

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ARM 19/07/96

5 March 1996

Further information on UA 28/96 (AMR 19/05/96, 2 February 1996) - Fear for safety / Extrajudicial execution and new concern: Death threats

BRAZIL Witnesses and relatives of those killed in the 1993 Vigario Geral massacre
Members of staff of the *Casa da Paz*, Vigario Geral
Fábio Gonç_{alves} Cavalcante, aged 22
Edval Silva, aged 18

Amnesty International remains gravely concerned for the safety of relatives of those killed in the Vigario Geral massacre in August 1993, of witnesses to the massacre, and of staff members of the *Casa da Paz* (Peace House) in the Vigario Geral *favela* (shanty town), Rio de Janeiro. Threats against witnesses and relatives have increased since the conditional release on 16 February 1996 of 18 of the policemen accused of carrying out the massacre.

Pre-trial proceedings against 51 policemen accused of the Vigario Geral massacre reached an important stage on 16 February 1996 when the judge in the Vigario Geral case ruled that 18 of the defendants be released pending trial. A new witness has recently submitted testimony against one of the released defendants, and is due to be called to make an identification. In the past, attempts have been made on the lives of witnesses to massacres by police death squads in Rio de Janeiro. Lawyers representing the families of the victims are concerned that the safety of this new witness and other witnesses to the massacre may be in danger following an increase in anonymous telephone threats to them via the *Casa da Paz* since 16 February.

A police inquiry has been opened into the apparent extrajudicial execution of Fábio Gonçalves Cavalcanti and Edval Silva in Vigario Geral on 25 January 1996 (not 27 January as originally reported), but no one has been charged with the killings. The circumstances of the killings suggested that they were intended to intimidate the community.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Portuguese, Spanish or English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to guarantee the physical safety of all witnesses to the Vigario Geral massacre, in particular those who have recently made depositions;
- expressing concern at continued police harassment of the *Casa da Paz*;
- urging the authorities to immediately institute effective witness protection programs;
- reiterating calls for a full investigation into the killings of Fábio Gonçalves Cavalcanti and Edval Silva on 27 January 1996, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Exmo. Sr. Ministro da Justiça
Dr. Nelson Azevedo Jobim
Ministério da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23
70064-900 Brasília, DF, Brazil

Faxes: +55 61 321 5145 / 224 2448 / 322 6817 / 226 7980

Telegrams : Ministro Justica, Brasilia, Brazil
Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency/Su Excelencia

GOVERNOR OF RIO DE JANEIRO

Exmo Sr Governador do Estado do Rio de Janeiro
Sr Marcelo Alencar
Palacio Guanabara
Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n
22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Faxes: +55 21 553 6090

Telegrams: Governador Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency/Su Excelencia

STATE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC SECURITY

Exmo Sr Secretário de Segurança Pública
do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Gral Nilton Cerqueira
Rua Barão de Itambi N.60, 9 Andar, Botafogo
22.231 - Rio de Janeiro- RJ - Brazil

Faxes: +55 21 240 9159

Telegrams: Secretário de Segurança Pública, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Salutation: Sr Secretário/ Mr Secretary

ATTORNEY GENERAL, RIO DE JANEIRO STATE

Exmo Sr Procurador Geral do Estado de Rio de Janeiro
Dr. Hamilton Carvalhido
Procuradoria Geral de Justiça
Av. Nilo Peçanha N°12, 2° andar, Centro,
Rio de Janeiro RJ
CEP 20020-100 Brazil

Faxes: +55 21 221 6037 / 262 2910

Telegrams: Procurador Geral do Estado de Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency/Su Excelencia

COPIES TO:

CASA DA PAZ

Casa da Paz, Rua Antônio Mendes no. 13, Parque Proletário
Vigário Geral, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Faxes: (+) (55 21) 372 9373

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 25 April 1996.