

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 19/05/99

EXTRA 33/99

Possible

**BRAZIL Anderson Pereira dos Santos (14)
Thiago Passos Ferreira (17)
Paulo Roberto da Silva (21)**

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Anderson Pereira dos Santos, Thiago Passos Ferreira and Paulo Roberto da Silva, who "disappeared" on 17 February 1999 after they were arrested by military police.

The three were leaving a carnival party in the early hours of the morning in São Vicente, a town on the coast of São Paulo state, when they were stopped by the Military Police Mounted Regiment (*Regimento de Cavalaria*). Witnesses reportedly saw the police kick and beat the three young men before taking them away in a police car. Bloodstains found inside the car are now undergoing forensic tests.

Both the military and civil police are investigating the alleged "disappearances". Seven military police have now been arrested, four of whom have been identified by witnesses. A public prosecutor is accompanying the military police investigation at the request of the São Paulo state police ombudsman's office.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The number of civilians killed by the military and civil police in São Paulo state rose from 368 in 1996, and 405 in 1997, to 525 in 1998, according to the São Paulo state police ombudsman. Military police were responsible for around 87% of these deaths. Police claim that 80% of these shootings result from suspects resisting arrest. The majority had no criminal record.

Most of these killings, even if the subject of an internal investigation by military police, do not result in criminal prosecution.

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

- expressing extreme concern at the news that Anderson Pereira dos Santos, Thiago Passos Ferreira and Paulo Roberto da Silva have not been seen since being arrested and beaten up by Military Police on 17 February 1999 in São Vicente;
- voicing concern for their safety;
- urging the authorities to make every effort to find them;
- asking the authorities to carry out a full, impartial and independent investigation into this case, that they make the results public and that they bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Governor, São Paulo state
Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado de São Paulo
Dr. Mário Covas
Palácio dos Bandeirantes
Av. Morumbi N°4500, Morumbi
São Paulo SP, CEP 05698-950 Brazil
Telegrams: Governor, São Paulo state, Brazil
Faxes: + 55 11 845 3301

Salutation:Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

Secretary for Public Security, São Paulo state

Exmo. Sr. Secretário de Segurança Pública do Estado de São Paulo

Dr Marco Vinício Petreluzzi

Secretaria de Segurança Pública

Av. Higienópolis, N° 758, Higienópolis

CEP 01238-000 São Paulo SP Brazil

Telegrams:Secretary Public Security, São Paulo state, Brazil

Faxes:+ 55 11 3823 5708 / 3823 5713

Telexes:038 11 21521 sspb br

Salutation:Sr Secretário / Dear Mr Secretary

State Attorney General, São Paulo state

Procurador General de Justiça do Estado de São Paulo

Dr. Luís Antonio Guimarães Marrey

Procuradoria Geral de Justiça

Rua Líbero Badaró, N° 600,8° andar

Anhangabaú, São Bento, Centro

CEP 01008-908 São Paulo SP Brazil

Fax: 00 55 11 3104 3197

Telegrams:State Attorney General, São Paulo State, Brazil

Salutation:Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Deputada Estadual Maria Lúcia Prandi

Chair, Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into Juveniles in detention

(CPI- FEBEM)

Assembléia Legislativa do Estado de São Paulo

Palácio 9 de Julho

Av. Pedro Alvares Cabral s/n

Parque Ibirapuera

CEP 04097-900 São Paulo SP Brazil

Fax: 00 55 11 884 4850

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 1 April 1999.