

Lula Pleased with Brazil's Disarmament Operation

Contributed by Irene Lôbo
Monday, 05 September 2005

A survey by Brazil's Ministry of Health has found that there was a reduction in the number of deaths by firearms in Brazil in 2004 after a disarmament campaign promoted by the government.

In his weekly radio program, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said that the survey showed that 3,000 lives were saved.

"The Brazilian people have discovered a magic word called 'peace,'" said the President.

Lula said the country's disarmament campaign had been a success. When it began, it was estimated that 80,000 firearms would be turned in. But what happened was that between July 2004 and August 2005, 443,000 firearms were turned in to authorities.

"People understood that a gun at home could be a danger at home. The decision to turn in all these weapons is important and healthy," he declared.

As for the bandits, Lula said that only more police, working more effectively, will be able to disarm them.

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