



City of Cambridge

68.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 14, 1992

COUNCILLOR WOLF
VICE MAYOR CYR
MAYOR REEVES

WHEREAS: Amnesty International has informed the City Council that members of rural trade unions in the state of Para in Brazil are receiving death threats, as is indicated in the attached urgent action appeal from Amnesty; and

WHEREAS: Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento, a member of the Pastoral Land Commission and adviser to the Rural Workers Union was shot recently at his home in the municipality of conceicao do Araguaia, making real the threats to political activists; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council, in its concern for free democratic political action and having been informed of the events in Para state, Brazil by Amnesty International, appeals to the authorities in Brazil to investigate thoroughly the attempts on the live of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento and to assure his safety; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council requests these authorities to allow members and leaders of rural trade unions to continue their organizing and bargaining free of life-threatening events and intimidation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to send engrossed copies of this resolution to the Minister of Justice, the State Governor of Para, and the State Secretary of Public Security with copies to the Pastoral Land Commission, the Brazilian Ambassador, and Amnesty International.

In City Council September 14, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



URGENT ACTION APPEAL

URGENT ACTION PROGRAM OFFICE • P.O. Box 1270 • Nederland, CO 80466-1270 • 303-440-0913 • FAX: 303-258-7881

UA 273/92 Death Threats/Fear of Physical Safety 28 August 1992
BRAZIL: Nivaldo VIEIRA do NASCIMENTO, trade union leader

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento, a member of the Pastoral Land Commission, Comissão Pastoral da Terra, CPT, and adviser to the Rural Workers Union, Sindicato de Trabalhadores Rurais, STR, of Conceição do Araguaia, Pará state, Brazil.

According to the information received by Amnesty International, on the evening of 13 August 1992 Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento was shot at while in the backyard of his home in the municipality of Conceição do Araguaia. The day before the shooting Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento reportedly received death threats from a local landowner, who, according to witnesses, had on previous occasions threatened to kill Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento. The landowner had also reportedly made death threats to a representative of the National Land Reform Institute, Instituto Nacional de Colonização e Reforma Agrária, INCRA, and to local peasants with whom he has a land conflict.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members and leaders of rural trade unions representing peasants and their families in southern Pará have been the targets of death threats, assaults, abductions and killings by landowners, sometimes operating in collusion with the security forces. While Amnesty International takes no position on competing claims in land disputes, it is concerned that the intimidation and killings of peasants, their leaders and advisers have been carried out with a high degree of impunity. The Brazilian authorities at all levels have, in the vast majority of the cases, failed to take effective action to prevent or investigate the threats and killings or to bring those responsible to justice.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported death threats and the attempt on the life of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento;
- urging that the death threats and the attempt on the life of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento be thoroughly investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- requesting that the authorities take adequate measures to ensure the safety of Nivaldo Vieira do Nascimento.

APPEALS TO:

[Salutation]

1) Minister of Justice: [Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency]

Exmo. Dr. Célio Borja

Ministro da Justiça

Ministério da Justiça

Esplanada dos Ministérios

Bloco 23

70.064 Brasília, DF

Brasil

(Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasília, Brasil)

(Telexes: 391 611003 MNJU BR, 391 611088 MNJU BR)

(Faxes: 011 55 61 224 4357)

2) State Governor of Para: [Vossa Excelência / Your Excellency]

Exmo Sr. Jäder Barbalho
Governador do Estado de Pará
Palácio Lauro Sodré
Praça D. Pedro II
66.000 Belém - PA
Brasil
(Telegrams: Governador Pará, Belém, Brasil)
(Telexes: 391 911012 gopabr)

3) State Secretary of Public Security: [Sr Secretário / Dear Sir]

Sr Secretário de Segurança Pública
do Estado de Pará
Dr. Alcides Alcântara
Rua 28 de Setembro N° 339
66.020 - Belém - PA, Brasil
(Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Pública, Belém, Brasil)
(Telexes: 391 911100 SSPBBR)

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Pastoral Land Commission
Comissão Pastoral da Terra
Araguaia Tocantins
Rua Juscelino Kubitschek (Rua 5) N. 634
Caixa Postal 134
Curupí
77.400 Tocantins
BRASIL

Ambassador Rubens Ricupero
Brazilian Embassy
3006 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington DC 20008

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the Colorado office between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, Mountain Time, weekdays only, if sending appeals after October 9, 1992.

- ☐ Postage costs: airmail letters cost 50 cents a page (1/4 oz.) to most countries; aerogrammes are 45 cents each; airmail postcards cost 40 cents to most countries. Mail with colorful stamps may not reach its destination.
- ☐ The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or professional capacity are often more effective.
- ☐ 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 the 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 subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

- ☐ Send your appeals in English unless you are fluent with the language.
- ☐ Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action and send a telegram or airmail letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- ☐ Correct salutations include: Dear Sir - for local authorities, prison commanders, police chiefs; Your Honor - for judges; Dear Admiral, General, Captain, etc. - for military officers; Your Excellency - for most minister-level officials and state presidents; in closing use "Yours sincerely" or "Respectfully" for any authority.



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Consent Order # 68

S-706

Union Review
Councillor Wolf re: death threats to
members of rural trade unions in the
state of Para in Brazil.

In City Council,

Sept. 14, 1992

Order adopted