

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Hunger-strike/Legal Concern

29 March 1984

BRAZIL: Juvêncio MAZZAROLLO

(also UA 230/82, AMR 19/10/82 1 October and follow-up of 16 December; UA 234/83, AMR 19/06/83 2 November, AMR 19/12/83 21 December)

Amnesty International is concerned about Juvêncio Mazzarollo, a prisoner of conscience adopted by Amnesty International, who began a hunger-strike on 28 March 1984 in protest against his continued detention.

Juvêncio Mazzarollo, a journalist, was detained on 28 September 1982 following a hearing before a military court at which he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment under Article 42 of the Law of National Security. The charges against him related to articles printed in the journal *Nosso Tempo*, of which he was editor, in 1981. The articles criticized government officials and bodies and described the eviction of peasants from lands in the Itaipu area.

Following his conviction, Juvêncio Mazzarollo lost the right to *sursis* (suspended sentence) in connection with an earlier conviction under Article 33 of the Law of National Security. He faced a total sentence of two years' imprisonment. In November 1983 he staged a two-week hunger-strike following the increase of his sentence to four years' imprisonment on appeal.

Juvêncio Mazzarollo is currently detained in the barracks of the Corpo de Bombeiro in Curitiba. Although his lawyers presented the request for *adequação da pena* (review of sentence) some two months ago, no acknowledgement or reply has been received.

Background information

In December 1983 the Brazilian congress approved amendments to the Law of National Security which reduced both the number of offences and the penalties. The new Law defined violations of national security more narrowly and reduced the number of crimes from 40 to 22. Cases involving abuse of press freedom and defamation of government officials would no longer be tried under the LNS but would be heard in civil courts.

In December 1983 lawyers acting for other political prisoners presented a request for the review of their sentences (*adequação das penas*). On this occasion the review was carried out within a matter of days and the prisoners were released almost immediately.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the continued detention of Juvêncio Mazzarollo and urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released. State that Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained for the exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- requesting that he be given any necessary medical treatment;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for the delays in carrying out the review of Juvêncio Mazzarollo's sentence, requested by his lawyers approximately two months ago.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil
General João Baptista Figueiredo
Gabinete do Presidente
Palacio do Planalto
70.000 Brasilia, Brazil

(President)

*Telegrams to: Presidente Figueiredo,
Brasilia, Brazil*

Ministro da Justiça do Brasil
Exmo. Sr. Ibrahim Abi Ackel
Ministério do Justiça
Esplanada do Ministérios Bloco B
70.000 Brasilia, Brazil

(Minister of Justice)

*Telegrams to : Ministro Justiça Abi
Ackel, Brasilia, Brazil*

COPIES TO:

Comitê Pro Liberação de Juvêncio Mazzarollo
Rua Celestino Junior 473
CEP 80.000 Curitiba,
Paraná, Brasil

(local Committee for the Release of Juvêncio Mazzarollo)

Comissão de Justiça e Paz do Paraná
Rua Jaime Reis 3690
Caixa Postal 1371
80.000 Curitiba
Paraná, Brasil

(Justice and Peace Commission in Paraná)

O Estado de São Paulo
Av. Eng. Caetano Alvares 55
São Paulo, Brazil

(newspaper)

and to Brazilian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Please organize some appeals from JOURNALISTS.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 10 May 1984.