

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 342/93 Torture/Fear of "disappearance"

29 September 1993

**BRAZIL** 'Osório' rural worker

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Amnesty International is concerned for the welfare of a rural worker known only as Osório, who has "disappeared" after being taken into police custody and tortured. He is believed to have been detained on 7 September 1993 during a police operation to arrest peasants suspected of involvement in the murder of a landowner and a veterinarian in the south of Pará state.

Osório, who worked on an estate neighbouring the one in which the veterinarian was murdered, is believed to have been taken to the police station of Xinguara.

Other detainees at the police station say that they shared a cell with him and that he was in very poor physical condition as a result of beatings. They say that on a number of occasions Osório was taken out of the police station for several hours by members of the civil police, and that on his return he told them that he had been taken to the neighbouring town of Rio Maria in order to identify possible suspects in the crimes being investigated. Osório also told them that during these trips he was beaten, given electric shocks to the head, subjected to mock drowning in a stream, and to mock hanging - whereby a rope was put round his neck and raised until he fainted. A lawyer seeking information about his whereabouts has found no official record of his detention in the police station log book, or judicial order for his arrest. He was reportedly told by the police chief at Xinguara that the detainees in this case were under the responsibility of the Political and Social Order Police, *Departamento de Ordem Politico e Social*, (DOPs).

The wife of one of the detainees alleges that when visiting her husband at the Xinguara police station on 12 September she and other witnesses saw Osório being taken away at midday in a car by members of DOPs, who said they were taking him to the state capital Belém. However human rights groups have failed to locate Osório in police stations or prisons in Belém.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

During September 1993 civil and military police and members of the DOPs mounted an operation to detain suspects in connection with the killing on 30 August of Antônio Carlos Stivalle a veterinarian on the Parreira do Pará estate, and on 2 September of Fábio Abreu Vieira owner of the Mata Azul estate. The Mata Azul estate is in a region where there are intense land disputes between peasant and landowners. As a consequence there have been frequent episodes of violence in the past, and there is a permanent police presence in the region. In February 1993 two peasants Antonio Inácio Faria and Luis Rodrigues dos Santos, from the Mata Azul estate "disappeared" in circumstances suggesting police involvement (see UA 62/93, AMR 19/06/93); they are still missing.

Many of the detentions in September are believed to have been irregular. Pereira da Rocha, a former director of the rural workers trade union of Rio

Maria was forcibly abducted by four armed men in plainclothes on 20 September. After 24 hours military police admitted that he was being held by them. Creuzemar Santana dos Santos, arrested on 19 September in Xinguara, alleges that he was beaten and kicked by military police and civil police at the time of his arrest and inside the police station in Xinguara. These detainees were transferred to the state capital Belém, where they were both released without charge on 26 September.

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

- Expressing concern at the reported "disappearance" of the rural worker Osório, who was last seen on 12 September being driven from the police station of Xinguara allegedly in the custody of members of the *Departamento de Ordem Politico e Social*.
- Requesting a full investigation into the whereabouts of Osório; and that if he is found in official custody, that his place of detention be publicly disclosed and that he be presented to a judge so that he may be charged with recognizable criminal offences or be released;
- Requesting an inquiry into the allegations of illegal detentions and ill-treatment of suspects by members of civil and military police investigating crimes in the Mata Azul and Parreira do Pará estates in the south of Pará, and into allegations of the torture of Osório.

**APPEALS TO**

1. State Secretary of Public Security

Sr Secretário de Segurança Pública do Estado do Pará  
Sr Alcides Alcântara  
Rua 28 de Setembro 339  
66.020 Belém, PA, Brazil

**Telegrams: Secretario Segurança Pública, Belem, Brazil**

**Telexes: 911100 SSPB PR**

**Salutation: Sr. Secretário/ Mr Secretary**

2. State Governor of Pará

Exmo Sr Jader Barbalho  
Governador do Estado do Pará  
Av. Augusto Monte Negro/ KM 09  
66.823-010 Belém, PA, Brazil

**Telegrams: Governador Pará, Belem, Brazil**

**Telexes: 911012 GOPA HR or 916978 GOPA BR**

**Faxes: 091 241 2970**

**Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency**

3. Minister of Justice

Exmo Sr Mauricio Corrêa  
Ministro da Justiça  
Ministério de Justiça  
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23  
70.064 Brasília DF, Brazil

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

**Faxes: +55 61 224 4357**

**Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR**

**Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1. Attorney General's Office

Dr Alvaro Ribeiro da Costa  
SECODID  
Procuradoria Geral da República  
Ed Sede PGR  
Avenida L2 Sul, SG AS 603, Lote 23  
Brasília DF, Brazil

2. Local lawyer

Frei Henri de Rosiers  
Paroquia Nossa Senhora Aparecida  
Av 04 no 357  
Caixa Postal 07  
68.530 Rio Maria, PA, 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 10 November 1993.