

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 65/91 (AMR 19/06/91, 22 February) and follow-ups AMR 19/08/91 (8 March) and AMR 19/24/91 (9 September 1991) - Death Threats

**BRAZIL:Carlos CABRAL PEREIRA
Roberto NETO da SILVA**

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the withdrawal of Federal Police protection from Carlos Cabral Pereira and Roberto Neto da Silva, rural union leaders of Rio Maria, Pará state.

Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed its concern for the safety of the above-mentioned union leaders, together with that of Orlando Canuto, also a rural union leader and Father Ricardo Rezende, from the same township, who have been receiving repeated death threats. The organization's concern for their safety followed the assassination on 2 February 1991 of Expedito Ribeiro de Souza, president of the Rural Workers Union of Rio Maria (see UA 40/91, AMR 19/02/91, 6 February 1991). Three men have been arrested and are awaiting trial, charged with this crime.

Although in the follow-up of 9 September (AMR 19/24/91) it was reported that the decision of the Federal Police to withdraw the protection to the union leaders had not yet materialized, allegedly because of the intervention of the Attorney General's Office, Amnesty International has now learnt that Federal Police protection has effectively been withdrawn from Carlos Cabral Pereira and Roberto Neto da Silva. Amnesty International believes that police protection is still essential for the personal safety of the rural union leaders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members and leaders of rural trade unions representing peasants and their families in southern Pará have been the targets of death threats, assaults, abductions and killings. Expedito Ribeiro de Souza was the fourth leader of the Rio Maria Union to be murdered since 1985. Among the murdered are the father and two brothers of Orlando Canuto. While Amnesty International takes no position on competing claims in land disputes, it is concerned that gunmen allegedly acting on behalf of landowners have carried out intimidation and killings of peasants, their leaders and advisers with a high degree of impunity.

The Brazilian authorities on all levels have persistently failed to take effective action to prevent or investigate the killings or to bring those responsible to justice.

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FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

- requesting the restoration of special police protection for Carlos Cabral Pereira and Roberto Neto da Silva.

- requesting special police protection for Orlando Canuto and Father Ricardo Rezende to be continued.

APPEALS TO:

Sr. Ministro de Justiça do Brasil
Sr. Jarbas Passarinho
Ministério de Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministerios
Bloco 23
70.064 Brasilia DF, Brazil

Vossa Excelência

Telegrams: Ministro Justica, Brasilia, Brazil
Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR or 612313 MNJU BR
Faxes: + 55 61 321 5145; + 55 61 224 4357

Sr Romeu Tuma
Diretor Geral
Departamento de Policia Federal
SAS Q6, lotes 9 e 10, Ed. Sede DPF
70.070 Brasilia DF, Brazil

Sr. Diretor

Telegrams: Diretor Geral Policia Federal, Brasilia, Brazil
Telexes: 611461 DPFE BR

Sr Secretario de Seguranca
Publica do Estado de Para
Sr Alcides Alcantara
Rua 28 de Setembro 339
66.020 Belem, PA, BRAZIL

Sr. Secretario

Telegrams: Secretario Seguranca Publica, Belem, Brazil
Telexes: 911100 SSPB BR

COPIES TO:

Ricardo Rezende

Parroquia Nossa Senhora Aparecida
Av 04 No 357
Caixa Postal 07
68530 Rio Maria, PA, Brazil

(Parish of Father Rezende)

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 19 November 1991.