

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 241/93 (AMR 19/22/93, 26 July 1993) - Extrajudicial Execution/Fear for safety

BRAZIL: Street children killed in the "Candelária massacre" of 23 July:
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.

Street children who witnessed the killings :

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, Rogério da Silva, 16, Sérgio Dias Gomes, 16, Leonardo Teixeira de Sá (Dentinho)

Young adults who witnessed the killings:

Neilton Pereira dos Santos, 22, Wagner dos Santos, 22.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of child witnesses to what has become known as the "Candelária massacre". This concern follows reported government statements that after having identified suspects in court the children will be returned to the streets. There can be no guarantees for their safety there, and they will be particularly vulnerable to extrajudicial execution. A number of witnesses to "death squad" style killings have been killed in the past in Rio de Janeiro after identifying suspects.

Seven children were killed in the massacre of 23 July 1993 when hooded men fired on a group of over 50 street children sleeping rough in the vicinity of Candelária Church in downtown Rio de Janeiro. Another youth, Marcos Antonio Alves da Silva, died of his wounds four days later. Four men, including three military policemen have been charged with the killings, and are in custody.

The authorities have announced that they are continuing investigations and trying to identify further suspects. The case has aroused considerable national and international concern.

Amnesty International sent appeals to the Brazilian authorities seeking a full investigation into the massacre and demanding that those responsible be brought to justice. The organization specifically urged the authorities to provide all necessary safeguards to protect the life and physical integrity of all witnesses to the killings, and of street children in the city.

In July, a number of the survivors were transferred to state juvenile units. However, as these are reserved for juvenile offenders, this was only a temporary

measure. At the time the children made clear their fear of being separated from each other. Some were then transferred to the Witnesses Safe House. Eight children and two young adults (named above) have since attended court hearings, where a number of them have personally identified the accused in face-to-face identification procedures. The Secretary of Justice for Rio de Janeiro has reportedly stated that they must now vacate the Witnesses Safe House as it is only available up until the time witnesses make identifications in court. Non-governmental organizations working on behalf of the children have been informed by the state and municipal authorities that there is no alternative place of

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shelter. Unless some other shelter is provided for the children they will be forced to return to sleep in the streets. Over 50 other children present at Candelária Square on the night of the massacre, but who have not appeared in court, remain on the streets.

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

- Expressing concern for the safety of child witnesses to the "Candelária massacre" of 23 July 1993 (give names above);
- Expressing concern that, despite the considerable national and international repercussions of the case, the authorities appear unwilling to provide adequate safeguards for the life and physical integrity of the child witnesses in the case;
- Urging the authorities to provide such safeguards, including the provision of alternative means of shelter for the children.

APPEALS TO:

1) State Governor

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Sr Leonel Brizola
Palacio Guanabara
Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n
22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Telegrams: Governador Estado Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Telexes: 2131111 GERJ BR; 2123437 SGRJ BR; 2121272 PLG BR

Faxes: + 55 21 285 7490 (via Press Office)

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

2) State Secretary of Justice

Sr Secretario de Estado de Justiça do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Dr Nilo Batista
Rua da Relação No 42, 12 Andar
Centro
20031 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Telegrams: Secretario de Justiça Estado Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Faxes: +55 21 551 3748

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

3. Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Exmo Sr Prefeito

Sr Cesar Maia
Prefeitura da Cidade de Rio de Janeiro
Rua Affonso Cavalcante 455
20.211-110 Cidade Nova
Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Telegrams: Prefeito Maia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Salutation: Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

(Local non-governmental organization)
Centro Brasileiro de Defesa dos Direitos
da Criança e do Adolescente
Caixa Postal 4884
20100 Agencia Central
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 5 November 1993