman who originally commissioned the robbery.

According to the Mato Grosso state prosecutor, the police officers shot and wounded the robbers before turning them over to the crowd, and then stood by and watched as the mob beat them and set them on fire. Although 24 people were charged with homicide, the police officers involved are believed to be still on active duty. Judicial proceedings in the case have become stalled and little progress has been made in the last 4 years. The police officer in command during the lynching has reportedly since been promoted.

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Asking to be kept informed about the progress of judicial proceedings concerning the lynching of three robbers in the town of Matupá, Mato Grosso in November 1990
- ◆ Explain that you understand that 24 people have been charged, but express concern that there appears to be no progress in judicial proceedings in such a notorious and repugnant case.
- ◆ Ask whether all those police personnel involved in the lynching have been suspended from active service pending judicial proceedings

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

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Sr. Jaime Campos
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COPIES OF APPEALS TO

People and police look on at the bodies of two of the three youths who were lynched and set on fire alive in Olaria Rio de Janeiro on 4 July 1993 C. Mário Leite/ O Dia

When people take justice into their own hands innocent people often pay with their lives the crimes of others. The victims are usually poor. Three youths were lynched by being set on fire while still alive by a mob of about 300 people in Olaria, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro, on 3 July 1993. Rumors had spread in their neighbourhood that they had assaulted a woman passenger in a local bus. The youths, Marcus Vitorino Costa dos Santos, Carlos Henrique Aguiar dos Santos and Cláudio Marcio Pereira da Silva, aged 15, were rounded up by the mob, tortured and tormented for over an hour before being set on fire. However, later investigations found no evidence that the youths were responsible for the crime for which they were lynched and none of them had a criminal record.

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Expressing concern at the lynching of Marcus Vitorino Costa dos Santos, Carlos Henrique Aguiar dos Santos and Cláudio Marcio Pereira da Silva at Olaria, Rio de Janeiro on 4 July 1994.
- ◆ Ask whether the authorities launched an investigation to determine those responsible and why police forces did not intervene sooner to interrupt the lynching.
- ◆ Ask if anyone has been charged for these killings

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(Newspaper)
Jornal O Dia
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6.

Candelária Massacre

Paulo Roberto de Oliveira, ('Pimpolho') aged 10
Anderson de Oliveira Pereira, ('Caolho'), aged 13
Marcelo Candido de Jesus, ('Careca') aged 14
Valdevino Miguel de Almeida, ('Nogento') aged 17
'Gambazinho', aged 17
Leandro Santos da Conexão ('Linguado')
Paulo José da Silva, ('Paulinho'), aged 18
Marcos Antônio Alves da Silva, ('Ruço') aged 20

In the early hours of 23 July two cars drew up in front of a large group of about 50 street children sleeping rough beside Candelária Church in the heart of Rio de Janeiro. The car doors opened, men allegedly called out if the children were hungry, and called out for 'Come Gato/ Ruço' the oldest of the boys sleeping in front of the church. After 'Ruço' had identified himself, a group of gunmen, some of them hooded, opened fire. Four boys died instantly and a fifth was shot and killed as he ran from in front of the church. Two more boys were shot in the nearby gardens of the Museum of Modern Art. Wagner dos Santos was shot in the leg. Marcos Antônio Alves da Silva, 'Ruço' died on 27 July after four days in a coma. Other children are reported to have also been wounded.

Street children outside the Candelária church on 22 July, the night before the "Candelária massacre" when seven children were shot dead by hooded gunmen. Three military policemen are awaiting trial for the killings. c.BBC

Survivors of the massacre alleged that the gunmen identified themselves as members of the police. The day before the killing one youth was detained for glue sniffing and in response the children had stoned a military police car, injuring a police officer. The children alleged that they were threatened by the military police officers who told them they would "come and get them at night."

In response to immediate appeals by Amnesty International for a full investigation and for those responsible to be brought to justice the acting Minister of External Relations expressed President Itamar Franco's repudiation of the crime and the President's determination that the Minister of Justice should use all available means to make sure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. The President and Minister of Justice travelled to Rio to meet with state authorities to discuss their plans for investigating the killings. The Minister of Justice announced that federal police would begin to investigate the activities of 'death squads' in Rio and other states. Three military police officers were arrested after being identified by survivors and were later charged with the killings.

