

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extrajudicial Execution

3 September 1991

BRAZIL:

Fausto Ribeiro da Silva Filho - Lawyer

Amnesty International is concerned about the death of Fausto Ribeiro da Silva Filho, 34, a lawyer working for Movimento dos Sem-Teto, Urban Squatters Movement, who was killed on 13 August 1991 in Sao Miguel Paulista, Sao Paulo East.

According to witnesses, Fausto Ribeiro da Silva Filho was shot three times in the head by unknown gunmen firing from car as he was leaving a bakery on 13 August 1991 in Sao Miguel Paulista, Sao Paulo East. An inquiry has been initiated but nobody has yet been brought to justice.

Fausto Ribeiro da Silva Filho, described by human rights organizations as a lawyer fighting for human rights in Brazil, worked as a lawyer for Movimento dos Sem-Teto, Urban Squatters Movement, at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Sao Miguel Paulista. According to Father Antonio Luiz Marchioni, a leader of Pastoral da Moradia, Housing Pastoral, lawyers working for the Urban Squatters Movement in the region have been receiving death threats for some months. Adelino Rodrigues da Silva, another lawyer working for the organization, was allegedly threatened on Saturday 10 August 1991.

The Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil, Brazilian Bar Association, OAB, has appointed two lawyers to follow Fausto Ribeiro da Silva Filho's case.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Violent death is a common occurrence in Brazil. Homicide is the most common cause of death for adults in São Paulo City. Many of the killings are carried out by individuals or result from feuding between rival gangs, but a significant proportion have been attributed to death squads or "extermination groups". These groups are often allegedly paid by local business to dispose of suspected petty thieves in various parts of São Paulo State. There is evidence that local police have given support to these groups or even participated in their activities. Such groups are said to kill witnesses as well as suspects and petty criminals. People who draw attention to their activities or try to hinder them have received threats. Few death squad members have been arrested or prosecuted. Witnesses to their crimes often fail to testify or retract their testimony.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the killing of Fausto Ribeiro da Silva Filho on 13 August 1991;

- urging that the inquiry into his killing be effectively carried out and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

page 2 of UA 295/91

APPEALS TO:

Sr. Ministro da Justiça do Brasil
Sr. Jarbas Passarinho
Ministério da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministerios
Bloco 23
70.064 Brasilia DF Brazil

Vossa Excelência

(Minister of Justice)

Telegrams: Ministro Justica, Brasilia, Brazil

Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR or 612313 MNJU BR

Faxes: + 55 61 321 5145

+ 55 61 224 4357

Sr. Governador do Estado de São Paulo
Sr. Luiz Antonio Fleury
Palacio dos Bandeirantes
Av. Morumbi s\n
05598, São Paulo, SP
Brazil

Vossa Excelência

(State Governor of São Paulo)

Telegrams: Governador Estado do Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo,

Brazil

Sr. Secretario de Segurança Pública
Estado do Sao Paulo

Sr. Secretario

Sr. Pedro Franco de Campos
Av. Higienópolis, No. 758
01238, São Paulo, SP
Brasil

(Public Security Chief São Paulo)

Telegrams: Secretario Seguranca Publica, Sao Paulo, Brazil

COPIES TO:

Comissão de Direitos Humanos da OAB
Secção São Paulo,
Praça da Se 385,
CEP 01001, São Paulo
Brasil.

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,

or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 October 1991.