Rui Costa

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Brasil

Exmo Sr. Governador

**Jorge Lázaro Samba Nunes** **dos Santos**

I am writing to you from England. I have been most distressed to hear about the plight of Jorge Lázaro Samba Nunes dos Santos and his family. Two of the family of seven children have been murdered; no one has been brought to justice for either murder. The family has been devastated by the murder of two of their sons; **now, shockingly, on July 10th 2016, Jorge’s third and youngest son, Denilson was shot whilst walking home. Luckily Denilson survived and is currently recovering.**

**Ricardo Mattos dos Santos** was spending his vacation with his family in Boca do Rio, and went out to play football with friends on 22 January 2008. He was in a field with other young men when three men started shooting at the football players. Ricardo and another young man, Robson de Souza Pinho, were 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. Jorge Lázaro had applied in 2011 for Enio to be included in the National Program for Children and Adolescents Threaten by Death (PPCAM), but the program refused to include him, arguing that he was not threatened.

In 2011, three military police officers were charged with killing Ricardo, but the case has still not gone to trial. Enio’s killers (and Denilson’s assailants) remain unknown. As I’m sure you’re aware, few such cases are ever investigated, and witnesses are often too scared to testify – especially when there is a link to the military police as in the case of Ricardo’s murder.

I urge you and your authorities to conduct a thorough and timely investigation into the killings of Jorge Lázaro’s sons, **Ricardo dos Santos** and **Enio dos Santos**, with the perpetrators brought to justice, helping to bring a measure of justice to Jorge Lazaro and his family.

The impact of these attacks on the family reaches far beyond the obvious devastation that Jorge, his wife and children feel. They have lived in precarious conditions since Ricardo was murdered, taken out of their home and social circle. The children have been out of school for over 6 years. Jorge is under huge pressure: he is determined to win justice for the deaths of his sons whilst trying to keep the rest of his family safe. **With the recent shooting of Denilson, it’s clear that this safety is still at risk.**

Yours sincerely

Copy Brazilian Ambassador, London