

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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LEGAL CONCERN

21 April 1980

**BRAZIL: Trade Unionists arrested**

AI has received reports that one of the most influential trade union leaders in Brazil, the President of the São Bernardo and Diadema Metal Workers' Union, Luis Inacio da Silva, popularly known as "Lula", was arrested by armed policemen at his home at 6.30 on 18 April 1980. Since then he has been held in incommunicado detention. As well as being well-known for his trade union activities, Luis Inacio da Silva is also founder of the recently formed Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT - Labour Party).

Sixteen others, including eleven leaders of metal workers' unions, were also arrested, although seven were subsequently released. All those still detained are being held in the notorious Departamento de Ordem Politica e Social (DOPS) in São Paulo; DOPS was formerly known as a torture centre.

The following people are known to be among those arrested, although it is not known if any of them were among the seven subsequently released:

Djalma de Souza Bom:	member of the Board of the São Bernardo Union
Antonio Roberto Espinoza	
Arnaldo Goncalves:	President of the Santos Metal Workers Union
Devenir Ribeiro:	member of the Board of the São Bernardo Union
José Ferreira da Silva:	brother of Luis Inacio da Silva and member of the Board of the São Caetano Union
Isaias Urbano da Cunha:	member of the Board of the Santo André Union
Jose Cicotti:	from Santo André
Ernesto Senari	
José Timoteo da Silva:	from Santo André
Orlando Francelino:	from Santo André

AI subsequently received reports of further arrests on 19/20 April. The following people are also being held in incommunicado detention in DOPS in São Paulo:

Expedito da Silva:	second treasurer of the São Bernardo Board
Severino Alves da Silva:	secretary of the São Bernardo Board
João Justino de Oliveira:	member of the São Bernardo Board Union
Miguel Palanarizcuk:	no connection with strike
-----Neruda:	(first name unknown) controlled strike fund
Roberto Isau and a woman by the name of Zilma:	both members of the strike solidarity committee in Campo Limpo

These arrests follow the declaration last week that the strike by metal workers in São Paulo is illegal. The strike, which is in support of a 15 per cent wage claim and security of employment, started about four weeks ago; it is one of longest strikes in recent times and involves about 80,000 men. Despite the fact that the authorities have declared the strike illegal, union members decided to continue the strike following the arrests on 18 April.

AI is concerned that these people have been detained without any charges being brought against them and that they may have not been granted access to a lawyer. There is reason to anticipate that they may be charged under the Law of National Security. Because of the past reputation of DOPS, there may also be reason to fear for the physical well-being of those detained.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Letters expressing concern that:

- *Since it is possible that AI will soon receive further information about these arrests, please take no action after 2 May 1980.*
- Please send telegrams requesting that those arrested be given full legal guarantees, including access to a lawyer, and that, in the absence of charges being brought against them, they be released without further delay.

APPEALS TO:

Exmo Sr Presidente da Republica Federativa do Brasil  
General João Baptista Figueiredo  
Gabinete do Presidente  
Palacio do Planalto  
70.000 Brasilia D.F.  
Brasil

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado de São Paulo  
Sr Paulo Salim Maluf  
Palacio dos Bandeirantes  
Morumbi, São Paulo  
Brasil

Exmo Sr Ministro do Trabalho  
Sr Murillo Macedo  
Ministério do Trabalho  
Esplanada dos Ministérios bloco F  
70.000 Brasilia D.F.  
Brasil

Please send copies to:

- Brazilian diplomatic representatives in your own country
- *O Estado de São Paulo*, Av. Engenheiro Caetano Alvares 55, CP 8005, São Paulo
- *Journal do Brasil*, Av. Brasil 500, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
- Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil, Av. Marechal Camâra 210/4°, 20,000 rio de Janeiro, Brasil

PLEASE TAKE ACTION NO LATER THAN 2 MAY 1980