Street children gather round the body of one of seven killed in the Candelária massacre July 1993 c.Osvaldo Prado/O Dia

Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of child witnesses to the massacre. Eight of the survivors were temporarily accommodated in a Witnesses Safe House but are no longer being given this protection. Over 40 other survivors have been left to fend for themselves in the streets, where Amnesty International believes they are at risk of extrajudicial execution by members of the security forces. On several occasions children who were at Candelária on the night of the killings have received death threats, some allegedly from members of the military police. Neither the state nor the municipal authorities have so far taken responsibility for the children's long-term safety and agreed to provide accommodation appropriate to the needs of street children.

Immediately following the Candelária massacre the Federal Public Ministry and the Public Ministry for the State of Rio de Janeiro opened a Public Civil Inquiry into whether the state of Rio de Janeiro was complying with the Statute for the Child and Adolescent in its provision of care for children in the state. On January 17 1994 the Federal and State Public Ministries submitted their conclusions and a series of recommendations to the state and municipal authorities requiring a response by 18 February. In theory if the relevant authorities fail to provide a plan of action to implement these recommendations the Public ministries can take judicial action to enforce them. However by July 1994 there was no news of the Civil Public Inquiry's recommendations being implemented.

Street children from Candelária square, wrapped in blankets to disguise their identity, attend the funeral of their friends in fear. They are protected by human rights workers. c.Samuel Martins/O Dia

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Asking to be kept informed of the progress of judicial proceedings on the Candelária massacre, and whether any further charges are being brought against other individuals for participation in the killings.
- ◆ Express concern at the state and municipal authorities failure to protect child witnesses to the killings and that over 40 of these children remain on the streets where they have received death threats allegedly from members of the military police.
- ◆ Urge that all steps are taken to protect child witnesses to the massacre and provide them with a place of safety adequate to their special needs as street children.
- ◆ Ask to be kept informed about what measures have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Public Civil Inquiry into compliance with the Children's Statue in Rio de Janeiro.

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

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(Rio City Mayor)

Exmo Sr Prefeito da Cidade de Rio de
Janeiro
Sr Cesar Maia
Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro
Rua Affonso Cavalcante 455
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(Newspaper)

Jornal O Dia
Rua de Riachuelo 359, 5 andar
20.235-900 Rio de Janeiro - RJ
Brazil

Many of the children who witnessed the Candelária massacre continue to sleep on the streets. c. BBC

7.

Edson de Almeida

On 22 March 1994, Edson de Almeida was detained, together with a friend, by members of the military police in Praça da Se in the centre of São Paulo, on suspicion of having stolen a wristwatch. The boys were taken to the 1st Police Station. However, Edson managed to run away. According to his friend's statement, about 15 minutes later he was brought back to the police station by the military police officers who had originally detained him. The friend claims that Edson showed clear signs of having been beaten. He was coughing up blood and a finger of his right hand appeared to be broken. Edson was later taken by the police to a state young offenders' institution, run by FEBEM, the Brazilian Foundation for the Welfare of Minors. According to his friend, when he saw Edson again the following evening, he was moaning and asking to be taken to the infirmary. About 30 minutes later, Edson returned to his cell and told his friend that he had been beaten again by the warders and that he had not received any medical attention. Edson's mother visited him on 27 March and stated that her son was then very ill. She said he had bruises on his arms, knees, thorax and lower abdomen. Edson told his mother that he was urinating blood, coughing up blood and was unable to swallow food. He also told his mother that he had been beaten both by military police and warders. His mother insisted that Edson should be taken to hospital, but the warders would not allow her to travel with him, saying, "There is no place for a mother in the car of justice" Edson's mother returned home, where, later that evening, she was advised by a FEBEM employee that her son had died in hospital, probably of AIDS. When she tried to claim his body, the distraught woman was sent to four different places across the city before they allowed her to claim it.

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Asking to be kept informed of the progress in the investigation into the death of Edson de Almeida after he had reportedly been ill-treated by military police and Febem staff members in March 1994.
- ◆ Ask whether charges will be brought against those found responsible.
- ◆ Explain that the authorities informed AI that following a riot at FEBEM in March 1993 when at least 53 children were injured a number of FEBEM staff were due to be sent for re-training on a course designed by UNICEF. Ask how many staff have now attended this course and whether there has been any decline in the number of complaints of ill-treatment within FEBEM.

