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Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva
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The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to joint urgent appeals numbered UA G/SO 214 (107-9) G/SO 214 (33-27) and AL G/SO 214 (67-17), has the honour to submit herewith a report of the actions taken by the Government of Brazil in favour of Alexandre Anderson de Souza and Daize Menezes de Souza, under the National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, as well as of the measures in place relating to the investigation of Almir Nogueira de Amorim's and João Luiz Telles Penetra's assassination.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil would like to clarify that the aforesaid reports describe actions in progress, whose updates may be informed upon request.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, April 24, 2013



ALEXANDRE ANDERSON DE SOUZA and DAIZE MENEZES DE SOUZA

Alexandre Anderson de Souza and Daize Menezes de Souza have been protected by the National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders since June of 2009.

The measures implemented under the terms of the program include, since their inception, physical protection of defenders, tackling the causes that expose them to a greater degree of vulnerability, and investigation and possible criminal punishment of those responsible for threats or other acts that infringe upon their right to life and to physical integrity.

Since 2010, the physical protection measures began to be applied by members of the 34th Military Police Unit of Rio de Janeiro. As an offshoot of this action, in 2011, 70 military policemen of said unit were trained to perform in the protection of human rights defenders.

In July 2012, the General Directorate of the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders organized a meeting in Rio de Janeiro state among representatives of the Department of Social Welfare and Human Rights, the State Environmental Institute (INEA) and the Chico Mendes Institute for Conservation of Biodiversity (ICMBio), to discuss demands presented by Alexandre Anderson de Souza on behalf of AHOMAR (Seamen's Union).

With the assistance of the General Directorate of the forenamed program, Alexandre Anderson de Souza and Daize Menezes de Souza also held a meeting, on August 22, 2012, with the state Secretaries for Social Welfare and Human Rights, Antonio Claret Campos Filho, and for Public Security, José Mariano Beltrame. During the meeting, which took place after the assassination of Almir Nogueira de Amorim and João Luiz Telles, the above-mentioned human rights defenders reiterated appeals for the protection of the life, physical integrity and unhindered action of the members of AHOMAR in defense of traditional fishermen's rights in the region.

After receiving credible reports of a possible invasion of Alexandre Anderson de Souza's and Daize Menezes de Souza's residence, the General Directorate of the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders decided to relocate them from the city of Magé, on January 22, 2013, to a safer place.

Meanwhile, the General Directorate has worked together with the Department of Social Welfare and Human Rights to renovate the foregoing family's residence in Magé, so that they can return and safely reside at their original home. The General Directorate has also borne the costs of lodging, food and transportation, in addition to providing financial assistance for the subsistence of the family of those defenders.

The General Directorate of the aforesaid program has, in addition, followed up the complaints filed by those defenders at the bodies responsible for these reports' investigation and prosecution, as well as the developments related specifically to their investigation.

The latest protective measures applied in favor of Alexandre Anderson de Souza and Daize Menezes de Souza, leading to their removal from Magé, are contingent and time-bound, since they should not, in principle, prevent both defenders from performing their advocacy-related activities. The need for continuation of said measures will be reviewed in due course, once the needful conditions for them to safely resume their activities are ensured.

ALMIR NOGUEIRA DE AMORIM and JOÃO LUIZ TELLES PENETRA

Almir Nogueira de Amorim and João Luiz Telles Penetra were not among the beneficiaries of the National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, since no threats were addressed to them at the time of their assassination. Nevertheless, the General Directorate of the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders has monitored the progress of the investigation and of the police inquest n. 901-00871/2012, initiated by the Homicide Division of the State Civil Police of Rio de Janeiro. The Brazilian State acknowledges that the investigation and punishment of those responsible for criminal acts or threats against the life and physical and moral integrity of human rights defenders is critical to the success of their protection. It will, therefore, remain committed to ensuring the success of the investigations.

STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders aims to implement measures which make possible not only the protection of the life and physical integrity of defenders, but also the overcoming of the causes that generate threats and risk situations.

Although it is a program of national reach, seven states have signed agreements with the Federal Government to decentralize its actions - these are Pará, Pernambuco, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Ceará and Rio de Janeiro, which established it by State Decree n. 44.038, of January 2013.

According to information provided by the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic, the drafting of the National Plan for the Protection of Women and Men Human Rights Defenders is in progress. The Plan will define actions, deadlines and the bodies responsible for its implementation and will include specific actions targeted at leaders who suffer threats due to their actions in protecting the environment.