

# URGENT ACTION

## TEENAGER DISAPPEARED DURING MILITARY OPERATION

**A 16-year-old teenager has been disappeared after reportedly being tied up and taken by military police officers during a police operation in the city of Salvador, Bahia State, in northeast Brazil. The teenager's mother has been receiving threats since going public about the case and demanding information on her son's whereabouts.**

At 7.30am on 24 October, **Davi Fiuza**, a 16-year-old teenager was reportedly disappeared in the São Cristóvão neighbourhood of the city of Salvador after being approached by military police officers from the Tactical Operational Squad (Pelotão de Emprego Tático Operacional, PETO) and the Special Rounds unit (Rondas Especiais, RONDESP) during a military police operation. He was talking to a female neighbour when the officers approached him. Other neighbours present at the scene received orders from the police officers to return to their homes. Davi Fiuza's mother, **Rute Silva Santos**, told Amnesty International that police officers tied up her son's feet and hands, and covered his face with a hood. "Then, they threw my son inside an unidentified car", she said.

Davi Fiuza has not been seen since that morning and his whereabouts remain unknown. Since then, Davi Fiuza's family has searched for him in police stations, hospitals and places known for being clandestine cemeteries, without success. Relatives, friends and local organizations have mobilized on social media to publicize the case and demand information. Despite the witnesses' testimonies, the Internal Affairs Police claim that there are no consistent elements indicating the participation of police officers in Davi Fiuza's disappearance.

After publicly denouncing her son's disappearance and starting to mobilize to demand information about his whereabouts, Rute Silva Santos began receiving direct threats via social media and also by SMS messages. One of these threats showed images of raped and stabbed women together with a message saying "this is how we do it with strong women". Rute Silva Santos has four daughters and now fears for their safety and her own.

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

- ✓ Urging the authorities to undertake without delay a prompt, thorough, and independent investigation of what happened to Davi Fiuza after he was detained during a military police operation and bring those suspected of criminal responsibility to trial;
- ✓ Urging them to investigate the threats against Rute Silva Santos and protect her and her relatives against intimidation as a consequence of the complaint;
- ✓ Urging the authorities to ensure that potential witnesses and people taking part in the investigation are protected against any forms of intimidation or threats.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 JANUARY 2015 TO:

#### Public Security Secretary of Bahia

Maurício Teles Barbosa

Avenida 4, nº 430

Centro Administrativo da Bahia

CEP: 41745-002

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

Fax: +55 71 31151823

Email:

[gabinete.secretariossp@ssp.ba.gov.br](mailto:gabinete.secretariossp@ssp.ba.gov.br)

**Salutation: Dear Secretary**

#### Civil Police Chief of Bahia

Helio Jorge Oliveira Paixão

Praça 13 de Maio, S/N, 2º andar

Prédio sede da Polícia Civil

Piedade/Centro - CEP: 40070-010

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

Fax: +55 71 31166483

Email:

[gabinetedelegadogeral@yahoo.com.br](mailto:gabinetedelegadogeral@yahoo.com.br)

**Salutation: Dear Civil Police Chief**

#### **And copies to:**

President of Bahia Bar Association

Luiz Viana Queiroz

Rua Portão da Piedade, nº 16

Antiga Praça Teixeira de Freitas - Barris

CEP: 40070-045

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

Fax: +55 71 33295639

Email: [presidencia@oab-ba.org.br](mailto:presidencia@oab-ba.org.br)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Davi Fiuza is a well-known and active member of his neighborhood. His mother told Amnesty International that he liked sports and had recently enrolled in a boxing school. She said that “Even if my son was involved with something illegal (which he wasn’t), nobody – especially the State – has the right to disappear with someone”.

The outskirts of the city of Salvador are known as a place where “death squads” often operate. Such “death squads” are usually composed of current or former police officers. They are organized regionally and their activities can reach several cities in more than one state. For that reason, in 2005 a report was issued by a Parliamentary Inquiry Commission (Comissão Parlamentar de Inquérito, CPI) of the Chamber of Deputies focusing on the investigation of criminal activities of private militias and “death squads” in all northeast region of Brazil.

In August 2013, Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action on a case of disappearance in the city of Rio de Janeiro (see UA 202/13: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR19/003/2014/en>). Military Police arrested a man they had apparently mistaken for a drug dealer that they were chasing through the city on 14 July 2013. The police initially claimed they released the man, Amarildo Souza Lima, after checking his records, but he had not been seen after being taken by the police. Due to strong national and international mobilization, the police were forced to conduct a thorough investigation on the case. Investigations revealed strong evidence that Amarildo had been tortured and killed in the police headquarters. Although his body was not yet found, more than 20 police officers are being charged of his killing, awaiting trial on pre-trial detention, and the state of Rio de Janeiro is now obliged to pay a financial compensation to the family.

Name: Davi Fiuza (m) and Rute Silva Santos (f)

Gender m/f: both

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