

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: AMR 19/004/2004**

**02 March 2004**

**Further Information on UA 28/04 (AMR 19/002/2004, 22 January 2004) Fear for Safety/ Death Threats**

**BRAZIL  
detention system, São Paulo**

**Adolescents held in the FEBEM juvenile**

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Amnesty International has received a reply from the São Paulo authorities to the Urgent Action issued on 22 January. The reply states that a new president of the FEBEM system, Professor Marcos Antônio Monteiro, took office on 2 February and that he is committed to administrative reform and "implementation of the socio-educational Plan of Action adopted in 2003". The reply goes on to state that the São Paulo state government is investing in the construction of new centres, which will be "small in size, equipped with facilities for sporting, recreational and educational activities, and will enable the separation of detainees according to age, physical development and seriousness of offence committed". Three new units were opened on 1 March.

Although the reply does not explicitly mention torture it refers to "violence and mistreatment" and says "FEBEM – SP is striving to ensure that its staff are committed to the reform and improvement of the institution."

The reply does not mention the specific shootings and incidents of torture raised in January's Urgent Action. According to NGOs in São Paulo, although the situation in Unit 5 of Tatuapé has improved, the situation in Unit 12 remains very tense. The association of mothers of FEBEM detainees, AMAR, thanked Amnesty International members for their letters of support.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Portuguese or your own language:**

- thanking the authorities for their reply, and welcoming their plans for reform of the FEBEM system and the news that the state government is investing in the construction of new, small centres;
- saying that you will be watching developments closely, and that you look forward to evaluating the progress of these reforms;
- welcoming the opening of three new FEBEM centres on 1 March, and asking when the authorities plan to complete the remaining centres;
- expressing your concern that although a number of FEBEM employees have been suspended or dismissed, Amnesty International has received reports that some employees accused of involvement in torture are still working, and calling for all such people to be suspended immediately;
- asking what arrangements the new president of the FEBEM system has put in place to ensure that those civil society groups and NGOs working to protect the human rights of children will be guaranteed unrestricted access to all areas of the FEBEM system;
- asking for details of the investigations into the reported torture of juveniles in Units 5 and 12 of the Tatuapé centre in January, and the killing and shootings that took place in Vila Maria in December 2003 and January this year.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor of São Paulo State

Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado de São Paulo

Sr. Geraldo Alckmin

Palácio dos Bandeirantes

Av. Morumbi 4500, Morumbi

05698-900, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

**Telegrams:** Sr. Governador do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brasil

**Fax:** + 55 11 3745 3738

**Salutation:** Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

Federal Human Rights Secretary

Exmo. Secretario Especial dos

Direitos Humanos

Sr. Nilmário Miranda

Secretaria Especial dos Direitos Humanos

Esplanada dos Ministérios

Bloco T, 70064-900, Brasília – DF, Brazil

**Telegrams:** Secretario Especial dos Direitos Humanos, Brasília – DF, Brasil

**Fax:** + 55 61 223 2260 / 226 2971 (If someone answers say “Fax, por favor.”)

**Salutation:** Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

President of the FEBEM System

Presidente da Fundação Estadual do Bem-Estar

do Menor (Febem) de São Paulo

Professor Marcos Antônio Monteiro

Rua Florencio de Abreu 848, Luz

01030- 001 São Paulo – SP, Brazil

**Telegrams:** Sr. Presidente da FEBEM de São Paulo, São Paulo – SP, Brasil

**Fax:** + 55 11 6846 9133 (If someone replies say ‘Fax, por favor’)

**Salutation:** Sr. Presidente/ Dear President

**COPIES TO:**

Public Prosecutor’s Office - with responsibilities for Children and Adolescents

Promotoria de Justiça da Infância e da Juventude da Capital

Rua Piratininga 105, Brás

3042-001, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

FEBEM mothers' association

AMAR

Rua Pedro Americo 32, 13ºand

Vila Buarque, Centro

01045-010, São Paulo, SP, 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 12 April 2004.