



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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GOIÂNIA RADIATION ACCIDENT: 20 YEARS LATER

VIDEO

SCRAP YARD

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE –
RADIATION VICTIMS

MAN IN SCRAP YARD /
ABANDONED MEDICAL CLINIC /
DIAGRAM

AUDIO

NARRATION

Two families live at this scrap yard in the Brazilian city of Goiânia. It is also home to world's worst accident involving a radioactive source. (9")

Its lessons still shape actions on nuclear safety and security decades later. (5")

It started in September 1987 when scrap dealers pillaged and then sold a metal canister from an abandoned medical clinic. (9")

They had no clue it contained a powerful radioactive source used to treat cancer, Caesium Chloride, a glittering powder that glows blue in the dark. (9")

Drs. Nelson Valverde and Alexandre Oliveira are radiation specialists. (5")

DR. NELSON JOSÉ VALVERDE
ON CAMERA

DR. NELSON JOSÉ VALVERDE: (English) **M**
“He took the equipment to his dining room and called the neighbours, relative, friends to show that glittering object. And small fragments of the source were taken, rubbed on the skin, were given to other people as souvenirs and that is the way contamination became to spread.” (25”)

DR. ALEXANDRE R. OLIVEIRA ON
CAMERA

DR. ALEXANDRE R. OLIVEIRA: (English) **M**
“Yes, they burned their skins; they burned their skins from a very mild burn up to very severe burns, up to open [burns].” (8”)

GOIANIA STREETS / ARCHIVAL
FOOTAGE – RADIATION VICTIMS
GIRL IN SCRAP YARD

NARRATION

The powdery Caesium spread undetected for over two weeks. Almost 250 people were contaminated. Four died in the first month, including a little girl that lived here. (11”)

WASTE BURIAL SITE

The legacy of a handful of Caesium is 3,000 cubic meters of contaminated waste. It’s buried here. (8”)

GOIANIA CITY / IAEA OFFICES IN
VIENNA

Goiânia’s plight brought global change. The International Atomic Energy Agency introduced rigorous safety standards for sources. (7.5”)

IAEA CONFERENCE

Brazil now requires that each and every source is licensed for lifetime tracking to final disposal.

(6")

DIDIER LOUVAT ON CAMERA

Didier Louvat is from the International Atomic Energy Agency. (3.5")

DIDIER LOUVAT: (English) **M**

"Certainly, the public and the environment are better protected now than 20 years ago." (5")

IAEA EMERGENCY CENTRE

NARRATION

IAEA EXPERTS

Lessons were learned in Goiânia, but worldwide radioactive sources are still dumped and lost. (6")

RADIOACTIVE SOURCE

The IAEA knew of 10 such incidents involving dangerous sources last year. Fears are, next time, an incident might be malicious. (8.5")

PEOPLE LIVING IN SCRAP YARD

Efforts are underway to assist countries to search and secure abandoned sources, train border guards to detect them as part as of a "cradle to grave" approach needed to keep radioactive material secure, so that what happened in Goiânia is never repeated. (17")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Kirstie Hansen for the United Nations.