

URGENT ACTION

amnesty international

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URGENT ACTION

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Legal Concern

1 October 1982

BRAZIL: Juvêncio MAZZAROLLO
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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.

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners* without reservation.

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 release as a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

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

(President)

Telegrams to: Presidente Figueiredo,
Brasília, Brasil

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

(Minister of Justice)

Telegrams to: Ministro Justiça Abi
Ackel, Brasília, Brasil

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

(Minister of the Interior)

Telegrams to: Ministro Interior
Andreazza, Brasília, Brasil

COPIES TO:

Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil
Avenida Marechal Câmara 210/4^o
20.000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Brazil

Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil
Rua Cândido Lopex 146/10^o
Edifício Maringa
80.000 Curitiba, Paraná

(Brazilian Lawyers' Association)

(Brazilian Lawyers' Association -
Curitiba)

O Estado de São Paulo
Av. Eng. Caetano Álvares 55
São Paulo, Brazil

Comissão Pastoral da Terra
Av. Jaime Reis 369
Caixa Postal 1.371
Curitiba, Brazil

(newspaper)

(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.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 - "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 - "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 - "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.
- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.
- In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.
- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.