

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 19/30/92

Distr: UA/SC

Please bring this action to the person responsible for outreach work in your section as it is felt that appeals from school children, teachers and social workers would be particularly useful.

UA 362/92 Possible Extrajudicial Execution/Threats

20 November 1992

**BRAZIL: Jorge Antonio de Oliveira Filho, aged 20, street children worker
and other street children workers**

Amnesty International is concerned at the death in suspicious circumstances of Jorge António de Oliveira Filho, and at a reported wave of death threats to people like him, working on the streets with street children in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Jorge António de Oliviera Filho, who had been working as an 'educador de rua' street educator, with the organisation Instituto Brasileiro de Inovações em Saúde Social, IBISS, the Brazilian Institute for Innovations in Social Health, for two and a half years was last seen alive on 5 November 1992 when on his way to catch a bus to the centre of town. His body was identified by the director of IBISS on 12 November in the city morgue; it had not been shown to him in the morgue on 11 November, although it had officially been brought there on 6 November.

The neck and cranium were broken, but some of the marks on the body apparently looked as if they had been caused by beating with an iron bar. The autopsy report stated that the youth had been killed in a car accident. The body had, said police, been found alone in a car in a city suburb. Jorge António de Oliveira Filho had no licence and did not know how to drive. The 35th district police station from which the body had been collected by morgue officials has so far been unable or unwilling to produce an official record of the case.

In September 1992 IBISS was one of several non-governmental organizations which received an anonymous letter in the name of "cleaning up the streets of Rio and Baixada Fluminense", (a suburb) "*pela limpeza das ruas do Rio e Baixada*". The letter stated that unless two named non-governmental representatives were not withdrawn from the Conselho Estadual de Defesa da Criança e Adolescente, State Council for the Defence of Children and Adolescents, "two street children would be killed every day in Rio de Janeiro" "*ira morrer dois pivetes por dia no Rio e Baixada*" and "strange things would happen inside the organizations that protect these bandits" and "members of the council or their family members would suffer accidents at any moment". "*Comessara a acontecer coisas sem explicação nas entidades que protegem estes pivetes marginais e qualquer membro deste conselho e suas famílias poderão ser vitimas a qualquer momento de um acidente.*"

Street educators visit groups of children sleeping in the streets and work with them to provide alternatives to crime and glue-sniffing, teaching them, playing with them, and organizing them to have other means of subsistence. These street educators are often the only people able to witness, denounce or prevent assaults on street children by uniformed police or their abduction by vigilante death squads. Jorge António de Oliveira Filho had himself grown up on the streets of Rio and like many other street educators worked mostly late a night with the street children, when they are most vulnerable to attack. At the

time of his disappearance he was preparing some of the street children to take part in the 3rd National Congress of Street Boys and Girls to be held in Brasilia 19-22 November 1992.

Since Jorge António de Oliviera Filho's death IBISS has reportedly received daily threats by telephone, such as "This is just the first, we will kill more of your people" "*Este é so o primeiro, vamos matar mais do seu pessoal*". On 16 November they were told "we will kill one more of your educators and also one of the kids going to the Meeting of Street Boys and Girls". "*Vamos matar mais um educador dos seus projetos e um pivete que vai ao Congresso dos Meninos da Rua*". Other street educators working for other non-governmental organizations are also believed to be at risk.

Page 2 of UA 362/92

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is increasingly concerned about violence against and killings of street children in large cities in Brazil. Federal Police recorded 4,611 killings of children and adolescents in Greater Brazil between 1988 and 1990. In February 1992 a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry published its finding on 'The Extermination of Minors' and concluded that the participation of civil and military police in the killings of children and adolescents was "far from exceptional" and that police killings were the third highest cause of homicide of children and adolescents. According to official figures there were 277 killings of children and adolescents in Rio de Janeiro in the first six months of 1992.

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

- calling for a full and impartial investigations into the real circumstances of Jorge António de Oliveira Filho's death;
- seeking assurances for the safety of street educators working with street children in the city of Rio de Janeiro;
- urging that the state government of Rio de Janeiro examine the question of the safety of street children and street educators at key points in the city of Rio de Janeiro where street children gather and sleep.

APPEALS TO

1) State Governor:

Sr Governador do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Sr Leonel Brizola
Palacio Guanabara
22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Telegrams: Governador Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Faxes: + 55 21 285 7490

**Salutation: Vossa Excelencia /
Your Excellency**

2) State Vice-Governor and Police Secretary:

Vice Governador do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Dr Nilo Batista
Rua Barao de Itambi no 60 4 andar
22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Telegrams: Vice-Governador, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Telexes: 021 2135
Faxes: + 55 21 240 9159

**Salutation: Sr Secretario /
Dear Sir**

3) State Military Police Commander:

Sr Commandante da Policia Militar
Colonel C.N.M. Cerqueira
Quartel General da Policia Militar
Rua Evaristo da Veiga
20.031 Centro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

**Salutation: Sr Commandante /
Dear Sir**

Telegrams: Commandante Policia Militar, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Faxes: + 55 21 212 1200

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Instituto Brasileiro de Inovação Social
Av Beira Mar 406/704
20021 Centro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Local Radio Station:
Radio Jornal do Brasil
Avenida Brasil 500 7 andar,
20949 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 January 1993.