

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 412/91

**Possible Extrajudicial Executions/
Safety Concern**

26 November 1991

BRAZIL

**Flávio Cláudio Luis dos SANTOS (9 years of age)
Erivaldo PASSOS (16 years of age)
Edson CUNHA da SILVA (17 years of age)
Cristiano BATALHA NEVES (15 years of age)
Márcio (16 years of age)
Rose dos SANTOS (14 years of age)**

and

Andréia da SILVA LOURENÇO (16 years of age)

Amnesty International is concerned about the circumstances of the deaths of Flávio Claudio Luis dos Santos (9 years of age), Erivaldo Passos (16 years of age), Edson Cunha da Silva (17 years of age), Cristiano Batalha Neves (15 years of age) Márcio (16 years of age, no surname provided) and Rose dos Santos (14 years of age) on 14 November 1991 in the shanty town of Nova Jersualém, Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Amnesty International is also concerned for the safety of Andréia da Silva Lourenço, wounded in the head in the same incident.

The killings occurred in a particularly deprived suburb of Rio de Janeiro. Circumstances indicate it as typical of the action of death squads. The children were reportedly taken from the hut where they were gathered to nearby barren land on the margins of the river Sapuí. They were made to lie face downwards and were shot at point blank in their heads. Six of the children died immediately but Andréia da Silva Lourenço, although wounded in the head, remained alive and conscious.

One person has given himself up to the police and has assumed sole responsibility for the killings. However it is alleged that other people also took part in the killings and that the confessed murderer may be covering them up. There are serious concerns among human rights activists about the safety of Andréia da Silva Lourenço, the only witness of the crime.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to official figures from the statistical office of the Civil Police Secretary of Rio de Janeiro, from January to June 1991 there were 139 recorded unlawful killings of children in the state of Rio de Janeiro. According to journalistic sources quoted in a report just published by a Rio de Janeiro State Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry on the killing of children and adolescents, claim that there are at least 15 known death squads operating in different areas of Rio de Janeiro.

The Parliamentary Commission report also cites several instances of

authorities' involvement with death squads. Among others, they mention cases where members of death squads were issued with identification cards crediting them as members of the judiciary; cases in which members of the military police were denounced as involved in death squad crimes and no action was taken to investigate their responsibility and the case of a former senior police officer condemned for the killing of a child who has never been taken to serve his prison term in spite of his whereabouts being public (the Commission's report even quotes his office address and telephone number).

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

- urging that the killings of Flávio Cláudio Luis dos Santos, Rose dos Santos, Erivaldo Passos, Edson Cunha da Silva, Cristiano Batalha Neves and Marcio be effectively investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- requesting that steps be taken to ensure the safety of Andréia da Silva Lourenço.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice:

Exmo Sr Jarbas Passarinho
Ministro da Justiça
Ministério da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministerios
Bloco 23
70.064 Brasilia DF, Brazil

Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

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

2) State Governor:

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

**Vossa Excelência /
Your Excellency**

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)

3) State Secretary of Justice:

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

**Vossa Excelência /
Your Excellency**

**Telegrams: Secretario de Justica Estado Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil**

COPIES TO:

Minister of the Child:
Sr Ministro da Criança
Sr Alceni Guerra
Esplanado dos Ministerios Bloco 11
70.058 Brasilia DF
Brazil

Centro de Articulação de
Populações Marginadas
Rua da Lapa N 2000, Sala 809, Centro,
Rio de Janeiro,
CEP 20021
Brazil

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 7 January 1992.