

**BRAZIL Street children**

**14 year-old street child (m), witness to the murder of Fabiano Teodoro Teixeira, a street child aged 10, on 2 June 1999**

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Amnesty International fears for the safety of street children in Rio de Janeiro after receiving reports of four separate killings over the past month.

Amnesty International also has grave fears for the safety of a 14 year-old boy (name withheld for his own safety) who witnessed the killing of Fabiano Teodoro Teixeira, aged 10, shot dead in the Arcos da Lapa district of Rio de Janeiro on 2 June 1999.

Fabiano Teodoro Teixeira was one of a group of street children travelling on a public bus in the Arcos da Lapa district of Rio de Janeiro. The children were reportedly making a lot of noise, and the bus driver called for police assistance to remove them. As a policeman was taking the children off the bus, a man in civilian clothes, wearing a black jacket, approached and called Fabiano over to him. Fabiano ran away, but as he turned to look back the man shot him twice in the chest, killing him. The policeman did nothing to stop the man, who was later reportedly identified as a off-duty military police corporal by the 14-year-old witness. Fabiano's body was left in the street for several hours.

Fabiano Teodoro Teixeira was being helped by the São Martinho Welfare Association, a non-governmental organization that runs rehabilitation projects for street children. He has never been charged with any offence by the juvenile courts. Since the beginning of 1999 six youths being helped by the São Martinho Association in Rio de Janeiro have been killed.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Three other children have been killed in Rio de Janeiro since the middle of May: Marcos Marcelino de Souza, aged 19, who was shot three times in the *Passeio Publico*, Maxwell de Freitas, aged 14, who was killed in Copacabana district, and Joao Fernando Caldeira da Silva, a survivor of the Candelaria massacre (see below), who was shot in the chest near the Candelaria church on 14 June. In contrast to previous patterns of killings of street children *individual* children have been targeted by plain clothed individuals. These murders appear to have been carried out with the acquiescence or in collusion with on-duty police in the area.

This is not the first time that street children have been pulled off buses and shot in Rio de Janeiro. In December 1997, in Duque de Caxias district, five youths apparently making a lot of noise on a bus were reportedly ordered off the bus, made to kneel alongside it and were shot dead in broad daylight. The assassins were allegedly a "death squad" hired by the bus company to provide security.

In July 1993 a gang of hooded men opened fire on a group of over 50 street children sleeping rough near the Candelária Church in Rio de Janeiro killing seven children and one young adult. Despite campaigns by human rights and other organizations, the children who witnessed the killings were never given adequate protection and one adult witness had to leave the country for his own safety. Their statements to the initial inquiry were also largely ignored. Four separate

trials resulted in three military policemen being sentenced to long prison terms. Three others, including one civilian, were acquitted.

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

- expressing concern at the killing of four street children in Rio de Janeiro since mid- May 1999;
- asking the authorities to carry out a full investigation into the killings of Fabiano Teodoro Teixeira, João Fernando Caldeira da Silva, Marcos Marcelino de Souza and Maxwell de Freitas, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of a 14 year old witness to the killing of Fabiano Teodoro Teixeira and asking the authorities to provide him and witnesses to the other killings with adequate protection;
- calling for a full investigation into the actions of the policeman, who allegedly witnessed the killing of Fabiano Teodoro Teixeira but took no action.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor of Rio de Janeiro  
 Exmo Sr Governador  
 Estado de Rio de Janeiro  
 Anthony William Garotinho  
 Palácio da Guanabara  
 Rua Pinheiro Machado s/nº  
 Rio de Janeiro RJ  
 22238-900 Brazil

**Telegrams:Governador Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil**

**Faxes:+ 55 21 553 6247 (a message in Portuguese is followed by the fax tone)  
 / 553 6162 (a message in English is followed by the fax tone)**

**Salutation:Vossa Excelência / Your excellency**

Procurator General of the city of Rio de Janeiro  
 Procurador Geral do Estado de Rio de Janeiro  
 Dr José Muñoz Piñeiro Filho  
 Procuradoria Geral de Justiça  
 Av Nilo Peçanha Nº12, 2º andar, Centro  
 Rio de Janeiro RJ  
 20020-100 Brazil

**Telegrams:Procurador Geral do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

**Faxes:+ 55 21 533 7089**

**Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your excellency**

Secretary for Public Security for the city of Rio de Janeiro  
 Secretário de Segurança Pública do Estado de Rio de Janeiro  
 Coronel Josias Quintal  
 Av Presidente Vargas, Nº 817  
 Rio de Janeiro RJ  
 20071-004 Brazil

**Telegrams:Secretário de Segurança Pública, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil**

**Faxes:+ 55 21 690 1090**

**Salutation:Sr Secretário / Mr Secretary**

**COPIES TO:**

São Martinho Welfare Association  
 Associação Beneficiente São Martinho  
 Rua Richuelo, 7

Lapa, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 20230-010 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 6 August 1999.