

URGENT ACTION

"SUSPECT" GOES MISSING FROM POLICE CUSTODY

Military Police arrested a man they had apparently mistaken for a drug dealer they were chasing, in Rio de Janeiro on 14 July. The police have since claimed they released the man, Amarildo Souza Lima, after checking his records, but he has not been seen since.

Amarildo Souza Lima, aged 42, was taken to the Peacemaker Police Unit (*Unidade de Polícia Pacificadora* - UPP) in Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro. Surveillance cameras at the entrance showed Amarildo being taken into the building, but police have claimed he left through a door where the camera was broken. Police have said they are investigating what happened after Amarildo was released, but have found nothing. His wife, Elizabeth Gomes da Silva, told Brazilian newspaper *O Globo* on July 24, "I don't believe I'll see him alive again. We haven't been threatened yet, but I fear what the police can do against me and my family after it becomes a cold case." (*Não acredito mais que vou encontrar ele com vida. Não sofremos nenhuma ameaça, mas tenho medo, muito medo de que depois que a poeira baixar a polícia faça algo comigo ou com minha família*) Amarildo has always lived in the Rio de Janeiro neighbourhood of Rocinha, and is well known by residents and local police.

Rocinha residents started a series of demonstrations on 17 July, with people from across Rio de Janeiro and huge activity on social media. Residents of Rocinha have searched for Amarildo, with human rights defenders and civil police officers, but the state government and police have not been able to find him.

Please write immediately in Portuguese or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to order a prompt, thorough, independent investigation of what happened to Amarildo after he was arrested by Military Police on 14 July, and bring those responsible to justice.
- Urging them to ensure that potential witnesses, Amarildo's family and all the people taking part in the investigation are protected against intimidation.
- Calling on them to ensure that surveillance cameras are also used to watch the police's activity, and are installed around and inside the UPP buildings.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 SEPTEMBER 2013 TO:

Governor of Rio de Janeiro

Sergio Cabral
Palácio Guanabara
R. Pinheiro Machado, s/n - Laranjeiras
CEP 22238-900 Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Fax: 011 55 21 23343559
Email:
telmaoliveira@gabgovernador.rj.gov.br
documentacao@gabgovernador.rj.gov.br
Salutation: 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: 011 55 21 23349329
Email:
secretariadeseguranca@seguranca.rj.gov.br
Salutation: Dear Secretary

And copies to:

President of the State HR Commission
Dep. Marcelo Freixo
ALERJ – Palácio Tiradentes
Rua 1º de Março, s/n
CEP 20010-090 Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Fax: 011 55 21 25881268
Email: marcelofreixo@alerj.rj.gov.br

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Mauro Vieira
Embassy of Brazil
3006 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008
Phone: 1 202 238 2805 | Fax: 1 202 238 2827 | Email: ambassador@brasilemb.org

Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Network office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The **Unidade de Polícia Pacificadora (UPP)** is a community policing program that has been implemented in certain slums in Rio de Janeiro. Despite official statistics showing the implementation of the UPP has reduced the incidence of criminality, Amnesty International in Brazil has been receiving complaints of human rights violations in areas with UPP.

Rocinha is one of the largest *favelas* (shanty towns) of Rio de Janeiro, with about 70,000 inhabitants, and is located in the upper-class neighborhood of São Conrado. The UPP was implemented at Rocinha in September 2012.

Amarildo Souza Lima lives in Rocinha, which is on a steep hill in southern Rio de Janeiro. He has lived there all his life. There is no sign that he is involved in any illegal activity, ever. He works as a bricklayer and has helped many in the neighborhood to build their houses.

Name: Amarildo Souza Lima (m)

Issues: Fear for safety, Risk of ill-treatment, Suspected Abduction

UA: 202/13

Issue Date: 02August 2013

Country: Brazil