

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death in Police Custody /Fear for safety  
of witnesses

26 May 1992

BRAZIL:

Luiz Alexandre DA SILVA, builder

and

Reginaldo Silva

Ironaldo Batista

and a minor known only as "Marquinhos"

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Amnesty International is concerned about the death in police custody of Luiz Alexandre da Silva, on 22 April 1992 in Itapevi, state of São Paulo, Brazil.

According to the information recently received by Amnesty International, Luiz Alexandre da Silva, a builder with no criminal record, was detained together with three other men, named Reginaldo Silva, Ironaldo Batista and a minor known only as "Marquinhos", by the São Paulo state Military Police on 22 April 1992 near his home in Itapevi, a town 37 kms away from the state capital São Paulo. Three hours later he was taken to the Itapevi police station, which is manned by the civil police, where he died. Luiz Alexandre da Silva was sought by the police as a suspect for the death of a military police officer in January 1992 after an argument.

According to press reports, the autopsy by the official Legal Medical Institute, Instituto Médico Legal, (IML) states that Luiz Alexandre da Silva's body presented multiple bruises to the face, chest and abdomen and superficial injuries to the limbs. The autopsy also showed extensive internal haemorrhage in the chest resulting from the rupture of the heart and major blood vessels. The forensic doctors concluded that the cause of the death was acute haemorrhage caused by blunt trauma.

According to the same reports, the military police and the civil police have accused each other of the beatings that resulted in Luiz Alexandre da Silva's death. The three men who were detained together with Luiz Alexandre da Silva and are said to have witnessed the beatings, were released by the police but have since disappeared, allegedly in fear for their lives.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture and ill-treatment of detainees in police custody continue to be reported throughout Brazil. The Brazilian Bar Association's branch in Mato Grosso do Sul reported the torture of 10 prisoners in 1990. On 22 September 1991, Mauro Martins Solano, aged 17, was taken to the Santa Isabel police station in Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, where he died from suffocation by being submerged in water (see UA 322/91, AMR 19/26/92, 2 October 1991). On 15 December 1991, Sérgio Antonio de Oliveira died in police custody in São Paulo in unclear circumstances. In March 1992 Amnesty International wrote to the State Governor of Minas Gerais concerning reports of the systematic use of torture by police officers at the

local police station of Ipatinga, Minas Gerais.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern about the death in police custody of Luiz Alexandre da Silva on 22 April 1992;
- urging that the circumstances of the death of Luiz Alexandre da Silva be thoroughly and impartially investigated and those responsible be brought to justice;

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- requesting that immediate steps be taken to ensure the safety of Reginaldo da Silva, Ironaldo Batista and "Marquinhos", as witnesses to the alleged beatings of Luiz Alexandre da Silva.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Minister of Justice

Exmo. Sr. Ministro da Justiça  
Sr. Célio Borja  
Ministerio da Justiça  
Esplanada dos Ministerios  
Bloco 23  
70.064 Brasilia - DF  
Brasil

**Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasilia, Brasil**

**Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR; 611088 MNJU BR; 612313 MNJU BR**

**Faxes: + 55 61 224 4357**

**[Salutation: Sr. Ministro de Justiça / Dear Minister]**

2. State Governor of São Paulo

Exmo. Sr. Governador de  
Estado de São Paulo  
Sr. Luiz Antônio Fleury  
Palacio dos Bandeirantes  
Av. Morumbi s/n  
05.598, São Paulo - SP  
Brasil

**Telegrams: Governador Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil**

**Faxes: + 55 11 8439271**

**[Salutation: Vossa Excel\_ncia / Your Excellency]**

3. State Secretary of Public Security

Exmo. Sr. Secretario de Segurança Pública  
Estado de São Paulo  
Sr. Pedro Franco de Campos  
Av. Higienópolis, No. 758  
01.238 - São Paulo - SP  
Brasil

**Telegrams: Secretario Segurança Pública, Sao Paulo, Brazil**

**Faxes: + 55 11 8262430**

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Centre of Violence Studies

Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro  
Núcleo de Estudos da Violencia

Universidade de São Paulo  
Rua do Anfiteatro 181  
Colméia - Favo 11  
05508 - São Paulo - SP  
Brasil

Newspaper  
Folha de São Paulo  
Alameda Barão de Limeira 425  
São Paulo - SP  
Brasil

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 July 1992.