

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 19/35/93**

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**UA 409/93      Death in custody/Ill-treatment and threats      19 November 1993**

**BRAZIL      Demóclides ALBUQUERQUE CARNEIRO, 23 year-old Macuxí Indian**

Amnesty International is concerned about the death in custody of Democlides Albuquerque Carneiro in the northern state of Roraima and at reports of continuing threats and violence against members of the Macuxí indigenous group who are in conflict with local landowners about the demarcation of indigenous territory in the state.

According to reports Democlides Albuquerque Carneiro had been arrested on suspicion of having stolen some cattle and was taken to the police station of Alto Alegre. On 6 November he was reportedly shot dead inside the police station. According to reports a policeman at first stated that the Indian had committed suicide, but two days later the policeman admitted having shot the Indian, in what he said had been a tussle. According to a forensic examination the shot which killed him had been fired from some distance. Civil and federal police inquiries have reportedly been opened into the killing and the policeman who confessed to having shot the Indian has been detained in custody.

On 3 November four civil policemen and one military policeman are alleged to have entered the Macuxí village of Lilás and set fire to a house and a cattle pen which the Indians claimed had been built on indigenous land. The police were apparently acting on the orders of a land claimant in dispute with the Macuxí. The police allegedly tried to force two of the Indians to burn the house and pen and when they refused severely beat them.

Since 29 September 1993 a military police road block has been in operation in the Raposa/Serra do Sol indigenous area. According to reports, stop and search procedures are used in a discriminatory way against members of indigenous communities, while non-indigenous landowners and miners are allowed to pass unchallenged, although mining is illegal in indigenous areas. Macuxi and Ingarikó Indians have been made to stand at gunpoint for several hours at the barrier, prohibited from speaking their indigenous languages, and they, as well as nuns accompanying them, have been made to undergo humiliating strip-search procedures. Bows, arrows, hunting knives and other working tools have reportedly been confiscated from the Indians.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Macuxí Indians have suffered repeated violent attacks and threats on their communities in the context of their claims to land now taken over by non-indigenous cattle ranchers. Macuxí Indians have campaigned for the demarcation (legal recognition and physical marking out) of the Raposa/Serra do Sol indigenous area as an indigenous reserve. The area has already been

recognised by the Government's indigenous agency FUNAI. In accordance with the 1988 Constitution all indigenous lands were due to be demarcated by 5 October 1993, but by the deadline 238 indigenous areas had not been demarcated. Local politicians and influential local landowners who have property in the indigenous area are vehemently opposed to such demarcation, as is the state government of Roraima. The Raposa/Serra do Sol Indigenous area was not demarcated within the Constitutional deadline and the following day military exercises were staged inside this area using live ammunition. Amnesty International is concerned at reports of increased official harassment of members of indigenous communities following the non-demarcation of their lands.

In November 1988 17 year-old Velario Tamir Macuxi was found dead in his cell at the Normandia police station, after having been severely beaten by military police (See AMR 19/22/88). To-date no police officer has been brought to trial for his killing. On 10 November 1993 a farm administrator was acquitted by a local court of having killed two Macuxí Indians, Damião Mendes and Mario Davis, in 1990 (See AMR 19/21/90). Although the two Indians had been shot in the back, and the administrator had previously confessed to the killings, the local court acquitted him.

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

- Expressing concern about the death in custody of Democlides Albuquerque Carneiro on 6 November 1993 in the police station (*delegacia*) of Alto Alegre, Roraima and urging that the inquiry into this death is thorough and that those responsible be promptly brought to justice;
- Expressing concern that to date no-one has been brought to justice for the death in custody at the Normandia police station of Velario Tamir in 1988.
- Urging a full inquiry into reports of ill-treatment and harassment by official security forces of members of indigenous communities at the Maloca Lilás and at the military police barrier in the indigenous area Raposa/Serra do Sol.

**APPEALS TO**

1) State Head of Police

Exmo Sr Secretario de Segurança Pública  
do Estado de Roraima  
Sr Rubens Braga Quintela  
Av Capitão Ene Garcez no 324  
62.300 Boa Vista, RR, Brazil

**Telegrams: Secretario Segurança Pública, Boa Vista, Brazil**

**Salutation: Sr Secretário/Mr Secretary**

2) State Governor

Exmo Sr. Governador do Estado de Roraima  
Sr Ottomar Pinto  
Palácio 31 de Marco  
Praça do Centro Civico - Centro  
69.3000 Boa Vista, RR, Brazil

**Telexes: 952 026 GORRBR**

**Telegrams: Governador Roraima, Boa Vista, Brazil**

**Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency**

3) Attorney General

Exmo. Sr Procurador Geral da República  
Dr Aristedes Junqueira  
Procuradoria Geral da República

Ed Sede PGR  
Av L2 Sul, Q 603m lote 23  
70.2000 Brasília DF, Brazil

**Telegrams: Sr Procurador Geral da República, Brasília, Brazil**  
**Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Roraima Indian Council  
Conselho Indigenista de Roraima  
Caixa Postal 163  
70.300 Boa Vista, RR, 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 31 December 1993.