

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Please bring this action to the attention of your outreach coordinator, networks and individuals working on behalf of writers and artists.

UA 131/92

Fear of Extra Judicial Execution

27 April 1992

BRAZIL:

Mariano Domingos FREIRE - Poet and community leader

Amnesty International is concerned about the attempt on the life of Mariano Domingos Freire, poet and community leader, on 10 April 1992 in Matapagipe, Pernambuco, Brazil.

According to the information recently received by Amnesty International, Mariano Domingos Freire was shot and wounded in the face by unknown gunmen near his home in Matapagipe. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

Mariano Domingos Freire is a leader of the Associação dos Pequenos Agricultores de Matapagipe, (Association of Smallholders of Matapagipe). Since 1991, the Association has been demanding compensation for the loss of their land due to the construction of an hydroelectric dam in the region. On the day of the attempt against his life, Mariano Domingos Freire had reportedly attended a meeting with representatives of the firm in charge of the hydroelectric project to settle the dispute.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Peasants, members and leaders of rural trade unions and their advisers have been the targets of death threats, assaults, abductions and killings in the context of land disputes in rural Brazil. While Amnesty International takes no position on competing claims in land disputes, it is concerned that gunmen allegedly acting on behalf of landowners have carried out intimidation and killings of peasants, their leaders and advisers with a high degree of impunity.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams and telexes:

- expressing concern at the attempted murder of Mariano Domingos Freire, leader of the Associação dos Pequenos Agricultores de Matapagipe (Association of Smallholders of Matapagipe);
- urging that an immediate and effective inquiry be carried out into the shooting of Mariano Domingos Freire and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- requesting that immediate steps be taken to ensure the safety of Mariano Domingos Freire.

APPEALS TO:

1. State Governor:

Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado de Pernambuco
Sr Joaquim Francisco de Freitas Cavalcante
Palácio Campo das Princesas
Praça da Republica
50.000 Recife, PE, Brazil

Telegrams: Governador Pernambuco, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Telexes: 811029 gopebr

(Salutation: Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency)

2. State Secretary of Public Security:

Sr Secretário de Segurança Pública
Sr Tito Aureliano
Rua Aurora No. 487, Boa Bista
50.000 Recife, PE, Brazil

Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Publica, Recife-PE, Brazil

(Salutation: Sr. Secretário / Dear Sir)

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Attorney General's Office

Procuradoria Geral da República
Av. L2 Sul Q 603
70.200 Brasilia, DF, Brazil

Legal Assistance Office for Grassroots Organizations

GAJOP
Gabinete de Assessoria Jurídica
As Organizações Populares
Rua Vinte e Sete de Janeiro 181
53.110 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 June 1992.