

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 433/93 (AMR 19/37/93, 15 December 1993) - Fear for safety / intimidation

BRAZIL: Street educators: Jonas BELTRÃO de Oliveira
Jonathan Luke HANNAY
Maria Cecília GARCEZ LEME (nun)
Maria Inês RONDELLO

and several street children in the Praça da Sé, São Paulo

Amnesty International has learnt of further incidents of violence against street children in the Praça da Sé by members of the military police over the Christmas period.

In the very early morning of Christmas Day, four military policemen are reported to have beaten two adolescents after they had been apprehended trying to assault a passer-by. When a street educator named Júlio César Fernandes Lira tried to intervene he was pushed away by the police. In response two or three other street children started throwing stones at the police car. Four policemen then allegedly started firing live ammunition in the direction of a larger group of some 35 street children. The group of children, including pregnant girls and adolescent mothers with their babies, reportedly ran in panic to escape the shots. A number of boys were allegedly beaten by police as they tried to take refuge in the Pastoral do Manor's night shelter. The violence stopped when other street educators arrived and negotiated with the police.

On 26 December, a further incident occurred when a policeman started beating a girl whom he had reportedly overheard calling him drunk. As other children tried to persuade the policeman to stop, other military police arrived and started beating the group. Police allegedly destroyed the produce of a street vendor who tried to intervene on the children's behalf. While beating the children, police allegedly shouted "*Call TV Globo, call the Pastoral do Manor! Report us!*"

The street educator Maria Cecília Garcez Leme took three street children to the Military Police Command to report the violence. Their statements were taken by a police sergeant, whom she alleged was the officer who beat the street educator Father Pedro Horácio Caballero in the Praça da Sé in April 1993 (UA 123/93, AMR 19/15/93, 21 April 1993). The Military Police Commander reportedly told Sister Cecília that he knew that an armed group had been formed to attack street children and street educators in the Praça da Sé, but that the military police could do nothing when this occurred.

In response to appeals sent in connection with this Urgent Action and UA 123/93

the International Secretariat has received a number of Christmas cards drawn by street children who visit the Pastoral do Manor night shelter near the Praça da Sé in São Paulo. The message inside, written by Maria Cecília Garcez Leme for the Pastoral do Manor team, reads:

"The street girls and boys of São Paulo thank you for the support and solidarity they have received in the violent situations they have passed through and continue to live. With happiness, they send you their wishes for a Happy Christmas and express their dream that 1994 will bring more peace, health, hope, housing, schools, food, justice and LIFE".

In an accompanying letter Maria Inês Rondello writes:

"We ask you to transmit to all those who have sent Christmas cards, our thanks for the sensitivity demonstrated throughout the year for our girls and boys and in the case of Father Pedro Horácio Caballero (UA 123/93) and Maria Cecília Garcez Leme. We take this opportunity to inform you that Father Pedro is currently in Luanda, Angola, and that his case had not been resolved. Jonas suffered a cranial fracture and perforated ear drum. He is having absolute rest in the countryside to recover. Jonathan is alright, although set back by the events".

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

- Expressing concern at continued reported incidents of violence by members of the military police against street children and adolescents in the Praça da Sé, São Paulo, including information that street children were beaten and fired at on Christmas Day.
- Seeking a full inquiry into the conduct of military police officers on duty in the Praça da Sé area in relation to street children and street educators, and urging that those found responsible for abuses be punished. - Urging that steps be taken to ensure that policing of the area conforms to international standards of law enforcement, respect for the dignity of all individuals and access to the protection of the law for all.

APPEALS TO:

1) State Secretary of Public Security

Sr Secretário de Segurança Pública

Dr Michel Temer

Av Higienópolis no 758

01238 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Telegrams: Secretario Segurança Publica, São Paulo, Brasil

Salutation: Sr. Secretário/ Dear Mr Secretary

2) State Governor

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado de São Paulo

Sr Luiz Antônio Fleury Filho

Palácio dos Bandeirantes

Av Morumbi s/n

05.598 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Telegrams : Sr Governador São Paulo, Brazil

Faxes : + 55 11 8439271

Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

3) Minister of Justice

Exmo Sr Ministro da Justiça

Sr Mauricio Corrêa
Ministério Da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23
70.064 Brasília DF, Brazil

Telegrams: Ministerio da Justiça, Brasilia, Brazil

Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Pastoral do Manor, Praça da Sé 184, 10 andar, 01001 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Newspaper

Folha da Tarde, Al Barão de Limeira 425, 01202 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 18th February 1994.