

CALL FOR INQUIRIES INTO TWO KILLINGS IN RIO**BRAZIL****Name: Edilson Silva dos Santos (m), Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva (m), Maria de Fátima (f)**

A man was shot dead during a protest in the Pavão-Pavãozinho community in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro on 22 April. The community was protesting in reaction to the death of another man earlier that day during a police operation in the favela.

On 22 April, 27-year-old Edilson Silva dos Santos was shot in the head and died during a protest in the Pavão-Pavãozinho community in Copacabana. It has not been established who fired the shot. Edilson Silva dos Santos and other residents from the community were unarmed in the protest. The military police officers policing the protest were armed with firearms. The protest was a spontaneous reaction by residents to the death of Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva, aged 26, who was found dead in the backyard of a children's daycare centre earlier that day. Initial investigations indicate that he died around 1am on 22 April during a police operation in the community. Local residents alleged that he was killed by the police. Later in the day on 22 April, the military police from the local Pacification Police Unit (Unidade de Polícia Pacificadora, UPP) surrounded the daycare centre where Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva's body was found, and there are strong indications that the crime scene might have been changed. The medical forensic assessment concluded that he died after being shot by a firearm which resulted in the perforation of his lung. Since Douglas' death, his mother, Maria de Fátima, has made public calls for justice. She told Amnesty International and others that on 28 April she was threatened by a man driving a car and carrying a firearm. She stated that he told her "if you don't shut up, I will do that" (se você não calar a boca, eu vou calar).

Amnesty International has received reports of the use of unnecessary and excessive force and other abuses by police officers from the UPP against residents of this area. For example, only a couple of days earlier, a 27-year-old man coming back from a family gathering was reportedly approached by two police officers from the UPP, who then shot twice at a wall next to his head and fired three more shots into the air as a form of intimidation.

Please write immediately in Portuguese, English or your own language:

- * Urging the authorities to ensure a prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into allegations that police were responsible for the killings of Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva and Edilson Silva dos Santos, and ensure that any officers responsible for abusive use of force are brought to justice in criminal proceedings;
- * Urging them to ensure the safety of Maria de Fátima, and other family or community members who are mobilized seeking justice for the two killings, protecting them from any kind of intimidation or threats;
- * Urging them to order prompt, independent and impartial investigations of all allegations of unnecessary or excessive use of force or other abuses by military police officers in the local UPP in Pavão-Pavãozinho.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 JUNE 2014 TO: (Time difference = GMT - 3 hrs / BST - 4 hrs)

Governor of Rio de Janeiro
Luiz Fernando Pezão
Palácio Guanabara
R. Pinheiro Machado, s/n -
Laranjeiras CEP 22238-900, Rio de
Janeiro, RJ
Fax: 0055 21 23343559
Email:
telmaoliveira@gabgovernador.rj.gov.
br;
documentacao@gabgovernador.rj.go
v.brSalutation: Dear Governor

State Secretary of Public Security
José Mariano Beltrame
Praça Cristiano Ottoni, s/nº
Prédio da Central do Brasil
CEP 20221-250, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Fax: 0055 21 23349329
Email:
secretariodeseguranca@seguranca.r
j.gov.br
Salutation: Dear Secretary

And copies to:
President of State Council of Public
Security
Praça Cristiano Ottoni, s/nº
Prédio da Central do Brasil
CEP 20221-250
Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Email: consperj@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR APPEAL TO

His Excellency Roberto Jaguaribe, Embassy of Brazil, 14-16 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BL Fax: 020 7399 9100 Tel: 020 77474500 Email: info.london@itamaraty.gov.br Website: www.brazil.org.uk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Edilson Silva dos Santos, who had a mental disability, lived in the community of Pavão-Pavãozinho with a foster family (a mother and a brother). According to one family member "he was a peaceful and cool man who was always smiling and enjoyed playing video games". After he was shot, the police had him taken to hospital, where, according to the medical report he was found to be dead on arrival. Witnesses who were present when he was shot told Amnesty International that it was clear he was dead before he was taken to hospital, and that the police did not preserve the crime scene.

Douglas Rafael Pereira da Silva lived outside the community but visited very often to see his four-year-old daughter who lives there. He was well known in the community as a dancer in a popular TV show and seen as a role model for many young boys. The death of Douglas triggered an outcry in the community.

The Pacification Police Unit (Unidade de Polícia Pacificadora, UPP) is a community policing programme that has been implemented in certain slums (favelas) in Rio de Janeiro. Despite official statistics showing that the implementation of the UPPs have reduced the number of crimes, Amnesty International in Brazil has received reports and allegations of human rights violations and other abuses by police in areas where UPP has been established. Pavão-Pavãozinho is a slum located between the upper-class neighbourhoods of Copacabana and Ipanema. The UPP was established in Pavão-Pavãozinho in December 2009.

Douglas's mother, Maria de Fátima Silva, stated: "What pacification is that? We have no right to come and go. The residents of the community are more afraid of the police than of the criminals. My son is one more victim." She adds: "The police is trained not to save, to help, but to kill" (Que pacificação é esse que você não tem o direito de ir e vir. Os moradores de comunidade tem mais medo da polícia do que de bandido agora. Meu filho é mais uma vítima. Essa polícia é treinada não para salvar, para ajudar, mas para matar).

There have been cases of human rights violations and other abuses by police in other areas with UPPs as well. In July 2013, Amarildo Souza Lima was taken by police officers of the UPP in the community of Rocinha and disappeared (see UA 202/13, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR19/009/2013/en>). The results of the investigations carried out since then indicate that he was tortured and killed by the UPP police officers. To date his body has not been found. More than 20 police officers are facing criminal charges for homicide, including the commander of the UPP in Rocinha.

According to official sources, between 2002-2011 police forces in Rio de Janeiro killed 10,000 people. Very few of these deaths have been properly investigated.

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE INDIVIDUALS AT RISK PROGRAMME AT AIUK BEFORE SENDING APPEALS AFTER 11 JUNE 2014

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