

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Please bring this case to the attention of the person responsible for outreach in your section because appeals from lawyers groups would be particularly effective.

UA 244/93 Fear for Physical Safety

28 July 1993

BRAZIL: Jayme BENVENUTO DE LIMA JR)
 Valdenia BRITO) lawyers
 Katia Costa PEREIRA)

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of Jayme Benvenuto de Lima Jr, Valdenia Brito and Katia Costa Pereira, lawyers from Gabinete de Apoio Juridico as Organizações Populares, GAJOP, a human rights organization that gives legal advice to poor people and community organizations in Recife, Pernambuco state, following death threats to them. The organization is also concerned that an attempt was made against the life of Jayme Benvenuto de Lima Jr.

The lawyers first received death threats after they denounced several cases of corruption within the state judiciary. On 23 July when driving home, Jayme Benvenuto de Lima Jr, coordinator of GAJOP, was ambushed by two unidentified persons travelling in a car, one of whom threatened him with a gun, and ordered him to step out of his car. When he crouched down in his car, the other car made a u-turn and one of its occupants shot at Jayme Benvenuto de Lima Jr from 10 metres away. Luckily, he was unhurt.

BACKGROUND

Human rights workers, priests, lawyers and other people working for the rights of poor sections of the population have suffered death threats and political killings in Brazil. On 13 August 1991, Fausto Ribeiro da Silva, a lawyer working for Movimento dos Sem-Teto, Urban Squatters Movement, was shot in the head and killed by unknown gunmen in São Miguel Paulista, São Paulo state. On 29 January 1993 Márcia Maria Eugenio de Carvalho, a lawyer working in a number of court cases on behalf of rural workers against local landowners, was killed by unknown gunmen in the municipality of Bonito, Pernambuco state. To Amnesty International's knowledge no one has been charged with either of these killings.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/telephone calls/airmail letters in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- calling for a thorough investigation into the death threats to Katia Costa Pereira, Valdenia Brito and Jayme Benvenuto de Lima Jr, and into the attempt against the life of Jayme Benvenuto de Lima Jr, and that those responsible be brought to justice;

- urging that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the physical safety of Katia Costa Pereira, Valdenia Brito and Jayme Benvenuto de Lima Jr.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Governor of Pernambuco

Sr Joaquim Francisco de
Freitas Cavalcante
Palácio das Princesas
Praça da República
50.000 Recife - PE
Brazil

Telegrams: Governor Cavalcante Recife PE Brazil

Faxes + 55 81 424 4671

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

2) State Secretary for Public Security

Sr José Belem de Oliveira
Rua Aurora No 487, Boa Vista
50.000 Recife - PE
Brazil

Telegrams: State Secretary Oliveira Recife PE Brazil

Faxes: + 55 81 421 2070

Salutation: Vossa Excelência/Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

GAJOP

Rua 27 de Janeiro 181,
Carmo, 53.020 Olinda - PE-
Brazil

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 8 September 1993.