

Amnesty International  
53 Theobald's Road  
London WC1X 8SP

*[Handwritten signature]*

To: Various international organisations and related bodies

From: Research Department (Brazil)

Date: 19th March 1973

*Rossi file*

Enclosed please find a case sheet established for Professor Luiz Basilio Rossi, a professor of Economics at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters at the university of Penapolis in Sao Paulo, Brazil, who was arrested on the 15th February at his home and since when he has been held incommunicado.

We hope that you view the circumstances of this arrest in as serious a light as we do, and that you will support us in our campaign on his behalf. If this is the case we would ask you to write or telegraph immediately to the following addresses, expressing your concern at the arrest and disappearance of the professor, and urging that the writ of habeus corpus be granted and Professor Rossi be allowed to communicate with his lawyer and family:

General Garrastazu Medici  
Presidente da Republica  
Brasilia, (DF) Brazil

Dr Alfredo Buzaid  
Ministro da Justica  
Espl dos Ministerios, bl.10  
Brasilia (DF) Brazil

Ilmo Sr Governador do Estado de Sao Paulo  
Sr Laudo Natel  
Palacio dos Bandeirantes  
100 ramais av. Morumbi  
Sao Paulo (SP) Brazil

(state governor)

Departamento de Ordem Politica e Social  
Largo General Osorio 116 4<sup>o</sup>  
Sao Paulo (SP) Brazil

Quartel-general do II Exercicio  
1600 Abilio Soares  
Sao Paulo (SP) Brazil

Quartel-general do Comando da  
4a Zona Aerea  
200 praça Prof. O. Vicenzo  
Sao Paulo (SP) Brazil

AND to the appeal court -

Superior Tribunal Militar  
praça da Republica 123  
Rio de Janeiro (Gb) Brazil

Please act as quickly as possible. Time may be crucial in locating Professor Rossi, or even in helping to save his life. Others have disappeared in this manner, and never been found again, allegedly dead under torture. We must do all we can to prevent another similar case.

PS Although the home address of Professor Rossi was given in the press cutting we would request that you do not get in direct contact with the professor's family.

- sent to all those ticked on attached sheets + ICJ, ATJD, Red Cross, DIAZ, Tabankin, (35)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

CASE SHEET

Security Classification: OPEN except where stated otherwise

Researcher: Tracy Ullveit-Moe Date: 19.3.73 Approved:

Prisoner: Professor Luiz Basilio ROSSI Country: BRAZIL

Status: ADOPTION Group:

Date & place of arrest: 15.2.73 at 7.30 in the evening, at his home  
Rua Cristiano Olsen 370, Aracatuba, Sao Paulo  
along with another man

Legislation: Has not been stated; there was no warrant for  
his arrest and his detention had not been  
officially confirmed as of 3rd March, when he  
had already been held for 3 weeks

Date & place of trial: Not yet set

Charge: Not yet charged

Sentence: Not yet tried

Place of detention: Unknown; held originally at Lins the army  
headquarters of the region, but on 19th February  
his wife was told that he was no longer there.

Lawyer's name & address: Virgilio Enel, 266 Col. Xavier Toledo,  
Sao Paulo (SP) Brazil.

Date & place of birth: Unknown

Occupation: Professor of economics at Faculty of Philosophy,  
Sciences & Letters in Penapolis where he is  
also head of the department of Social Sciences.  
Also, he is president of Association of Professors  
of the North Eastern section of the state of Sao  
Paulo

Health: When questioned on 19th February by the bishop  
of Lins, the judge of the second military region  
of Sao Paulo would only say that 'he is still  
alive'

Family: Professor Rossi is married with 3 young daughters

Address of family: Rua Cristiano Olsen 370, Aracatuba, Estado de  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Need for relief: Unknown

Language for correspondence: Portuguese to the authorities & family if fluent  
and at all possible; otherwise English or French.

The sources of our information on this case comes from a cutting in the  
Brazilian newspaper, O Estado de Sao Paulo of the 2nd March 1973 in addition  
to private sources in Brazil itself.

Professor Rossi was arrested on the 15th February at 7.30 in the evening at  
his home along with another man who was visiting him at the time. His home  
was surrounded by a combined action of the military police armed with machine

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DOUBLE ADOPTIONS : In the case of double adoptions, groups should make it clear, when writing to the prisoner, family or contacts - unless instructed to the contrary - that they are one of two groups working for the prisoner, or the recipient may be confused by being asked the same questions by different persons.

INVESTIGATION CASES: Prisoners are given to groups as investigation cases when there is a strong likelihood that they are prisoners of conscience but where more information is required before a final decision on their status can be made.

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.... /  
guns, acting with members of the local police, the army police and the political police (DOPS) of Sao Paulo. The combined units forced their way into the house, searched it thoroughly, and removed a number of books from the library and some documents dealing with political resistance movements in Brazil. Rossi, along with his visitor, was arrested.

The two were taken from the house at Aracatuba at one o'clock in the morning to Lins, headquarters of the army corps in that region. Rossi's wife and children were kept under surveillance at their home until Saturday, February 17th. On the afternoon of the 17th, Mgr. Koop, the bishop of Lins, went with Senhora Rossi to the army headquarters at Lins in an attempt to gain information. The officer with whom they spoke would only say that Rossi was being held by the army at Lins.

On the 19th, Rossi's wife was told that she might as well return home as her husband was no longer being held at Lins. The person who gave her this information was unwilling to tell her where her husband had been taken but one of the soldiers did say that the professor, the man who had been arrested with him, and a young girl (apparently arrested separately from Rossi - but this is not completely clear) had been taken to Sao Paulo that morning.

