

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

AI Index: AMR 19/009/2003 (Public)  
News Service No: 100  
24 April 2003

## **BRAZIL: FEBEM São Paulo, condemning the country to a violent future**

"Brazil will be condemned to a future of violence, crime and repression if it is unable to provide its youth with the minimum standards of protection as required by law," Amnesty International said today, in response to the recent transfer of juveniles to adult detention centres.

"The illegal transfer of 247 juveniles held within São Paulo's FEBEM system to adult detention centres throughout the state, over the Easter period, underlines consistent failures by the state authorities to resolve deep rooted problems within the system," said Amnesty International today.

The São Paulo state authorities must make good their promises to bring the FEBEM into line with the Children and Adolescents' statute and not allow the system to be held to ransom by a minority of officials who perpetuate the use of violence, torture, and in some cases, corruption, with impunity.

"Fundamental reforms must be put in place to provide proper educational opportunities for juvenile offenders and decent and safe working conditions for properly trained FEBEM staff," stressed Amnesty International.

"Public condemnation, by the authorities, of those responsible for monitoring the well being of children in the state's care, suggests desperation and only works to further undermine the work of those fighting for the protection of human rights throughout Brazil," Amnesty International concluded.

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