

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Threats

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8 November 1990

BRAZIL: Wolmer do Nascimento (Rio coordinator, Movimento Nacional
dos Meninos e Meninas da Rua,
National Street
Children's Movement)

Ana Teresa do Nascimento, aged 2) Children of Wolmer

Wolmer do Nascimento Filho, aged 3) do Nascimento

Wolmer do Nascimento on the
right with Amnesty International
delegate Bacre Waly Ndiaye during a
visit to Brasil

During the last week of October 1990, Wolmer do Nascimento reportedly received typewritten death threats directed against his children. On 5 November, an unknown man in plain clothes approached him on the street in Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro state, put a gun to his back and told him, "We're not playing anymore; you'd better stop what you're doing." He received another threatening letter on 7 November.

Wolmer do Nascimento has become well known in Rio de Janeiro because of his work with street children and his denunciations of death-squad killings of minors. He is a member of the new State Council on Children and Adolescents, created by federal law to oversee government policies toward minors.

As a result of receiving these threats, Wolmer do Nascimento sent his children away from Duque de Caxias, where death squads have been reported to have killed more than 300 people during 1990.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Increasing crime in Brazil's big cities appears to have stimulated the growth of death squads during the past three years. According to Brazilian human rights organizations, hundreds of people, including children and adolescents, have been killed by death squads in the Rio de Janeiro metropolitan region in 1990. There is evidence that local police have given support to these groups or even participated in their activities. Such groups are said to kill witnesses as well as suspects and petty criminals. People who draw attention to their activities have received threats. Local and state authorities have apparently been slow to investigate or prosecute suspected death-squad crimes. See "Torture and Extrajudicial Execution in Urban Brazil" (AMR 19/05/90, June 1990) and "Children Tortured and Killed in Brazil" (AMR 19/20/90, September 1990).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reported death threats to Wolmer do Nascimento and his two children in Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro state;

- urging that Wolmer do Nascimento and his family receive special police protection and that all threats against them be fully investigated.

APPEALS TO:**(Minister of Justice)**

Exmo. Sr. Ministro da Justiça
do Brasil
Sr. Jarbas Passarinho
Ministério da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Bloco 23
70.064 Brasilia, DF, Brasil
**Telegrams: Ministro Justica,
Brasilia, Brazil**
**Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR,
611088 MNJU BR or 612313 MNJU BR**

(State Governor of Rio de Janeiro)

Exmo. Sr Governador
Estado do Rio de Janeiro
Sr. Wellington Moreira Franco
Palácio Guanabara
Rua Pinheiro Machado s/n
22.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil
**Telegrams: Governador Estado Rio
de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

(Secretary of Public Security)

Exmo. Sr. Secretario de Segurança
Pública
Estado do Rio de Janeiro
Sr. Heraldo Gomes
Rua da Relação, No. 42, 12o Andar
Centro
20.031, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
**Telegrams: Snr Gomez Secretario Seguranca Publica Rio de Janeiro,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

COPIES TO:**(National movement of Street**

Children)
Movimento Nacional dos Meninos
e Meninas da Rua
Rua André Cavalcante, 23
20.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

(Centre for Ethnic Minorities)

Centro de Articulação de
Populações Marginalizados
Rua da Lapa No. 200 Sala 809
20.021, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
CEP 20021

(Council of Social Welfare

organizations of the State
of Rio de Janeiro)
Conselho de Entidades de Bem Estar
Social do Estado do
Rio de Janeiro (CEBES)
Rua André Cavalcante, 23
20.231 Rio de Janeiro, RJ Brasil

(Newspaper)

Jornal do Brasil
Avenida Brasil 500
20.940 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

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 10 December 1990.