Since then, despite a letter from the bishop of Lins to the judge of the 2a Auditoria Militar (judicial court) in Sao Paulo, who is responsible in that area for dealing with crimes against the 'national security', nothing has been learned about the whereabouts of Professor Rossi.

Rossi's lawyer, Virgilio Enei, has presented a writ of habeas corpus on his behalf, based on article 153, paragraph 2<sup>o</sup> of the Federal Constitution and article 466 and subsequent provisions of the Military Penal Code. In his petition to the Superior Military Tribunal for habeas corpus, Enei states that he has not been able to obtain any information concerning his client from the authorities. He requests information from the commanders of the Second Army and the 4th Aeronautical Zone, as well as from DOPS, and calls for the lifting of the state of incommunicado in which his client is being held.

Brazil's Law of National Security, which defines offenses against the national security, and sets the penalties for convictions, has no article specifically covering the possession of banned literature. Nevertheless, it is normally considered prima facie evidence of membership in an illegal organisation and is often the only evidence produced in court. Furthermore, the degree of vigilance which Brazilian authorities have exercised over political groupings and information dissemination since the 1964 coup which brought the present government to power makes it impossible to conclude that the papers found necessarily concerned 'subversion'. Thus we are making this case an adoption action, and you will find enclosed several stencilled lists of instructions for action and of addresses to contact with regard to this case.  
**Encs. stencilled directions, List A - Sao Paulo, List B - Education, Academics, Miscellaneous, List C-General, final sheet of specific instructions for this case\* and background material.**

\*Since this final page of instructions is of particular relevance to this case, we would suggest that groups turn to these immediately after reading the general stencilled directions on the basic methods of working.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS IN CASE OF PROFESSOR LUIZ ABILLO ROSSI

1. Write or telegraph immediately to the Superior Tribunal Militar, the DOPS, the 11th Army and the 4th Aeronautical Zone as well as to President Medici, Senhor Buzaid - Minister of Justice - and the governor of the state of Sao Paulo. Express your concern at the arrest and disappearance of Professor Rossi and urge that the writ of habeas corpus be granted and Professor Rossi be allowed contact his lawyer and family. The appropriate addresses are all given on the Sao Paulo area list (marked in red) or on the background paper (p. 13, similarly marked). The address for the 11th Army is as follows:

Quartel general do 11 Exército  
1600 Abilio Soares  
Sao Paulo (SP) Brazil

and for the 4th Aeronautical Zone -

Quartel General do Comando da  
4a Zona Aerea  
200 praça Prf. O. Vincenzo  
Sao Paulo (SP) Brazil

2. Write on plain paper to the bishop of Lins, stating your concern at reading of this case in O Estado de Sao Paulo of 2nd March 1973 and ask whether the family is in need of assistance. Ask how best to contact them to send such assistance, if required, and ask for information about the man, and possibly a young girl, arrested with Rossi. DO NOT MENTION AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and DO NOT CONTACT THE FAMILY UNLESS the bishop of Lins agrees that it is safe to do so.

Pedro Paulo Koop  
Residencia Episcopal  
Caixa Postal 92  
Lins (SP) Brazil

3. Write on plain paper to Professor Jose Oscar Beozzo at the Faculty of Philosophy in Penapolis, saying that you have read of this case in O Estado de Sao Paulo and would be grateful if he would keep you in touch with further developments on the case. DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES MENTION AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND DO NOT MENTION BEOZZO'S NAME IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE OR PUBLICITY. Again, ask about the man and girl involved.

either: Pe. Jose Oscar Beozzo  
Rua Olavo Bilac 824  
Lins (SP) Brazil

or: c/o Philosophy Faculty  
Universidade de Penapolis  
Penapolis (SP) Brazil

4. Work quickly to organise petitions and letters of concern on behalf of Professor Rossi. Students and professors in faculties of philosophy, sciences and letters should be particularly concerned.
5. When writing to the lawyer don't forget to ask for information about the man, and possibly the girl, arrested with Rossi.
6. Write to the following people asking for information about the present state of Professor Rossi's case:

Ilmo. Reitor da Universidade de Penapolis  
Universidade de Penapolis  
Penapolis (SP) Brazil

Diretor da Faculdade da  
Filosofia, Ciencias e Letras  
Universidade de Penapolis  
Penapolis (SP) Brazil

Faculdade de Ciencias Sociais  
Universidade de Penapolis  
Penapolis (SP) Brazil.

Write on Amnesty paper, citing as source of information, the O Estado article and expressing concern about Professor Rossi's fate.

ACT QUICKLY : Time may be crucial in locating Professor Raul, or even in helping to save his life. Others have disappeared in this manner and never been found again, allegedly dead under torture. Professor Raul is even now apparently at the stage of interrogation, before charges are even filed, and it is at this stage in police investigations that it is feared torture often takes place. We must do all we can to guard against such a possibility.

Attachments: We have sent you a photocopy of a letter which came to us from Beozzo with information on this case, but have blocked out his name. Again, under no circumstances use Amnesty notepaper or mention Amnesty in writing to Beozzo, and do not mention his name as your source of information. Bearing this precaution in mind you might still be able to use his letter in interesting the press in carrying publicity on the case.

An excellent article on the nature and degree of information control in Brazil which cites several cases similar in nature to this one can be ordered from INDEX, a journal on censorship from Writers & Scholars International, 35 Bow Street, London WC2. The issue in question is the autumn/winter 1972 volume and can be ordered for 75p.