

URGENT ACTION

TWELVE POLICE OFFICERS CONVICTED FOR DEATH

Twelve military police officers were found guilty and sentenced for the crimes of torture followed by death, procedural fraud and occultation of a corpse in the case of the enforced disappearance of Amarildo de Souza in Rio de Janeiro.

On 1 February, a Brazilian criminal court sentenced 12 military police officers of the Police Pacification Unit (Unidade de Polícia Pacificadora, UPP) of Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro, for the crimes of torture followed by death, procedural fraud and occultation of a corpse in the case of the enforced disappearance of **Amarildo de Souza**.

The investigations, now confirmed by the Justice, revealed that the torture occurred behind the UPP's headquarters in Rocinha, a favela in the southern part of Rio de Janeiro. The public prosecutor accused twenty-five military police officers, and 12 (10 men and two women) were found guilty. The penalties imposed varied from nine to 13 years' imprisonment, the highest one handed down to Rocinha's UPP Commander. The Sub-Commander was sentenced to 10 years and seven months in prison for planning the crime with the Commander. All of those sentenced will be expelled from the Military Police. In the verdict, the judge stated that the military police officers acted with cowardice, illegality, misuse of purpose and abuse of power.

Although these police officers were convicted for the crimes, Amarildo de Souza's body is still missing. There is another ongoing investigation following the hypothesis that the Special Operations Battalion (BOPE) were also involved. The BOPE are suspected of being responsible for taking Amarildo de Souza's body from the UPP base in Rocinha to one of their vehicles in order to disappear it.

No further action is required of the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 202/13. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr19/006/2013/en/

Name: Amarildo Souza Lima

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 202/13 Index: AMR 19/3386/2016 Issue Date: 3 February 2'