

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 273/92 Death Threats/Fear of Physical Safety

28 August 1992

BRAZIL: Nivaldo VIEIRA do NASCIMENTO, trade union leader

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento, a member of the Pastoral Land Commission, Comissão Pastoral da Terra, CPT, and adviser to the Rural Workers Union, Sindicato de Trabalhadores Rurais, STR, of Conceição do Araguaia, Pará state, Brazil.

According to the information received by Amnesty International, on the evening of 13 August 1992 Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento was shot at while in the backyard of his home in the municipality of Conceição do Araguaia. The day before the shooting Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento reportedly received death threats from a local landowner, who, according to witnesses, had on previous occasions threatened to kill Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento. The landowner had also reportedly made death threats to a representative of the National Land Reform Institute, Instituto Nacional de Colonização e Reforma Agraria, INCRA, and to local peasants with whom he has a land conflict.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members and leaders of rural trade unions representing peasants and their families in southern Pará have been the targets of death threats, assaults, abductions and killings by landowners, sometimes operating in collusion with the security forces. While Amnesty International takes no position on competing claims in land disputes, it is concerned that the intimidation and killings of peasants, their leaders and advisers have been carried out with a high degree of impunity. The Brazilian authorities at all levels have, in the vast majority of the cases, failed to take effective action to prevent or investigate the threats and killings or to bring those responsible to justice.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported death threats and the attempt on the life of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento;
- urging that the death threats and the attempt on the life of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento be thoroughly investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- requesting that the authorities take adequate measures to ensure the safety of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento.

APPEALS TO:

- 1) Minister of Justice:

Exmo Sr. Célio Borja
Ministro da Justiça
Ministério da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Bloco 23
70.064 Brasília, DF
Brasil

Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasília, Brasil
Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR
Faxes: +55 61 224 4357
Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

page 2 of UA 273/92

2) State Governor of Para:

Exmo Sr. Jäder Barbalho
Governador do Estado de Pará
Palácio Lauro Sodre
Praça D. Pedro II
66.000 Belem - PA
Brasil

Telegrams: Governador Para, Belem, Brasil
Telexes: 911012 gopabr
Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency

3) State Secretary of Public Security:

Sr Secretário de Segurança Pública
do Estado de Pará
Sr. Alcides Alcantara
Rua 28 de Setembro N° 339
66.020 - Belém - PA, Brasil

Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Pública, Belem, Brasil
Telexes: 911100 SSPBBR
Salutation: Sr Secretário / Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Pastoral Land Commission
Comissão Pastoral da Terra
Araguaia Tocantins
Rua Juscelino Dubitschek (Rua 5) N. 634
Caixa Postal 134
Curupi
77.400 Tocantins
BRASIL

and to diplomatic representatives of Brasil accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 October 1992.