



Brazil: Jorge Lázaro Samba Nunes Father seeking justice for his sons



Contents

Page

The murder of Ricardo Mattos dos Santos & Enio Mattos dos Santos	2
Jorge Lázaro's personal quest for justice	3
Background information	3
Take Action	3-4

We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Father seeking justice for his sons



Jorge Lázaro, 50 years old, has experienced the murder of two of his seven children and has been fighting for justice ever since.

The murder of Ricardo Mattos dos Santos

Ricardo Mattos dos Santos, Jorge Lázaro's son, was a talented circus acrobat who was working in a well-known circus company in Brazil. He was spending his vacation with his family and went out to play football with friends on 22 January 2008. He was in a field with the other young men when a car came past with four men in it. Three of the men started shooting at the young men playing football. The fourth man stayed in the car. They were looking for young men who were suspected of stealing a bike from the son of a retired military police officer. Ricardo and another young man, Robson de Souza Pinho, were killed even though Ricardo said he was not one of the men the attackers were looking for.

Charge but no trial

After an investigation, in March 2011 three military police officers were charged with the crime. But three years after they were charged and six years after the killing took place, the case still has not gone to trial, and no one has been brought to justice.

Protection programme

Jorge Lázaro Samba Nunes do Santos Filho, one of Ricardo's brothers, was there and witnessed the killing. Soon afterwards, he was moved out of the city for his own safety by family friends but he still received threats from an individual on a motorcycle.

Shortly afterwards, on 31 January 2008, the whole family was entered into the Program for Protection of Victims and Witnesses (PROVITA). However, on 18 November 2008, Jorge Lázaro (the father) was excluded from the program for not respecting some security measures such as staying in hiding. Subsequently on 18 December 2008, the entire family was removed from the protection program.

Second son killed

On 10 March 2013, Enio Mattos dos Santos, another son of Jorge Lázaro, was abducted from his home and shot by unknown people. He was 19 years old. The context of his death is still unknown

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

and there is little information about who did it or why. Jorge Lázaro had applied in 2011 for Enio to be included in the National Program for Children and Adolescents Threatened by Death (PPCAM), but the program refused to include him, arguing that he was not threatened.

Personal quest for justice

After the death of Ricardo in 2008, Jorge Lázaro initiated a personal quest for justice. The killing has had a huge impact on the whole family. In 2013, after the killing of Jorge Lázaro's second son, the accommodation provided by the authorities led to a separation of the family for a period, with Jorge and his other son Denilson (14 years old) in a shelter for homeless people, and his wife and two daughters in a shelter for women who had suffered sexual and domestic violence. The children have been out of school for five years. The pressure on Jorge Lázaro is tremendous: seeking justice for the killings of his sons, trying to keep himself and his family safe, and providing minimum living conditions such as a home and food.

Background information

Ricardo and Enio were young black men. Every year, thousands of young black men are murdered throughout the country; hundreds of them are killed by military police, by death squads and by militias with links to the police; few cases are investigated. In Brazil, members of death squads and so-called militias (especially in the urban areas of Rio de Janeiro) are formed mostly by off-duty and former policer officers.

Further information

For more information on the human rights situation in Brazil go to:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/americas/brazil/>

TAKE ACTION

Solidarity Action with Jorge Lázaro

Please write a (non-religious) solidarity card and send it to:

Anne Montague – Community Organiser Youth

17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

Or email it to: anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Write to the Governor of Bahia State

Write to the Governor of Bahia State calling on him to guarantee a fair and timely investigation, to bring those responsible for the killings of Ricardo dos Santos and Enio dos Santos to justice, and to ensure that Jorge Lázaro and his family are able to obtain the social, economic and psychological assistance they need.

Jacques Wagner, Governor of Bahia State

Avenida 3, nº 390, Plataforma IV, Prédio da Governadoria, 3º andar – Centro Administrativo da Bahia CAB

CEP: 41745-005. Salvador – Bahia, Brasil

Twitter: @jacqueswagner / @secom_bahia

Salutation: Exmo Sr. Governador / Dear Governor
