

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
PRESS RELEASE**

AI Index: PRE 01/136/2009
08 April 2009

Brazil: Reopening of Dorothy Stang's case is rare opportunity for justice

The Pará Court's decision to reopen the case of the killing of nun Dorothy Stang offers a rare opportunity for justice in a state where human rights defenders and social activists live with a price on their heads, said Amnesty International today.

"Pará has become a byword for brutality and injustice," said Tim Cahill, Brazil researcher at Amnesty International. "The killing of Sister Dorothy Stang illustrates the realities of dozens of human rights and social activists in Pará who are continuously persecuted and punished for defending the rights of the landless and disposed."

Amnesty International called on the authorities to ensure a swift and just resolution to this case, ensuring that the death of Sister Dorothy stands as a turning point for justice in Pará.