

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Legal Concern

1 October 1982

BRAZIL: Juvêncio Mazzarollo

On 28 September 1982 Juvêncio Mazzarollo, editor of a journal, *Nosso Tempo*, in Foz de Iguaçu, Paraná, near the Paraguayan border, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment under Article 42 paragraph 5 of the *Lei de Segurança Nacional* (Law of National Security) which relates to "insults" and "slander" against "public bodies". He is to appeal against this sentence. However, because he has faced similar charges in the past, under Brazilian law, he cannot be released pending his appeal. He is currently being held in the Penitenciária Central do Estado (Central State Penitentiary) in Curitiba, although it is thought likely that he will be transferred to the Military Police Barracks in Curitiba.

The charges against Juvêncio Mazzarollo relate to an article in *Nosso Tempo* in July 1981 which criticized government officials and bodies and described the eviction of peasants from lands in the Itaipu area. For several years Juvêncio Mazzarollo has published material on the Itaipu hydroelectric project which is under construction near Foz de Iguaçu. In 1980 he produced a report published by the *Comissão Pastoral da Terra* (Church Land Commission) entitled *Taipa da Injustiça* (Wall/Dam of Injustice) which was critical of the government and described some of the effects of the project on the area, including the eviction of a large number of peasant farmers and their families. He has in the past faced charges in connection with articles on this subject.

Amnesty International considers Juvêncio Mazzarollo to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for having peacefully exercised his right to freedom of expression, and is concerned that the Law of National Security has been applied in this case.

Background information

Amnesty International has frequently expressed its concern to the Brazilian authorities about the application of the Law of National Security to detain people for the peaceful expression of their beliefs. During 1982 a number of journalists have faced charges under the Law of National Security in connection with articles critical of the authorities. However, most of them have been acquitted or freed pending their appeals. On 27 September 1982 three journalists of *Hora de Povo* newspaper were sentenced to three years and three months' imprisonment for publishing articles alleging that government officials held bank accounts in Switzerland. The three men, who include the newspaper's former editor, Claudio Campos, who is also an opposition candidate in the elections to be held in November 1982, are not at present in detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/airmail letters expressing concern about the application of the *Lei de Segurança Nacional* against Juvêncio Mazzarollo for the peaceful expression of his beliefs, and urging his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil
General João Baptista Figueiredo
Gabinete do Planalto
70.000 Brasilia, Brazil

(President)
Telegrams to: Presidente Figueiredo,
Brasilia, Brasil

Ministro da Justiça do Brasil
Exmo. Sr. Ibrahim Abi Ackel
Ministério do Justiça
Esplanada do Ministérios Bloco B
70.000 Brasilia, Brazil

(Minister of Justice)
Telegrams to: Ministro Justiça Abi Ackel
Brasilia, Brasil

Ministro da Interior
Exmo. Sr. Mário Andreazza
Ministério do Interior
Setor Autarquias sul, quadro 1, bl 10
Brasilia D.F., Brazil

(Minister of the Interior)
Telegrams to: Ministro Interior Andreazza,
Brasilia, Brasil

COPIES TO:

Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil
Avenida Marechal Câmara 210/4º
20.000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Brazil
(Brazilian Lawyers' Association)

Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil
Rua Cândido Lopedex 146/10º
Edifício Maringa
80.000 Curitiba, Paraná
(Brazilian Lawyers' Association – Curitiba)

O Estado de São Paulo
Av. Eng. Caetano Alvares 55
São Paulo,
Brazil
(newspaper)

Comissão Pastoral da Terra
Av. Jaime Reis 369
Caixa Postal 1.371
Curitiba, Brazil
(Church Land Commission)

and to Brazilian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Please organize some appeals from JOURNALISTS, JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATIONS and TRADE UNIONS.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 12 NOVEMBER 1982.