

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 229/93 (AMR 19/21/93, 15 July 1993) - Death Threats

BRAZIL:Sister Elsa Rosa ZOTTI and other Franciscan nuns

On 15 July 1993 Amnesty International issued appeals for the safety of Sister Elsa Rosa Zotti and other Franciscan nuns working with indigenous people in Escondido, Mato Grosso, who had been subjected to death threats. In the original Urgent Action the state where these threats had been occurring and where the Franciscan nuns were working was mistakenly reported as being Mato Grosso do Sul, when in fact it should have been MATO GROSSO. Similarly the addresses given for letter writing at a state level were incorrect.

The Centro de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos 'Marçal de Souza', "Marçal de Souza" Human Rights Defence Centre, in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul which has been receiving copies of appeals sent so far in connection with the original appeal has been forwarding these on to a priest in Mato Grosso who is in contact with Sister Zotti and her colleagues. According to the human rights organization which has been in touch with Sister Zotti the threats against the nuns have stopped. They attributed this to the effect of appeals already sent to the federal authorities and to appeals that may have been forwarded to the Mato Grosso authorities. However the situation in the Cotriguaçu region of Mato Grosso state reportedly remains tense with continuing conflicts between indigenous groups and local landowners and lumber companies. In the context of this continuing climate of tension, continued appeals are recommended.

Thank you for any appeals sent so far, and apologies for any inconvenience caused by the original error.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters to the Mato Grosso authorities in Portuguese, Spanish English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of sister Elsa Rosa Zotti and other Franciscan nuns from Escondido, Mato Grosso, following alleged death threats for their work on behalf of indigenous people of the Cotriguaçu region;
- calling up on the authorities to take the necessary steps to investigate the threats and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the authorities to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of sister Elsa Rosa Zotti and her fellow Franciscan nuns;

- urging the authorities to take steps to prevent human rights abuses against members of indigenous communities, which have in the past resulted from the failure to resolve conflicts between such communities and loggers and landowning interests.

APPEALS TO: New state level addresses :

1) State Governor of Mato Grosso:

Exmo sr Governador do Estado de Mato Grosso

Sr Jaime Campos

Palácio Paiguas

Centro Politico e Administrativo

78.000 Cuiabá - MT - Brazil

Telegrams: Governador Mato Grosso, Cuiaba, Brazil

Telexes: 654265 sspbbr

Salutation: Vossa Excelencia / Your Excellency

2) Secretary of Public Security for Mato Grosso:

Sr Secretario de Segurança Pública

Sr. Oscar Travassos

Secretaria de Segurança Pública

Centro Pólitico Administrativo

78.000 Cuiabá - MT - Brazil

Telegrams: Secretario de Seguranca Pulbica, Mato Grosso, Cuiaba, Brazil

Salutation: Sr Secretário / Mr Secretary

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Priest in the region:

Padre Antonio Bartolomeu de Cruz

Caixa Postal 92

78.320-000 Juína

Mato Grosso, Brazil

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 27 September 1993.