

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 241/93 (AMR 19/22/93, 26 July 1993) and follow-up (AMR 19/30/93, 27 September) - Extrajudicial execution / Fear for safety and new concern: Death threats

BRAZIL: **Street children killed on July 23 in the Candelaria massacre:**
Paulo Roberto de Oliveira, aged 11, Anderson Thome Pereira, 13, Marcelo Candido de Jesus, 14, Valderino Miguel de Almeida, 14, 'Gambazinho', 17, 'Nogento', 17, Paulo Jose da Silva, 18, and Marcos Antonio Alves da Silva, 20 who died on 27 July.

Child witnesses to the killings:

Fabio de Oliveira (Barao), 13, Michael Andre de Aguiar, 13, Marcos Pereira Muniz, 14, Fabio Ribeiro, 15, Elizabeth Cristina Borges de Oliveira Maia (Beth), 16, Rogerio da Silva, 16, Sergio Dias Gomes, 16, Leonardo Teixeira de Sa (Dentinho)

Young adults who witnessed the killings:

Neilton Pereira, 22; Wagner, 22;
and around 25 street children from Praça Mauá, who include witnesses to the killings.

Amnesty International remains deeply concerned about the safety of the child witnesses to the Candelária massacre. After having identified suspects in court some of the children have been returned to the streets, where they have been subjected to death threats and other forms of intimidation.

On 12 November a group of survivors from Candelaria, now based with a larger group of about 25 to 30 children in Mauá Square (*Praça Mauá*) in downtown Rio de Janeiro, were threatened by an unknown man. The threats were made in the presence of a street educator who had been sent from the Brazilian Centre for Children and Adolescents Rights, *Centro Brasileiro de Defesa dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente (CBDDCA)* to meet with the children after they had telephoned to report earlier death threats. While the street educator was talking to the children, a man approached the group and threatened them and the educator. The children said that the man was part of the group that had repeatedly threatened to kill them, mentioning by name those among the group of children who were survivors of Candelária.

Also on 12 November, while some of the children and the street educator were in the local police station (*delegacia*) reporting the crime, an unknown group of people traveling in a car reportedly attempted to kidnap two adolescents known only as Adeilson, aged 16 and Marco Antonio, aged 15, who had stayed behind in *Praça Mauá*.

The authorities have sent a military police patrol to protect the children during the night. However, the children feel uneasy about their protectors, as some military police officers involved in the Candelária massacre are believed to serve in the same battalion as those that are protecting them belong to.

In September two other witnesses to the case, Rogéria da Silva and Leonardo Teixeira de Sá (Dentinho) who were lodged in the "witness safe house" were also reportedly threatened with death by four unknown men.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 23 July seven street children were killed when hooded men fired on a group of 50 street children sleeping rough in the vicinity of the Candelária church. Another youth, Marcos Antônio Alves da Silva, died of his wounds on 27 July. Four men, including three military policemen have been charged with the killings, and are in custody. Amnesty International sent appeals to the Brazilian authorities seeking a full investigation into the massacre and that those responsible be brought to justice. The organization specifically urged the authorities to provide all necessary safeguards to protect the life and physical integrity of all witnesses of the killings.

To date, only eight of the survivors of the massacre have been temporarily accommodated in a "Witness Safe

House", while the majority of the survivors have been left to fend for themselves in the streets. Neither the state nor the municipal have so far taken responsibility for the children's long-term safety and agreed to provide accommodations

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/ faxes/telexes and airmail letters in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of all child witnesses to Candelária massacre, especially following reports of recent death threats against some of them;

- Urging the authorities to provide adequate protection for the children of *Praça Mauá*, including continuous police protection;

- Urging the authorities to provide adequate safeguards for the life and physical integrity of the child witnesses to the case, including the provision of alternative means of shelter for the children.

APPEALS TO:

1) State Governor

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado da Rio de Janeiro

Sr Leonel Brizola

Palacio Guanabara

Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n

22,231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Telegrams: Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Telexes: 2131111 GERJ BR; 2123437 SGRJ BR; 2121272 PLG BR

Fax: + 55 21 285 7490 (via Press Office)

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

2) State Secretary of Justice

Sr Secretario de Estado de Justiça do Estado de Rio de Janeiro

Dr Nilo Batista

Rua da Relação No 42, 12 Andar

Centro

20031 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Telegrams: Secretario de Justiça Estado Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Faxes: +55 21 551 3748

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

3. Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Exmo Sr Prefeito da Cidade de Rio de Janeiro

Sr Cesar Maia

Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro

Rua Alfonso Cavalcante 455

Cidade Nova, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Faxes: +55 21 286 9246

Salutation: Tratamiento: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

(Local non-governmental organization)

Centro Brasileiro de Defesa dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente

Caixa Postal 4884, 20100 Agencia Central, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 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 January 7, 1994.