

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 19/01/93

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UA 15/93 Possible Extrajudicial Execution/
Fear For Physical safety

20 January 1993

BRAZIL: Edméia DA SILVA EUZEBIO (female)
Sheila DA CONCEIÇÃO (female)
Marilene LIMA DE SOUZA (female)
Vera Lúcia FLORES (female)
Denise VASCONCELO (female)
Euzilar Joana DA SILVA OLIVEIRA (female)
Ednéia SANTOS CRUZ (female)
Teresa SOUZA COSTA (female)

Amnesty International is concerned about the possible extrajudicial execution of Edméia da Silva Euzébio and Sheila da Conceição, killed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 15 January 1993 and for the safety of the other women named above.

Edméia da Silva Euzébio and all the others named above, except Sheila da Conceição, are mothers of some of the 11 youths who "disappeared" in 1990 from a farm in Magé, Rio de Janeiro state. They have denounced the kidnappings of their sons and actively campaigned for an investigation to locate them. They have also publicly denounced that members of the military police that patrol the Acari shanty town, *favela*, where some of them live, have harassed and threatened them (see UA 37/92, AMR 19/01/92, 3 February 1992). On 6 January 1993 Edméia da Silva Euzébio testified in the judicial inquiry on the "disappearance" of the 11 youths and she allegedly denounced the involvement of military and civil police officers in the kidnapping.

According to information received by Amnesty International, in the afternoon of 15 January Edméia da Silva Euzébio and a friend, Sheila da Conceição, were walking in downtown Rio de Janeiro when they realised that they were being followed by two unknown men in a car. The women attempted to run away but the occupants of the car chased them and, after reportedly calling Edméia da Silva Euzébio's name, shot both of them dead. After the killings the men ran back to the car and escaped.

Edméia da Silva Euzébio is the mother of Luiz Henrique da Silva, one of eleven youths (six of whom were minors) abducted on 26 July 1990 from a farm in Magé, Rio de Janeiro, allegedly with the involvement of members of the military and civil police officers, *policias civis e militares*. According to reports received by Amnesty International, the police officers, hooded and in plain clothes, raided the farm in search of the youths, some of whom were allegedly involved in petty thefts and drug peddling. The abductors took the youths away in two vehicles, one of which was found five days later about 10 kilometres from the farm. The vehicle had been set on fire and blood stains were found on the seat covers. The whereabouts of the youths is still unknown and the case remains under investigation. (For further information see Amnesty International Report 1991.)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A report by a State Assembly of Rio de Janeiro Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry to investigate the elimination of children and adolescents, published in September 1991, established that most of the killings are carried out by death squads, criminal gangs in many cases made up of off-duty police and military police officers, usually hired by local shopkeepers to "clean up" the area from alleged criminals and petty thieves. Fifty military and civil police officers were allegedly identified as members of death squads.

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RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- demanding a thorough investigation into the killing of Edméia da Silva Euzébio and Sheila da Conceição and urging that those responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that all necessary steps be taken to protect the physical safety of Marilene Lima de Souza, Vera Lúcia Flores, Denise Vasconcelos, Euzilar Joana Da Silva Oliveira, Ednéia Santos Cruz and Teresa Souza Costa;
- urging that the "disappearance" of 11 people in Magé, Rio de Janeiro, on 26 July 1990 be thoroughly investigated, their whereabouts disclosed and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice:

Exmo Sr Mauricio Correa
Ministro da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco 23
70.064 Brasilia, D.F. Brazil

Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasilia, Brazil

Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR or 612313 MNJU BR

Faxes: + 55 61 321 5145, + 55 61 224 4357

Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

2) State Governor:

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Sr Leonel Brizola
Palacio Guanabara
Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n
22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Telegrams: Governador Estado Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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

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

Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

3) 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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Centre for the Mobilization of Marginalized Populations:

Centro de Articulação de Populações Marginalizadas

Rua da Lapa N 200, Sala 809,

Centro, Rio de Janeiro

CEP 20021, Brazil

Brazilian Institute for Social and Economic Analysis:

IBASE

Rua Vicente de Souza 29

Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro

CEP 22257, 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 3 March 1993.