



Antônio José Anacleto

1984 – 2010

Third Sergeant Antônio José Anacleto, a national of Brazil, was deployed to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for six months.

Antônio had been patrolling the streets of Cité Soleil when the earthquake struck. He was seriously wounded by falling debris but initially survived. He died later at the hospital where he was treated.

Before volunteering to serve in Haiti, Antônio was stationed with the 5th Battalion Light Infantry in Lorena in São Paulo State, for seven years. The youngest of four siblings, he and his father lived on the edge of the Cachoeira Paulista area of São Paulo.

According to relatives who kept in touch with Antônio by phone and online chats, Antônio told his family that he enjoyed working in Haiti despite the poverty that plagued the country, but that he was eager to return to Brazil.

His brother described Antônio as a happy person who liked to “go out with colleagues and play football.” He

never missed the opportunity to play football with his friends and was a fan of the Corinthians football team.

According to one of his sisters, Antônio was a “baladeiro” – someone who enjoys parties – and had many friends. His family had been planning a big event for his return, which was scheduled to take place a few days after the earthquake.

A ceremony was held on 22 January at the Brasília Air Base to honour Antônio and his fallen colleagues, which was attended by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and First Lady Marisa Letícia. President Lula called their work with MINUSTAH “the noblest humanitarian mission ever carried out by the Brazilian Armed Forces.”

Antônio and his colleagues posthumously received a promotion and the Peacemaker Medal from their country for outstanding acts of courage and bravery under life-threatening circumstances.

Antônio is survived by his father and his siblings, one brother and two sisters.