

Report from Rio by Marilia Barbosa

Lula's cronies throw terror tantrum

In the aftermath of the Brazil election, terrorist actions are expected to intensify, pumped up by foreign NGOs.

On Sept. 9, the TV Globo news program "Jornal Nacional" reported that three members of the Landless Movement (MST) were arrested in the vicinity of the Serra dos Carajas ecological reserve in Pará state after they had attempted to sabotage an electricity tower. Under interrogation, the three revealed that their purpose in destroying the tower was to cause a blackout that would serve as a diversion while their fellow terrorists invaded the ecological reserve. The invasion had been planned for some weeks.

The MST action at Carajas points to a qualitative shift in the group's activities, now directly targeting strategically important infrastructure such as power lines, on the model of such narco-terrorist groups as Peru's Shining Path or Mexico's Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). Such activities by the MST, which is an active component of the coalition that supported the presidential campaign of São Paulo Forum founder Luís Inácio "Lula" da Silva, can be expected to escalate in the wake of Lula's defeat in the Oct. 3 presidential elections, as the more radical elements spin off into overtly terrorist activity.

This MST offensive began last May with a land invasion campaign under the slogan "Cry for the Earth." The military precision with which they were coordinated surprised those government officials in charge of national security. Now the MST's terrorist apparatus is threatening to spread to the entire country.

The new element in this is the growing international support offered the terrorists by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which use the banner of human rights to justify their status. Not coincidentally, representatives of these NGOs visited Brazil in late August. Among them was American James Cavallaro of Americas Watch and British researcher Alison Sutton from Amnesty International. In the capital, Brasilia, both participated in the seminar entitled "Slave Labor—Never Again," organized by the National Permanent Forum Against Violence in the Countryside. Sutton also publicized her book, *Slave Labor: a Link in the Chain of Modernity in Today's Brazil*, published by Anti-Slavery International. This latter organization, founded in 1787, is controlled by some of Britain's most important oligarchical families such as the Wilberforces and the Buxtons, and poses as "the world's oldest human rights organization."

But under the guise of combatting slavery, the ASI actually promotes supranational intervention into states accused of violating human rights. It is one of the promoters of the Pastoral Land Commission in Europe, the same international network which set up the so-called Brazil Network. Located in London, the Brazil Network is an NGO which coordinates the activities of several NGOs which deal with Brazil, among them Amnesty International, Survival International, Oxfam, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, and others whose purpose is to

limit Brazil's sovereignty using environmental, indigenous, and human rights issues as a pretext.

The aggressiveness of these NGOs is such, that Col. Euro Barbosa de Barros, the director of the Federal Police's Department of Public Safety Affairs, attacked the idea of foreign interference in Brazil's internal affairs. Barros, who also participated in the same seminar, made his statement after listening to Cavallaro's remarks on the violation of human rights in Brazil.

"You are a foreigner," he said, "and you have no right to attack the Brazilian government which has its own institutions encharged with protecting human rights."

On Sept. 13, a delegation from Pax Christi International traveled throughout Brazil to "study violence." Linked to the Pastoral Land Commission, Pax Christi is also a key element in the international Liberation Theology apparatus which is the glue holding together these various entities and individuals. Included in the delegation was Claudette Werleigh, currently the foreign minister of the Haitian government in exile, led by ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Werleigh explained that "Pax Christi's executive committee planned this trip to Brazil two years ago. I had already made this commitment even before President Aristide asked me to serve [as foreign minister]." Keep in mind that Aristide is a hard-core representative of Liberation Theology, counting among his friends the ex-Franciscan Leonardo Boff, one of the chief propagandists of the movement which has given such firm support to Lula's Workers Party.

There is little doubt that these groups are mobilized to bring about insurrection in Brazil's rural areas, as shown by the increasingly violent actions of the Landless Movement.