

AI INDEX: 19/06/98  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **BRAZIL**

#### **Publication of a new document on police brutality**

*Corumbiara and Eldorado de Carajás:  
Rural Violence, police brutality and impunity*  
(AI INDEX: AMR 19/01/98)

Amnesty International is publishing a comprehensive report today on two massacres of landless peasants by the military police in Brazil:

- On the Santa Elina estate in Corumbiara, Rondônia state, military police killed nine peasants in August 1995.
- On the PA 150 highway at Eldorado de Carajás, Pará state, they slaughtered 19 members of the Landless Rural Workers Movement (*Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra - MST*) in April 1996.

In both cases, peasants were tortured and ill-treated and some were killed in cold blood after surrendering. The massacres provoked national and international outrage, but no-one has yet been held accountable. According to the Amnesty International report, these tragedies could have been prevented, and unless lessons are learnt similar ones will happen again.

The report -- highly critical of the official investigations carried out following these and other recent, high-profile police massacres in Brazil -- concludes with a number of recommendations aimed at preventing further tragedies, at ensuring that such incidents are properly investigated by an independent body and at bringing those responsible to justice.

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**For a copy of the document, or to arrange an interview, please contact the Brazil researcher Fiona Macaulay on 44 171 4135702**

*Amnesty International now has an ISDN line for studio-quality radio interviews from our offices in London, please phone for further details.*