

PUBLIC

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23 August 2000

Further information on UA 243/00 (AMR 19/21/00, 16 August 2000) - Fear for safety/Torture

BRAZILDona Iraci Oliveira dos Santos
José (not his real name) age 16

Two members of the civil police accused of torturing "José", the son of Dona Iraci Oliveira dos Santos, have been transferred from the town of Xinguara in the state of Pará. This transfer was the result of international and national pressure on the authorities, calling for the protection of Dona Iraci, her son "José" and witnesses in the case after they were intimidated by the two officers.

The Superintendent of the civil police in the South of Pará and the Chief of Xinguara's civil police, who have been accused of complicity or omission in the case, were transferred from the region along with the two officers.

Amnesty International welcomes the transfers as a means of protecting Dona Iraci and her son "José". However, the organization condemns the Brazilian authorities for continuing to transfer policemen accused of extrajudicial executions and torture, as opposed to suspending or detaining them while a full investigation is carried out into such allegations.

It is important to note that one of the accused police officers and the officer investigating the case were both transferred to Xinguara following accusations of torture in their previous places of work. This form of impunity has allowed the practice of torture and ill-treatment in Brazil's police stations and prisons to continue unabated.

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

- calling on the authorities to inform you whether an investigation has been opened into the case of Dona Iraci Oliveira dos Santos and her son (please do not refer to him as "José" in your letters), and too keep you informed of all developments in the investigation;
- insisting that officers accused of involvement in the torture of Dona Iraci's son be suspended from duty pending investigation, and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing your concern at the continued practise of transferring police officers accused of torture or ill-treatment to other police stations with impunity;
- urging the Brazilian government to adhere to Torture Law 9.455 adopted on 7 April 1997, and reminding the authorities of their commitment to ensure that human rights violations and crimes of torture are investigated and prosecuted wherever they occur in Brazil.

APPEALS TO:

Governor Pará State

Exmo. Sr. Governador do
Estado do Pará
Sr. Almir José de Oliveira Gabriel
Palácio dos Despachos
Rod. Montenegro KM 9
66823-010
Belém - PA
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Telex: + 038 91 1012 gopa br

Fax: + 55 91 248 0133

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

State Attorney General

Procurador Geral do Estado de Pará
Geraldo de Mendoza Rocha
Procuradoria Geral de Justiça
Ministério Público
Rua João Diogo 100
66015-160 Belém - PA
Brazil

Fax: + 55 91 223 3585

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Exmo. Sr. Ministro da Justiça
do Brasil
Dr. José Gregori
Ministério da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23
CEP 70064-900
Brasília - DF
Brazil

Fax: + 55 61 224 2448/322 6817

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Pastoral Land Commission- Xinguara
Comissão Pastoral da Terra - Xinguara
Rua Pau Brasil 40
Caixa Postal 57
CEP 68555-000
Xinguara -Pará - PA,
Brazil

O Liberal

Redação
Av 23 de Setembro 2473
66093-000, Belem - PA, Brasil
Fax: + 55 91 276 5615 / 216 5615

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 27 September 2000.