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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **BRAZIL** - FOR RESPONSE ONLY

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

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Brazil - 27 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 29/95

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SYRIA - 11 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 32/95

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

CAMBODIA - 14 MARCH - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/95

EVENTS AND MISSIONS

The details below are for your information only, and there may or may not be media work involved. Can you please not publicize anything until further notice from the IS.

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BRAZIL: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S REACTION TO TELEVISED KILLING BY MILITARY POLICE

On Saturday 4 March the killing of a criminal suspect in Rio de Janeiro by military police was widely broadcast on television networks throughout the world.

"What television viewers clearly saw was a man, already brought under police custody, executed in cold blood," Amnesty International said.

"These kinds of killings, which Amnesty International refers to as extrajudicial executions, are one of the organization's principle concerns in Brazil. Amnesty International has taken up many such cases, but when they occur away from the glare of publicity, those responsible are seldom brought to justice."

This case showed in the clearest form what it means when members of the police feel that they have control over the life and death of citizens on the streets. It should bring home to everyone in Brazil that the legitimate right to security, to which the population aspires, cannot be addressed by extrajudicial executions, torture and "death squads". The politics of fear do not bring security. On the contrary, they degrade the society in which these crimes are tolerated.

Amnesty International welcomes the prompt action of the authorities to investigate the killing and charge the military police allegedly involved. The organization is confident that there will be a full inquiry and urges that all those responsible brought to justice.

As a means to combatting future abuses, the organization has called on the federal and state governments to review the organizational culture, constitutional status, chain of command, discipline and operational guidelines of the military police.

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