

## Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

### The MST's monarchical ties

*The Belgian royal family's King Balduino Foundation rewards its pro-terrorist progeny in Brazil.*

News that the Belgian monarchy will award the King Balduino International Prize to Brazil's Landless Movement (MST), an affiliate of the narco-terrorist São Paulo Forum, confirms what *EIR* has been saying since 1994: The MST does not represent any legitimate movement to seek social justice in rural areas, but is simply a pro-terrorist tool of the British Empire, and its affiliates, to create the conditions of civil war inside Brazil.

Most astounding is the Belgians' justification for granting the award to the MST. They say that they selected the group in recognition of its work on behalf of "the socio-economic development of a Third World country." The Belgian monarchy's support for the MST is taken in full knowledge of their terrorist nature. The announcement of the award was made after the secretary of the King Balduino Foundation, Jean-Paul Warmoes, visited several MST camps at the very moment in which the group's leadership launched a premeditated offensive of land invasions in the Pontal de Paranapanema region in the western part of São Paulo state, for the purpose of turning it into an "autonomous zone."

Three MST leaders will travel to Belgium to receive the prize. They are José Rainha, a leader in Pontal de Paranapanema; Ivanete Tonin, from Rio Grande do Sul; and Egidio Brunetto, from Mato Grosso do Sul. On Feb. 19, King Albert II and Queen Fabiola will personally bestow the award on them, along with a grant of \$120,000.

In mid-January, the MST executive, including 80 regional leaders,

met for three days in Cajamar, São Paulo for its first annual meeting. According to the Jan. 17 *Estado de São Paulo*, the group's national leaders decided that there "will be no letup against the government this year." In addition to escalating land invasions, the MST leaders warned that they will also mobilize and recruit among urban populations.

Joao Pedro Stedile, one of the MST's national leaders who will travel to Brussels, explained that this strategy has a twofold purpose: to swell the ranks of those who intend to return to rural areas from the cities to take up farming (who represent potential recruits to the MST), and to mobilize urban populations to force the government to adopt agrarian reform policies favorable to the MST.

On Jan. 12, some 300 MSTers clashed with 15 armed employees at the Santa Rita Ranch, in Mirante (in the Pontal region), and destroyed 2,000 meters of fencing around the property. Police only intervened two hours after the attempted invasion, and arrested four MSTers.

Roosevelt Roque dos Santos, the head of the property-owners organization, Democratic Rural Union (UDR), told reporters, "I can't speak for the 800 UDR members, but I believe they were right and responded within the law, using properly registered weapons." Attacking the police for its laxness in dealing with the MST, Roque dos Santos warned, "We [landowners] have no other option; the situation in Pontal has reached the level of civil disobedience. There is a very small distance from there to civil war."

The MST targetted the Pontal de Paranapanema region for its separatist organizing. But, according to MST leader Walter Gomes, the group also intends to occupy lands outside that region, in Ribeirão Preto, Ourinhos, and Jau. The specific plan is to occupy areas close to the largest urban centers, in the south and southeast. "More than 80% of people who live in the peripheries of large urban areas have ties to the countryside. Our idea is that they go back to their roots."

Apparently, the Belgian monarchy finds it very useful to promote neo-communist personalities in advancing its colonial interests. In 1980, the recipient of the same prize was the "teacher" Paulo Freire, today an editorial board member of *América Libre*, the São Paulo Forum's publication. Created in 1990 by the Cuban Communist Party, the Forum includes the MST and all the other Ibero-American narco-terrorist groupings. It should be noted that Freire's "literacy" program is used in the MST's camps to indoctrinate militants, beginning with small children, in the principles of the most crass materialism.

Among the distinctions the Belgian monarchy has earned historically, is the fact that King Leopold supported Adolf Hitler, and applied brutal colonialist methods in the Belgian Congo—which is today the central African nation of Zaire.

Belgium's fellow royals also have honored the MST. The British Crown set the precedent when, in 1991, the Right Livelihood Foundation, a follower of the monarchy's lunatic environmental policies, granted its annual prize to the Brazilian Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), the brain behind the MST. In 1992, Britain's Anti-Slavery International bestowed its award on Father Rezende, an international spokesman of both the CPT and the MST.