HISTORICAL FILE

# URGENT ACTION amnesty international URGENT ACTION

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ACT 61/13/80
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*Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence.*
*(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))*

9 May 1980

COUNTRY DOSSIER SECTION 7

Further information on UA 64/80 (AMR 19/02/80 21 April; ACT 61/08/80 25 April; ACT 61/09/80 28 April)

## Brazil: Trade Unionists arrested - Legal Concern

AI has received reports that some of the trade unionists arrested in connection with the metal workers' strike have now been released, although others still remain in detention. The strike now appears to be weakening and it is thought that it could continue for only about another twenty days.

The strikers in Santo André have now voted to end the strike and return to work. All of those detained from the Santo André union have now been released with the one exception of José Maria de Almeida who is still in detention in DOPS (*Departamento de Ordem Politica e Social*) in São Paulo. He has reportedly confessed to being a member of the *Convergência Socialista* (a movement for democratic socialism) and he is being held while further investigations take place.

The strikers in São Bernardo have however voted to continue the strike and some of the leaders of the São Bernardo and Diadema Metal Workers' Union are still in detention, including the President, Luis Inacio da Silva ("Lula"). Those still being detained are being charged with "incitement to strike" under article 36 of the Law of National Security and the cases are being considered by a military magistrate. The Union is meeting on 9 May 1980 to discuss whether the strike should continue.

Those known to be still in detention include:

Luis Inacio da Silva
José Maria de Almeida
Emilson Simões de Moura
Expedito Soares Baptista
Gilson Correa de Menezes
Devanir Ribeiro
José Venancio
Djalma de Souza Bom
Severino Alves da Silva

AI has also received disturbing reports of short-term arrests of trade unionists in São Bernardo; applications for habeas have been successful and those detained are being held by the Federal Police, not in DOPS. There have also been reports of violent behaviour by the police towards trade unionists; three people were reportedly hospitalised after being beaten by police during a May Day demonstration.

Further recommended action: For those who still maintain an interest in these cases, please reiterate your concern about the application of the Law of National Security for peaceful trade union activities and that several trade unionists still remain in detention.

*PLEASE ORGANISE ONLY A FEW APPEALS TO BE SENT NOT LATER THAN 21 MAY 1980*

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9 May 1980

Further information on UA 73/80 (AMR 19/03/80 29 April)

## Brazil: Jean Vincent EGLIN - Legal Concern

AI has received news that Jean Vincent Eglin has been expelled to France; please take no further action.