

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 368/92 Possible Extrajudicial Execution

24 November 1992

BRAZIL: Jean Alves da Cunha, aged 13

Amnesty International is concerned about the killing of Jean Alves da Cunha between 11 and 13 November 1992 in Vitoria, capital of Espirito Santo state, in circumstances suggesting official involvement.

On 11 October he and five other street children were detained by four Comisarios da Justica da Crianca e Adolescente, Justice Officials attached to the Juvenile Court. They were questioned and released that afternoon. According to the other five street children, the justice officials returned and detained only Jean Alves da Cunha at about 8pm that evening. He was never seen alive again.

On the 13 November his body was found dumped on a hill in the city, with two shots in the head, one through his ear. A forensic specialist examining the body has affirmed that he believed it to have been a professional killing.

Thirteen year-old Jean Alves da Cunha lived on the streets of Vitoria. He was a leader in the Movimento Nacional de Meninos e Meninas da Rua, National Movement of Street Boys and Girls, and was preparing himself and other child delegates to attend the Movement's Third National Congress in Brasilia 19-22 November.

At a preparatory meeting on 6 November Jean made a recording denouncing the difficulties of street children trying to reform themselves and break out of a cycle of crime. In particular he mentioned how police put pressure on them to commit crimes, and share the proceeds of these crimes with them. He expressed fears for his own safety because of having made these allegations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is increasingly concerned about violence against and killings of street children in large cities in Brazil. Federal Police recorded 4,611 killings of children and adolescents in Brazil between 1988 and 1990. In February 1992 a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry published its finding on 'The Extermination of Minors' and concluded that the participation of civil and military police in the killings of children and adolescents was "far from exceptional" and that police killings were the third highest cause of homicide of children and adolescents. According to the National Street Boys and Girls Movement there have been 23 killings of children and adolescents in the city of Vitoria (population 256,000) during 1992.

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

- expressing concern at the killing of Jean Alves da Cunha on 12 November 1992

in circumstances suggesting official involvement;

- urging a full and impartial investigation into the killing and that those responsible be brought to justice;

- expressing concern for the physical safety of street children in Vitoria, in the light of their allegations that police have been involved in extortion.

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APPEALS TO:

1. State Governor:

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado
de Espirito Santo
Sr Albuíno Azevedo
Palácio Anchieta
Praça João Climação
29.000 Vitoria, ES, Brazil

Telegrams: Governador Espirito Santo, Vitoria, ES, Brazil

Faxes: + 55 27 222 6030

Telexes: 274050 tgdp br

Salutation: Vossa Excelencia / Your Excellency

2. Secretary of Public Security:

Sr Secretario de Seguranca Pública
Sr José Augusto Bellini
Secretaria de Segurança Pública
Av Governador Bley no, 236
29.000 Vitoria, ES, Brazil

Telegrams: Secretario Seguranca Publica, Espirito Santo, Vitoria, ES, Brazil

Faxes: + 55 27 222 6030

Salutation: Sr Secretario / Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Street Children's Movement in Vitoria:

Movimento de Meninos e Meninas da Rua
Rua dos Rosarios 244, Sala 303
Praça Costa Pereira
29.016-090 Vitoria, ES, Brazil

Federal Procurator Human Rights Division:

Dr Alvaro Ribeiro da Costa
Sub-Procurador Geral da Republica
SECODID
Procuradoria Geral Da Republica
Av L Sul, Q.603, no.23,
70.200 Brasília DF, 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 January 1993.