

Brazil Pats Itself on Back for Arrest of US Nun Killer Suspect

Contributed by Benedito Mendonça
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Brazil's Minister of Justice, Márcio Thomaz Bastos, affirmed that the investigations into the murder of the missionary, Dorothy Stang, serve as an example of the efforts of the Federal Public Safety System (Susp).

Inaugurated at the start of President Lula's Administration, the Susp provides for the integrated management of information and public safety systems, police training, valorization of expert examinations, and the prevention of violence in the country.

"The crime was exposed by the joint efforts of the Federal Police and state police forces in slightly more than 12 days, and, yesterday, March 27, with the arrest of one of the authors of the crime, all that is left is to reveal his relations with other individuals in order for the crime to be deciphered once and for all."

The Minister was referring to the arrest of Vitalmiro Bastos de Moura, nicknamed "Bida," the landowner accused of having ordered the slaying.

Moura turned himself in yesterday in Altamira, state of Pará and was transferred to the state headquarters of the Federal Police in Belém, Pará's capital city, where he will testify.

Bastos participated in the ceremony to inaugurate the new building of the National Institute of Criminalistics on the occasion of the 61th anniversary of the Federal Police.

Translation: David Silberstein

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