

GRUPO CAPOEIRA



CANOA GRANDE
IGARASSU - PE

Dear friends and camaradas!

April 25th, 2009

We want to get the news out to as many people as we can, we are not soliciting donations, what we need most is for you to share the following information with as many people as you can.

In Igarassu, PE-Brasil, on March 14th, a Saturday morning at 2AM, Contra Mestre Relampago (Ricardo Vieira do Nascimento) was taken by 3 armed persons in a dark car. He was 100 meters from his home and the capoeira academy. He was returning from a festival in Itamaraca with a friend who was not harmed. CM Relampago has not been seen since.

This letter is NOT about accusations, speculations, and motives regarding this injustice. This letter IS about the person that was taken, it IS about CM Relampago, Ricardo Vieira do Nascimento. I have known him for the past 7 years and can only give you a fraction about his person; for those of you, who know him, please email me any positive stories and thoughts if you wish me to include them in future publications or actions.

Ricardo has been working as a teacher of capoeira since the late 90's in Igarassu and since 2000 he has been teaching capoeira in the local schools. In 2001 Ricardo founded Canoa Grande Capoeira, which is a grass roots organization that has never officially been registered but has functioned as a refuge for some of Igarassu's young children needing a place to go where someone cares. Capoeira with Ricardo instills confidence and strength. Ricardo is a caring, patient and also tough teacher. There is a sense of discipline in his classes that is free of rigidity and full of creativity and smiles. And if he can make a suco for his students he is happy! Now Ricardo is missing and so are his compassion and generosity. He is beloved by his students and in his community. Many children are upset and suffering on account of his disappearance. His students and family are scared and feel left alone with an inexplicable and sad event.

As a teenager CM Relampago had the fortune of traveling within Brazil as a performer in capoeira shows, his talent has been seen in many places in Brazil and around the world. He has played capoeira in Sao Paulo, Bahia, Minas, Fortaleza, Joao Pessoa, a.o.. In 2000 he traveled to Spain, and France and in 2007 he visited Spain again for 3 months; this year we were working on a tourist visa for him to come to the United States. Everywhere he plays capoeira he makes an impression. Those of you who play with him regularly in the rodas of Olinda and Recife, and in Spain and France, and anywhere else he has played - know what I am talking about. The same passion that shines in his game shines in his work with the children of Canoa Grande.

Ricardo is a caring and protecting father and he gives the shirt off of his back. He does not believe in violence and leads the life of a humble capoeira mestre who stands on the side of those that have nothing and are helpless, he teaches a traditional art form that addresses Brazil's past while creating opportunities for freedom in the present. His humanity is well known in the community and there

have been oracles in the academy to keep the prayers going out so that this beautiful soul may find his way home.

We constructed our academy in 2007 on the same street where Ricardo grew up; though he has traveled a lot he always returned and remained rooted in Igarassu.

LIBERDADE de EXPRESSAO! Freedom of expression is Canoa Grande's motto and it is in this way that we continue to live in his absence the positive ideas and dreams that stand behind the organization.

I speak of Ricardo in the present tense because we want to keep the light shining bright!

Please support Ricardo's family who is suffering and extend positive thoughts his way.

In the face of injustice and maldade there is a great need to continue believing in the positive.

One drop at a time.

- Visit our website at **www.canoagrande.org**. We're working on it!
- In the near future look on youtube: Canoa Grande - Relampago Capoeira – we are working to make footage of his capoeira public.
- Stay tuned for any news, events, an upcoming documentary and possible petition notices
- Share this email with as many people as you can, so that word will get out!

Blessings,

Sharon Danielle – Bamba

Please respond to this mail if you wish to be taken off of our mailing list!

A CANOA E GRANDE E NAO VAI AFUNDAR!