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

(State Governor)
Exmo. Sr. Governador do
Estado de São Paulo
Sr. Luiz Antônio Fleury
Palacio dos Bandeirantes
Av. Morumbi s/n
05.598 São Paulo - SP, Brazil

(Secretary for the Child,
Family and Social Welfare)
Exma. Sra Rosmary Corrêa
Secretaria da Criança, Família e
Bem-Estar Social
1032 Av Bela Cintra
Consolação
01415-000 São Paulo, SP
Brazil

(Secretary of Public Security)
Exmo. Sr. Secretario de
Segurança Pública do
Estado de São Paulo
Dr Odir Porto
Secretaria de Segurança Pública
Av. Higienopolis, No 758
01/238 - São Paulo - SP Brazil

COPIES OF APPEALS TO

(Juvenile Prosecution and Welfare Service)
Promotoria da Infância e da Juventude
Rua Libero Badaró 600, 12 andar,
01008-908 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

8.

Torture in Ceará

This photograph was taken when a Bar Association Commission walked in on Antônio Ferreira Braga being tortured in a Police Station in Fortaleza, Ceará in April 1993. He was handcuffed and wrapped in a blanket, beaten and semi-asphyxiated with the rubber inner-tube of a car-tyre placed over his head. In the foreground can be seen a "palmatoria", electric wires and rubber tyre tubing. c. Evilázio Bezera/O Povo

On 12 April 1993 the Human Rights Commission of the Brazilian Bar Association's branch in the state of Ceará came across policemen torturing Antônio Ferreira Braga, a criminal suspect, in the Robbery and Theft police station. He was wrapped in a roll of carpet to prevent bruising when being beaten, and was being beaten with a wooden baton. He said that he had earlier been half asphyxiated by having the rubber inner tube of car tyre placed over his face. The commission also found a stock of instruments of torture. The local Bar Association published a dossier in June 1993 documenting 20 cases of torture, including two deaths in custody in the state. It concluded that torture was a "police method of investigation." The dossier revealed a disturbing pattern of impunity. Police officers, who had previously been accused of torture, sometimes repeatedly, were allowed to continue in office, and the Public Ministry did little to investigate the allegations against them.

A typical example from the OAB dossier is the case of Edmundo dos Santos da Silva. He suffered a broken hand, loss of sight in one eye and impotence, reportedly as a result of being tortured by the police in May 1991. An official complaint, backed up by medical evidence was lodged in May 1991 with the Ceará State Attorney General's Office. However, no investigation was completed, on the grounds that the accused refused to cooperate. A new investigation was opened in 1993 under a new State Secretary of Public Security. However, police officers continue to threaten Edmundo dos Santos da Silva and two other victims, Carlos Francisco de Souza and José Dorval

Ferreira Sousa. The Director for Discipline of the Police Inspectorate asked for the 13 police to be suspended from duty, but his request was apparently rejected by the Secretary of Public Security.

The commission of inquiry's initial findings produced a response from the authorities. A number of police were reported suspended or dismissed; the then Secretary of Public Security was dismissed; the Civil Police Statute was altered and a new State Security Council was set up. According to information received by Amnesty International, however, by June 1994, of the 20 cases of torture submitted to the authorities by the OAB, two ended with the police officers concerned being dismissed from the force, three were before the Police Disciplinary Board, one of two in the Secretary of Public Security's Office had 'gone missing', four were before the State Attorney General's Office and nine were not being investigated.

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Expressing concern at the findings of the Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados do Brazil) report on torture in police stations in Fortaleza, Ceará.
- ◆ Explaining that you understand that following the OAB's report a number of changes were made in the police forces in Fortaleza
- ◆ Expressing concern, however, that out of twenty cases presented to the authorities only two have been concluded, and that nine of the cases appear not to have been investigated at all.
- ◆ Urging that all effective steps are taken to stamp out the use of torture by police forces in the state of Ceará, and that all those found responsible for such abuses be brought to justice.

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

(State Governor)

Exmo. Sr. Governador do
Estado de Ceará
Sr. Ciro Ferreira Gomes
Centro Administrativo, Gov.
Virgilio Tavora, Cambé
60.820 Fortaleza - CE, Brazil

(Secretary of Public Security)
Exmo. Sr. Secretário de
Segurança Pública do
Estado de Ceará
Sr. Francisco Quintino Farias
Edifício da Polícia, 3 andar
60.055 - Fortaleza - CE, Brazil

(State Attorney General)

Exmo. Sr. Procurador Geral de Justiça
do Estado de Ceará
Procuradoria Geral de Justiça
Rua Silva Paulet 324
60-120 Fortaleza, CE, Brazil

COPIES OF APPEALS TO

(Local Bar Association)

Comissão de Direitos Humanos
Ordem dos Advogados Seção do Ceará
Ed. Prot. Luis Cruz de Vasconcelos
Av. Pontes Vieira 2666
Caixa Postal 876
60.130 Fortaleza, CE, Brazil

(Local Newspaper)

O Povo
Av. Aguanambi 282
Rua Joaquim Tavora
60.055-402 Fortaleza, CE
Brazil

9.

