

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 241/93 (AMR 19/03/94, 26 July 1993) - and follow-ups: (AMR 19/30/93 27 September 1993, AMR 19/36/93 26 November 1993 and AMR 19/03/94 22 February 1994.) - Extrajudicial Execution / Fear of Safety

BRAZIL: Street children killed on 23 July in the 'Candelária Massacre': Paulo Roberto de Oliveira, aged 11, Anderson Thome Pereira, 13, Marcelo Candido de Jesus, 14, Valderino Miguel de Almeida, 14 'Gambazinho', 17, 'Nogento', 17, Paulo José da Silva, 18 and Marcos Antonio Alves da Silva, 20 who died on 27 July.

Child and Young Adult witnesses to the Candelária Massacre :

Fábio de Oliveira (Barão), 13,
Michael André de Aguiar, 13,
Marcos Pereira Muniz, 14,
Fábio Ribeiro, 15,
Elizabeth Cristina Borges de Oliveira Maia (Beth), 16, (pregnant)
Rogério da Silva, 16,
Sérgio Dias Gomes, 16,
Leonardo Teixeira de Sá (Dentinho)
Neilton Pereira dos Santos, 22,
Wagner dos Santos, 22 and around 48 child witnesses to the killings.

Amnesty International continues to be concerned for the safety of child and young adult witnesses to the Candelária massacre in Rio de Janeiro in which seven street children and one youth were killed on 23 July 1993. Three military policemen have been charged and await trial for the killings. The individuals named above took part in face-to-face identifications of the accused in a Rio de Janeiro court in September 1993. The children were placed one meter from the accused, with no protective glass or screen, and asked to identify them, in front of a court-room filled with the suspects' military police colleagues. A further military police suspect has now been detained in connection with the Candelária massacre, and the child witnesses are reportedly being recalled to take part in a further face-to-face identification procedure in court on 23 May 1994.

Although the ten court witnesses were initially offered protection in a 'Witnesses Safe House', this has now been withdrawn, and at least three of the child witnesses are actually sleeping on the streets. Some have returned to their families, and others have moved out of Rio de Janeiro for their own safety. The majority of a further 48 children either present in the Candelária square on the night of the massacre, or in some way linked to it, remain on the streets. A state children's institution temporarily offered shelter to 16 children, but no longer does so. Several of the children have received death and bomb threats from members of the military police in connection with witnessing the massacre.

To date, the state and municipal authorities of Rio de Janeiro have failed to provide secure accommodation for these child witnesses, and any earlier provision made, has now been withdrawn. This is despite the recommendations of a Civil Public Inquiry initiated by the Federal Attorney General's Office and the Rio State Public Ministry into child welfare in Rio de Janeiro, for

the urgent implementation of a plan of action - including the provision of shelters for street children. The Rio authorities have failed to agree to such a plan, despite the threat of legal sanction.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters

in Portuguese or your own language:

- urging that the authorities provide secure and appropriate accommodation for the child witnesses to the Candelária massacre, in particular: (include names), taking part in face-to-face identifications of suspects;
- expressing surprise that key witnesses to the massacre find themselves sleeping on the streets, where they are vulnerable death threats, assaults and extrajudicial execution;
- expressing your understanding that the Brazilian authorities agree that there should be no impunity for this massacre, but urging that the necessary steps are taken, (including protecting witnesses), to ensure that those found responsible are brought to trial and punished according to the law.

(Feel free to express in your own words your feelings about the treatment of the child witnesses).

APPEALS TO:

Rio State Attorney General

Dr Antonio Carlos Biscaia
Exmo. Procurador Geral de Justiça
Procuradoria Geral de Justiça
Av. Nilo Pesanha 12, 2 andar
22-020 Centro
Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Fax : + 55 21 221 6037

Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

Rio State Governor

Exmo Dr Nilo Batista
Governador do Estado do Rio de Janeiro
Palacio Guanabara
Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n
22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Telexes : 2131111 GERJ BR

Faxes : + 55 21 285 7490

Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Exmo Sr Prefeito da Cidade de Rio de Janeiro
Sr Cesar Maia
Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro
Rua Alfonso Cavalcante 455
Cidade Nova
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Faxes: +55 21 286 9246

Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

Federal Attorney General

Dr Aristedes Alvarenga Junqueira

Procurador Geral da República
Ed Sede PGR
Av L2 Sul Q 603 no 23 sala 123
70.200 Brasília DF, Brazil

Faxes : + 55 61 313 5797

Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Centro Brasileiro de Defesa dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente
Caixa Postal 4884
Ag Central,
20100 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 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 30 June 1994.