

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 433/93 Fear for safety / Intimidation

15 December 1993

BRAZIL Street educators: Jonas BELTRÃO de Oliveira  
Jonathan Luke HANNAY, (English)  
Maria Cecília GARCEZ LEME, (female), nun  
Maria Inês RONDELLO, (female)

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and several street children in the Praça da Sé, São Paulo

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Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of street educators working with street children in São Paulo's cathedral square, following a number of violent incidents and acts of intimidation involving military police. The educators work with the Catholic church's Pastoral do Menor (Children's Pastoral).

On 12 December street children called Jonathan Hannay and Jonas Beltrão de Oliveira to the Praça da Sé, São Paulo's cathedral square, where a confrontation was going on between children and military police. The two educators tried to mediate, but the confrontation restarted when police detained a girl of 16, named Rosângela, and were seen hitting her over the head with a gun. One policeman allegedly hit Jonathan Hannay in the stomach with a piece of wood and two others knocked down, kicked and beat an 11-year-old child.

Street traders began shouting at the educators, blaming them for the children's behaviour. One hit Jonas Beltrão in the neck with a piece of wood, but when Jonas asked for police help, the officer in command allegedly said he would do "nothing". He reportedly ordered his men out of the square - leaving the educators amid the crowd who began punching, kicking and beating them. Finally, a policeman told the street traders to disperse. Jonas was reportedly semi-conscious with his glasses broken, blood coming out of his ear and a large wound on the back of his neck. Police apparently did not question or detain any of those involved in the assault.

The two educators were taken by the police to hospital where Jonas received emergency treatment for concussion and a perforated eardrum. After receiving first aid, Jonathan continued to be verbally insulted by police. He was taken to a police station and then to the military police battalion to identify the policeman who had hit him in the stomach. He reportedly identified the policeman and was further questioned before being released.

Since 12 December, there have been further acts of intimidation: two other educators, Maria Cecília Garcez Leme and Maria Inês Rondello, were followed by military police, and military police are also reported to have visited Jonathan Hannay's house asking for his whereabouts.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Street educators visit groups of children sleeping in the streets and work with them to provide alternatives to crime and glue-sniffing. These educators are often the only people able to witness, denounce or prevent assaults on street children by uniformed police or their abduction by vigilante death squads. Local traders are often hostile to the educators, associating them with the crimes committed by street children themselves.

Throughout 1993 street educators working with the Pastoral do Menor in the Praça da Sé in São Paulo have been harassed by members of the military police.

Jonas Beltrão de Oliveira has been frequently verbally insulted and otherwise harassed by military police. In April 1993 Father Pedro Horacio Caballero, a Pastoral do Menor street educator, was beaten up by military police when he attempted to prevent them beating two 12-year-old street children in the Praça da Sé (See UA 123/93, AMR 19/15/93, 21 April 1993).

On 10 December the Pastoral do Menor was among several human rights groups that presented the Ministry of Justice with a dossier denouncing that military police were involved in extorting money from street children in São Paulo.

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

- Expressing concern at military police conduct in the Praça da Sé, São Paulo on 12 December, which reportedly included the assault of one street educator and beating of an 11-year-old street child and a 16-year-old girl;
- Expressing concern that police appear to have not only condoned but also facilitated the near-lynching of the street educators Jonas Beltrão de Oliveira and Jonathan Hannay.
- Urging that all steps are taken to ensure the safety of street educators working with street children in the Praça da Sé, particularly in the light of events on 12 December;
- Seeking an investigation into reports that military police have been involved in intimidation and extortion of street children.

**APPEALS TO**

State Secretary of Public Security

Sr Secretário de Segurança Pública

Dr Michel Temer

Av Higienópolis no 758

01238 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

**Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Pública, São Paulo, Brasil**

**Faxes: +55 11 825 8813**

**Telexes: 11 21521**

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

State Governor

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado de São Paulo

Sr Luiz Antônio Fleury Filho

Palácio dos Bandeirantes

Av Morumbi s/n

05.598 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

**Telegrams : Sr Governador São Paulo, Brazil**

**Faxes : + 55 11 8439271**

**Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice

Exmo Sr Ministro da Justiça

Sr Mauricio Corrêa  
Ministério Da Justiça  
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23  
70.064 Brasília DF, Brazil  
**Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasília, Brazil**  
**Faxes: + 55 61 321 5145**  
**Telexes: 611003 MNJUBT**  
**Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Pastoral do Menor  
Praça da Sé 184, 10 andar  
01001 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Newspaper

Folha da Tarde  
Al Barão de Limeira 425  
01202 São Paulo, SP, 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 26 January 1994.