

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/86/96

19 December 1996

Further information on UA 291/96 (ASA 21/84/96, 13 December 1996) - Arbitrary arrest / Fear of torture

EAST TIMOR
Rodolfo Sarmiento, 26
Anselmo do Carmo, 33
Bernardino Fonseca, 24
Tomas dos Santos, 33
Julio da Costa, 21
Americo da Costa, 25
New names: Antonio dos Santos, 24
João Bosco, 23

Amnesty International has just learned that Rodolfo Sarmiento and five other men arrested with him on 15 November 1996 were released from police custody on 17 November.

The six men were believed to have been detained by police in Los Palos for two days. There are reports that at least Rodolfo Sarmiento was tortured while in custody, but there are no further details. While in custody, the six were believed to have been questioned about their alleged links with clandestine groups.

Amnesty International has also learned that two other men from Los Palos, Antonio dos Santos and João Bosco, were arrested two days earlier, on 13 November, on suspicion of involvement in a demonstration in support of East Timorese Bishop Belo. They were taken into police custody in Los Palos and were also released on 17 November.

No further action by the UA Network is required. Thank you for those who sent appeals.