

PUBLIC

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Fear for Safety/Possible
Extrajudicial Execution

1 April 1999

BRAZIL Celso ANGHINONI, and other members of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) in the State of Paraná.

Killed: Eduardo ANGHINONI (age 31, brother of Celso ANGHINONI)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Celso Anghinoni and other members of the *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra* (MST), Landless Workers' Movement, in the north-east of Paraná state, after Eduardo Anghinoni was shot dead by an unidentified gunman on 29 March 1999.

Eduardo Anghinoni was the brother of Celso Anghinoni, a well known local MST leader. Eduardo Anghinoni, who was not an MST member, was shot and killed as he visited his brother's house in Querência do Norte, Paraná. The two looked very similar, and according to the MST Eduardo Anghinoni was the unintended victim of a politically motivated attack on his brother.

The MST has alleged that the crime is linked to a letter from the *União Democrática Ruralista* (UDR), a landowners' defence association, published in a local newspaper on 30 March 1999. The letter named Celso Anghinoni as one of the principal MST leaders in the region.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Land conflicts have caused growing tension in Paraná in recent months. On 1 March a group of 15 state deputies presented the state governor with a petition demanding the forced eviction of landless families from 100 areas occupied by the MST in the state. This move seemed designed to disrupt the progress of land redistribution. According to the *Instituto Nacional da Colonização e Reforma Agrária* (INCRA), the federal government's agrarian reform agency, there are only five disputed areas of land throughout the whole of Paraná.

On 19 March 1999 a lawyer acting on behalf of landowners in the north-east of Paraná made a statement claiming that landowners in the region had resorted to defending their properties with anti-personnel mines. These claims have not yet been substantiated. There have also been reports that landowners have been forming private militias to protect their land.

The municipality of Querência do Norte has seen similar acts of violence before. In August 1997 rural worker José Arnaldo Santos was killed when gunmen opened fire on a group of landless families; Sebastião Camargo Filho was killed in similar circumstances in February 1998, and in November 1998 Sétimo Caribaldi was killed by masked gunmen during a raid on an MST land occupation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Portuguese or your own language:

- calling on the Paraná state authorities to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety of Celso Anghinoni;
- expressing your concern for the safety of MST members, landless workers and their supporters in the north-east of Paraná;
- calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the killing of Eduardo Anghinoni and urging that all those responsible for the crime be brought to justice;

- calling on the authorities to investigate reports that landowners in the state of Paraná are resorting to illegal and violent means of protecting their properties.

APPEALS TO:

State Governor Paraná State

Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado do Paraná

Sr. Jaime Lerner

Palácio Iguaçu

Centro Cívico, Curitiba PR

CEP 80000-000 Brazil

Telegrams: Governador, Paraná, Brazil

Fax: +55 41 254 7345

Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

Public Security Secretary Paraná State

Exmo. Sr. Secretário de Segurança Pública do Estado de Paraná

Sr. Cândido Manoel Martins de Oliveira

Secretaria de Segurança Pública

Edifício Caetano Munhoz da Rocha

Rua Dep. Mário de Barros, N°1290, 4°andar

Centro Cívico, Curitiba PR

CEP 80530-280 Brazil

Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Pública, Paraná, Brazil

Fax: +55 41 254 8838

Salutation: Sr Secretário

COPIES TO:

Pastoral Land Commission - Paraná

Rua Paula Gomes, 703, 1° Andar

S. Francisco, Curitiba PR

CEP 80510-070 Brazil

Fax: +55 41 224 7433

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 13 May 1999.