

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary detention / Fear of ill-treatment

28 March 1994

**BRAZIL** Francisco de Asis Pinto DO NASCIMENTO, director of the Rural Workers' Trade Union of Eldorado do Carajás  
Salvador MURAO DE SOUZA  
Estevão Alberto ROCHA DA SILVA  
Manoel PRIVADO  
Francisco SOUSA LACERDO  
Alziro José FERREIRA,  
Raimundo Francisco DO NASCIMENTO  
Raimundo PEREIRA DA SILVA  
Lindomar GOMES  
Francisco DOS REIS DOS SANTOS CHAVES  
and three minors (names unknown) - all rural workers

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On 21 March 1994, the 13 rural workers listed above were arrested by military police during a raid on two communities in the municipality of Eldorado do Carajás. Amnesty International is concerned that the arrests may be part of a continuing pattern of harassment against rural workers and their representatives in the context of disputed land in the region. The organization's fears that the detainees may be ill-treated have been heightened by allegations that the first three men named above have been beaten.

Some 50 military police were reportedly involved in the raid on the communities of Agua-Fria and Pedra Furada, home to 150 families of rural workers. The 10 adults who were detained have been transferred to the Regional Police Station in Marabá, where Francisco de Asis Pinto do Nascimento, Salvador Murao de Souza and Estevão Alberto Rocha da Silva were allegedly beaten by military police.

Lawyers are seeking a medical examination for the three, and for the results to be made public. It is believed that the three unnamed minors are being held under the supervision of the judiciary in the town of Curionópolis.

The ten adults have been charged with "invading" the Abaeté estate, which borders their land. They deny the charge. Some were reportedly detained whilst using a public right of way which links the town of Eldorado with their own land, and passes through the Abaeté estate.

One of the detainees, Alziro José Ferreira, is the son of Arnaldo Delcidio Ferreira, who, when President of the Rural Workers Trade Union of Eldorado do Carajás, was shot dead by a hired gunman on 2 May 1993. The owner of the Abaeté estate was charged with commissioning his killing and detained in July 1993. In September 1993 he was released from custody and has since gone into hiding.

Another director of the Rural Workers Trade Union of Eldorado do Carajás, José Teixeira Castilho, son-in-law of Arnaldo Delcidio Ferreira, has been in detention without charge in the Regional Police Station of Marabá since 10 February (see UA 80/94, AMR 19/06/94, 2 March 1994). He has been accused, though not charged, with involvement in a incident in which the ranch house of the Abaeté estate was burned down.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Peasants members and leaders of rural trade unions in Pará state have been targets of death threats, assaults, abductions and killing in the context of land disputes with local landowners. While Amnesty International takes no

position on land disputes, the organization is concerned at persistent impunity for killings of trade unionists which has in turn left them increasingly vulnerable to attacks on their lives. Brazilian authorities have at all levels, in the vast majority of cases, failed to take effective action to prevent or investigate these killings or bring those responsible to justice. At the same time state police forces have participated, sometimes alongside gunmen, in violent evictions of peasants from land they claim. On many occasions this has involved arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and sometimes torture. Many complaints of this nature have been made against police forces based in the town of Marabá.

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

- expressing concern at reports that three of the ten detainees arrested on 21 March in Eldorado do Carajás and currently held in the Regional Police Station of Marabá in Pará state, have been beaten;
- seeking clarification as to where the three minors detained at the same time are being held, and on what grounds;
- urging that the physical integrity of all 13 detainees is respected, and that any complaints of ill-treatment are thoroughly investigated;
- asking for clarification of any charges against the detainees;
- urging the authorities to take concrete measures to ensure that trade unionists in Pará state are able to freely exercise their internationally recognized rights to freedom of association.

**APPEALS TO**

**(All Salutations : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency)**

1) Attorney General for Pará State

Dra Edite Marília Crespo  
 Procuradoria De Justiça do Estado do Pará  
 Praça Felipe Patroni  
 66.000 Belém, PA, Brazil  
**Faxes: + 55 91 224 7198**  
**Telegrams: Procurador Crespo, Belem, Brazil**

2) State Governor of Pará

Exmo Sr Jader Barbalho  
 Governador do Estado do Pará  
 Av Augusto Monte Negro/ KM 09  
 66.823-010 Belém, PA, Brazil  
**Telegrams : Governador Pará, Belém, Brazil**  
**Telexes : 9111012 GOPA BR or 916978 GOPA BR**  
**Faxes : + 55 91 222 3910**

3. Minister of Justice

Exmo Sr Mauricio Corrêa  
 Ministro da Justiça  
 Ministério de Justiça  
 Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23  
 70.064 Brasília DF, Brazil  
**Telegrams : Ministro da Justiça, Brasília, Brazil**  
**Faxes : +55 61 224 4357**  
**Telexes : 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

President of the Pará State Appeals Court

Exmo Sr Presidente  
Tribunal de Justiça do Pará  
Praça Felipe Patroni s/n  
66.000 Belém, PA, Brazil  
**Faxes : + 55 91 241 2970**

Attorney General's Office

Dr. Alvaro Ribeiro da Costa  
Procuradoria Geral da República  
Avenida L2 Sul, SG AS 603, Lote 23, S 328  
70.200 Brasília, Brazil  
**Faxes : + 55 61 313 5444**

Local human rights organization

Sociedade Paraense de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos  
Rua 5 de Abril  
Caixa Postal 277  
68.500 Marabá, PA, Brazil

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 May 1994.