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Institution:	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
File Number(s):	Case No. 1772
Session:	Thirty-Fourth Session (15 – 25 October 1974)
Title/Style of Cause:	Unknown v. Brazil
Doc. Type:	Decision
Decided by:	President: Dr. Andrés Aguilar, President (Venezuela) Vice-President: Dr. Carlos A. Dunshee de Abranches (Brazil) Members: Professor Manuel Bianchi (Chile); Dr. Gabino Fraga (Mexico); Dr. Justino Jimenez de Aréchaga (Uruguay); Mr. Robert F. Woodward (United States); Dr. Genaro R. Carrio (Argentina)
Dated:	15 – 25 October 1974
Citation:	Unknown v. Braz., Case 1772, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OEA/Ser.L/V/II.34, doc. 31 rev. 1 (1974)
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[1] By the communication dated July 12, 1973, the following denunciation was made:

- a. Arbitrary arrest of many persons (the names are given);
- b. Tortures and mistreatment of the persons arrested and death of some of them as a result of tortures or direct action by the prison guards;
- c. Imprisonment of political prisoners together with common criminals in establishments lacking hygiene facilities and subject to violent and arbitrary prison conditions in which they were deprived of consultation with attorneys that were looking after their defense and frequent suspension of visits by their family members;
- d. Conditions of insecurity for the life of the prisoners;
- e. Forced labor, and
- f. Absence of trials or holding of trials without due process.

[2] This report was accompanied by various documents on the status of human rights in Brazil, including the manifesto or declaration of Bishops and Superiors of religious orders in the Northeast of Brazil and the manifesto entitled "To the Bishops of Brazil", published by an organization supporting the political prisoners in that country.

[3] The Commission examined this case in the course of its thirty-first session (October 1973) and decided to transmit the pertinent parts of the report to the Government of Brazil, in accordance with Articles 42 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure, excluding any fact or situation that might have been included in reports previously examined by the Commission. In implementation of this decision, a note was sent to the Government of Brazil on December 19, 1973.

[4] At its thirty-second session (April 1974), the Commission considered the status of the processing of the case 1772 and decided:

a) To repeat to the Government of Brazil the request for information made on December 19, 1973, mentioning the date of the expiry of the period provided for in Article 51 of the Rules of Procedure. To that end, it sent a note to that Government on May 29, 1974. Also, in a letter of the same date, it informed the claimant of the status of the matter.

[5] The Government of Brazil did not reply to this new communication either.

[6] With this background facts, the Commission continued its examination of the matter at its thirty-fourth session (October 1974) when it considered that, although the Government of Brazil had not replied to the requests for information, many of the facts that were the subject of the complaint referring to the general status of human rights in Brazil could be included in cases previously examined concerning which a definitive pronouncement of the CIDH had already been made. Consequently, it decided to file this case and to combine it, as background information, with File 1684, already closed, on the general status of human rights in Brazil and to inform both the Government of Brazil and the claimants of this decision. To that end, it sent a note to the above-mentioned Government on December 18, 1974, and to the claimants on November 14, 1974.