

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 311/90 (AMR 19/22/90, 26 July, and follow-up AMR 19/24/90, 30 July) - Legal/Medical Concern

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In July 1990 Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action on behalf of the above mentioned people. The action reflected Amnesty International's concern at reports of acts of violence committed against peasant families during a police operation at the Fazenda Jandaia. UA participants were asked to write calling for full inquiry into the alleged ill-treatment and beatings of Maria Divina da Silva and Sandra de Oliveira Souza, who was pregnant, and of the other people held in detention. All those who were detained were eventually released. Appeals were also requested seeking assurances that any evidence extracted as a result of beatings or any other forms of duress should not be admitted in court proceedings.

On 29 January 1991, the International Secretariat received a letter from the Sociedade Paraense de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos (SDDH), Society for the Defence of Human Rights in the State of Pará. The following are extracts from that letter:

*"Dear Friends,*

*We would like to inform you with great happiness that we have come to the end of a terrible problem within our region; the case of Jandaia Ranch.*

*We would like to thank Amnesty International for the marvellous dedication it gave to this problem and for disseminating it to the rest of the world. Here in Marabá we received more than 100 letters from countries from every continent..... all sending copies to the Brazilian authorities. This is a beautiful and extremely useful example of international solidarity. Besides having helped us enormously with solving our problem, it fills us with happiness and emotion to know that we are not alone and that our concerns about justice, human rights and peace are echoed with resonance and human sensitivity in many places of the planet. This gives us great strength to continue.*

*Thank you, A.I.*

*(Signed) Marcelo Silva de Freitas. SDDH, Núcleo Marabá"*

No further action is required. We are very grateful to all those who appealed on their behalf.