

UA 109/98 Fear for safety / Possible extrajudicial execution 9 April 1998

**BRAZIL**Serenita Andrade Fernandes (f)

**Honorío Sanchez Fernandes, her husband**

**Jozóé Andrade Fernandes, her son, aged 8**

**Carlos Cezar Borges Andrade Fernandes, her son, 10 (killed)**

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Serenita Andrade Fernandes, her above named husband and eight-year-old son could be in serious danger of reprisals after she publicly accused local police of involvement in the abduction and murder of her eldest son, Carlos Cezar Borges Andrade Fernandes.

Carlos Cezar may have been killed in retaliation for earlier statements made by Serenita Andrade Fernandes, implicating local police and politicians in the killing of her brother, José Martins de Andrade, in September 1997.

Ten year-old Carlos Cezar disappeared on 22 January 1998 in the remote town of Paranhos, Mato Grosso do Sul state, where he worked in the streets selling food. He was last seen being led off by a man. His body was found by a neighbour on 26 January 1998. There were indications that he may have been raped before being killed.

The police did not appear until the day after the body was found. Instead, they told the family to remove it themselves. No investigation of the site where the body was found was undertaken, and the only records of the site are photos taken by Carlos Cezar's parents.

Serenita Andrade Fernandes and Honorío Sanchez Fernandes took their son's body to a funeral parlour. It was retrieved by police on 27 January, and the subsequent autopsy report cites cause and manner of death as "undefined". The police have made no further contact with the family or potential witnesses since 27 January.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Paranhos is in a remote location on the border between Paraguay and Brazil and the nearest police station is in another town. Mato Grosso do Sul state shares borders with Paraguay and Bolivia, and many of the killings and "disappearances" which are reported in the state are believed to be connected with cross-border smuggling and drug-traffic.

Carlos Cezar's uncle, José Martins de Andrade, was murdered in September 1997, probably as a result of being involved in contract killings, which are rife in Mato Grosso do Sul state. His killers are believed to have close links with local authorities. When questioned by police on collecting her brother's body, Serenita Andrade Fernandes named members of the local police and a local politician as having threatened to kill José Martins de Andrade.

In recent years human rights activists, lawyers and journalists investigating the killings or working on behalf the of the poor and marginalized have frequently been threatened, attacked, killed or "disappeared" (See UA 349/97, AMR 19/28/97, 6 November 1997).

A local journalist was killed on 29 September 1997, shortly before he reportedly intended to broadcast the names of those responsible for killings and "disappearances" in the area.

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

- expressing concern for the physical safety of Serenita Andrade Fernandes, Honorio Sanchez Fernandes and Jozoe Andrade Fernandes, following Serenita Andrade Fernandes' statement to the press implicating local police in the death of her son Carlos Cezar Borges Andrade Fernandes on 22 January 1998;
- calling for steps to be taken to ensure the physical safety of Serenita Andrade and her family;
- expressing concern that local police and pathologists failed to thoroughly investigate the murder and possible rape of Carlos Cezar Borges Andrade Fernandes;
- calling for an immediate and full investigation into the cause and manner of his death and into allegations of police involvement in his murder, for the results to be made public and for all those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for such an investigation to be conducted by a body independent of the local authorities;
- calling for any police suspected of involvement in the death of Carlos Cezar Borges Andrade Fernandes to be immediately suspended from duty pending a full investigation.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor, Mato Grosso do Sul

Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado do Mato Grosso do Sul  
Sr. Wilson Barbosa Martins, Parque dos Poderes, Bloco B  
79100 Campo Grande MS, Brazil

**Telegrams: Governor, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil**

**Faxes: + 55 67 726 4176**

**Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency**

Public Security Secretary, Mato Gross do Sul

Exmo. Sr. Secretário de Segurança Pública  
Sr. Joaquim d'Assunção Filipe de Souza, Parque dos Poderes, Bloco 5, Centro  
77031-902 Campo Grande MS, Brazil

**Telegrams: Public Security Secretary, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil**

**Faxes: + 55 67 726 1794**

**Salutation: Sr. Secretário / Dear Sir**

Secretary, Human Rights Secretariat

Exmo. Sr. Secretário dos Direitos Humanos  
Dr. José Gregori, Secretaria Nacional dos Direitos Humanos  
Ministério da Justiça, Esplanada dos Ministérios  
Bloco T, Anexo II, 2º Andar, Brasília DF, CEP 70064-900, Brazil

**Faxes: + 55 61 226 0294**

**COPIES TO:**

**CDDH Marçal de Souza**

Rua Barão do Rio Branco, 170, centro, 79008-060 Campo Grande, MS, 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 23 May 1998.