

## BRAZIL

Cesar Gomes Gama, journalist  
José Antônio Moura Bonfim, journalist  
Marcos Cardoso, journalist  
Elenaldo dos Santos Santana, commercial director of  
paper  
Other employees of the CINFORM newspaper in Aracaju,  
Sergipe State, Brazil

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Amnesty International has learned of serious threats made against the lives of the above-named journalists who have published investigative reports about the activities of a so-called extermination group in the state of Sergipe. The group is allegedly responsible for a large number of killings in the interior of the state.

Since July 1994, the newspaper CINFORM (*Clasificados e Informações*) has published a series of reports about the activities of an extermination group called *A Missão*, ("The Mission") and allegations that members of the shock troop of the state military police as well as senior police officers and state authorities have been involved in its activities.

Journalists at the newspaper have received death threats and reports that a number of gunmen have been contracted to kill them. On 14 September, while two of the journalists were making a radio broadcast about the extermination group from the newspaper's office, the building was reportedly surrounded by heavily armed men. Armed men have subsequently repeatedly passed the building.

On 15 September, the journalist learned through an informant that "they would not last the weekend".

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

- urging that the federal authorities take immediate steps to guarantee the lives and physical safety of the above-named journalists and their families;
- expressing concern at the lack of action by the federal authorities despite repeated requests for urgent action by them in the light of these serious allegations against state authorities;
- urging that allegations about the operation of an extermination group in the state of Sergipe are fully investigated and appropriate measures taken by the federal police to end their activities and bring those responsible to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

Minister of Justice  
Sr. Alexandre Dupreyrat  
Ministro da Justiça  
Ministério da Justiça  
Esplanado dos Ministérios  
Bloco 23  
70.064 Brasília DF  
BRAZIL

**Telegrams: Ministro Dupreyrat, Ministro da Justiça, Brasília, Brazil**

**Faxes: + 55 61 321 5145/224 2448**

**Salutation: Your Excellency/Vossa Excelência**

Attorney General

Dr. Aristides Junqueira  
Procurador Geral da República  
Procuradoria Geral da República  
Ed. Sede da PGR  
Av. L2 Sul - Q 603 - lote 23  
70.200 Brasília DF  
Brazil

**Telegrams: Excmo. Junqueira, Procuradoria Geral da República, Brasília, Brazil**

**Faxes: + 55 61 313 5197**

**Salutation: Your Excellency/Vossa Excelência**

Sergipe State Governor

Sr. João Alves Filho  
Governador do Estado de Sergipe  
Palácio Olympio Campos  
49.900 Aracaju SE  
Brazil

**Telegrams: Sr. Governador Alves Filho, Aracaju, Sergipe, Brazil**

**Salutation: Your Excellency/Vossa Excelência**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Jornal 'CINFORM' (Clasificados e Informações)  
Rua Laranjeiras 741  
Aracaju  
Sergipe  
BRAZIL

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil accredited to your country.

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**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 October 1994.