Ill-treatment and Death in Custody in São Paulo

On 22 April 1992, Luiz Alexandre da Silva, a builder, was detained by the state military police near his home in Itapevi, São Paulo. Three hours later he was taken to the Itapevi police station, which is run by the civil police, where he later died. An autopsy by the official Legal Medical Institute reportedly found multiple bruises, superficial injuries to the limbs and extensive internal bleeding caused by the rupture of his heart and major blood vessels. A police inquiry was opened into the case but Amnesty International has received no information about any progress in the case.

In 1991, José Pereira de Araujo died after allegedly being severely beaten in military police custody, allegedly because he had been beaten. José Pereira de Araujo was arrested on 23 April 1991 by members of the 1st Company of the 14th Battalion of the São Paulo military police. At the time of his arrest, he was reportedly drunk and armed with a knife. According to the official police report, he hurt himself by repeatedly knocking his head against the bars of the police patrol car. The police claimed that they took him to hospital to be treated for drunkenness, learning later that he had died in the casualty department. However, several eye-witnesses claimed that he was disarmed and offered no resistance, but was thrown to the floor, severely beaten and kicked by at least eight policemen. He was then thrown into a patrol car where his head hit the bars. Despite a police inquiry, and the identification by witnesses of four police, so far nobody has been charged with José Pereira de Araujo's death.

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Expressing concern at the death reportedly following torture in custody of Luiz Alexandre da Silva in Itapevi, on 22 April 1992 and of José Pereira de Araujo in April 1991, after allegedly being severely beaten by members of the 1st Company of the 14th Battalion of São Paulo military police.
- ◆ Ask whether a full investigation of these cases was made, and to be informed of the results.

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

(State Governor)
Exmo. Sr. Governador do
Estado de São Paulo
Sr. Luiz Antonio Fleury
Palacio dos Bandeirantes
Av. Morumbi s/n
05.598 São Paulo - SP
Brazil

(Secretary of Public Security)
Exmo. Sr. Secretário de
Segurança Pública do
Estado de São Paulo
Dr Odir Porto
Secretaria de Segurança Pública
Av. Higienopolis, No 758
01/238 - São Paulo - SP
Brazil

COPIES OF APPEALS

(brother of José Pereira de Araújo)
Oswaldo Pereira de Araújo
Rua Orquidia no. 632
Jardim das Flores
06110 Osasco, SP, Brazil

10.

Torture in Rio de Janeiro - Miriam Peres Medeiros

Women have also been tortured by the police. On 23 July 1991 Miriam Peres Medeiros was taken to a police station in Queimados, Rio de Janeiro, for questioning about stolen goods. According to her statement, during interrogation police officers insulted her, sexually assaulted her, attempted to make her perform oral sex, beat her and gave her electric shocks. She was released later the same day without charge. In response to Amnesty International's expression of concern about the case, a police inquiry was set up and a police officer was charged with indecent assault, but to Amnesty International's knowledge he has not yet been brought to trial.

In 1992 the Rio de Janeiro state government set up a Police station to investigate Torture and Abuse of Authority (*Delegacia Especial de Tortura e Abuso de Autoridade*).

Please write to the authorities :

- ◆ Expressing interest in the setting up of a police station to investigate complaints of Torture in Rio de Janeiro.
- ◆ Asking for information about how many cases it has investigated since it was set up, and how many police have been charged with abuse of authority or wounding members of the public.
- ◆ Asking whether there has been any progress in the trial of the policeman charged with indecent assault of Miriam Peres Medeiros in Queimados Rio de Janeiro on 23 July 1991.

ADDRESSES FOR APPEALS

(State Governor)
Exmo Sr. Governador do
Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Sr. Nilo Batista
Palacio Guanabara
Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n
22.231 Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

(Secretary of Civil Police)
Exmo. Sr. Secretário de
Segurança Pública do
Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Sr. Mário Covas
Rua Barão de Itambi
No 60, 9 andar, Botafogo
22.231 - Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

(Attorney General)
Exmo. Dr. Antônio Carlos Biscaia
Procuradoria Geral de Justiça
do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Av. Nilo Pesanha 12, 2 andar
22-020 Centro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ
Brazil