

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 19/16/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 212/92 Death Threats

24 June 1992

**BRAZIL:** Carlos Alberto Ivanir DOS SANTOS, Executive Secretary of Centro de Articulação de Populações Marginalizadas (CEAP), Centre for the Mobilization of Marginalized Populations and all human rights workers at CEAP

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Carlos Alberto Ivanir dos Santos and of all human rights workers at the Centro de Articulação de Populações Marginalizadas (CEAP), Centre for the Mobilization of Marginalized Populations, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, who are being subjected to anonymous death threats.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 13 June 1992 CEAP received two anonymous telephone calls asking them to stop their denunciations of violence against street children or else they would be "clubbed": "*Vocês parem com isso ou o pau vai quebrar*", "Stop that or the truncheon will break". The anonymous caller allegedly accused the centre's workers of being bribed by the "criminals" they are defending. "*Que vocês não sabe o que e ser assaltado, tem um garoto com 1.80 m, com uma arma na mão, que vocês devem procurar o que fazer, em vez de defender esses bandidos que devem dar dinheiro a vocês*". "You don't know what it is like to be robbed, there is a kid 1.80 m tall, with a gun in his hand, you should try him, instead of defending those criminals who must be giving you money."

CEAP is a well known, established non-governmental organization, which works on behalf of black people, children and adolescents and women in the lower income scale and *favelas* (shanty towns). More than 50% of Brazilian children and adolescents (aged from birth to 17 years) are from families living below the poverty line. According to the Federal Police, between 1988 and 1990 there were 4611 recorded killings of children and adolescents in Brazil.

Last year, on 24 August 1991 Carlos Alberto Ivanir dos Santos was reported to have narrowly escaped being killed when he was shot at by military policemen who had falsely accused him of being a drug trafficker.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Death threats are a common occurrence in Brazil. They are part of a 'culture of terror' aimed at intimidating individuals and to make them abandon their struggle. A report published in February 1992 by a Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry of the Federal Chamber of Deputies states that the participation of civil and military police in the killing of children and adolescents is "far from exceptional" and that police killings is the third largest cause in the homicide of children and adolescents. The responsibility of the state

in the killing of children and adolescents, however, is not only limited to the direct involvement of police officers in the assassinations. Impunity is fostered by the non protection of witnesses and human rights workers, frequent escapes of suspects from police custody, collusion of members of the police and the judiciary with members of death squads and long delays in judicial proceedings.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the reported death threats to Carlos Alberto Ivanir dos Santos and the other human rights workers of the Centro de Articulação de Populações Marginalizadas;

- urging that the death threats be thoroughly investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- requesting that steps be taken to ensure that all the human rights workers of the Centro de Articulação de Populações Marginalizadas are able to carry out their work without fear for their physical safety.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Minister of Justice:

Sr. Célio Borja  
Ministério da Justiça  
Esplanada dos Ministérios  
Bloco 23  
70.064 Brasília, DF  
Brazil

Salutation: Sr. Ministro de Justiça /  
Dear Minister

**Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brazilia, Brazil**  
**Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR; 611088 MNJU BR;**  
**Faxes: + 55 61 224 4357**

2. State Governor, Rio de Janeiro:

Sr. Leonel Brizola  
Palácio Guanabara  
Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n  
22.231 Rio de Janeiro - RJ  
Brazil

Salutation: Vossa Excelência /  
Your Excellency

**Telegrams: Governador Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
**Faxes: + 55 21 2857490**

3. State Secretary of Public Security:

Sr. Nilo Batista  
Rua Barão de Itambi  
Nº 60, 9º andar, Botafogo  
22.231 - Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Salutation: Sr. Secretário /  
Dear Sir

**Telegrams: Secretário de Segurança Pública, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Centre for the Mobilization of Marginalized Populations:

Centro de Articulação de Populações Marginalizadas (CEAP)  
Rua da Lapa No. 200, Sala 809  
Centro - Rio de Janeiro  
20.021 Rio de Janeiro  
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 4 August 1992.