

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 13/001/2003

31 January 2003

Further information on UA 324/02 (AMR 13/014/2002, 1 November 2002) - Threats/Fear for Safety

ARGENTINA **Gustavo Melmann (m)**
 Laura Melmann (f), his wife
 Their four children, other relatives and family friends

Concerns remain for the safety of Gustavo Melmann, members of his family and family friends as they continue to be subjected to harassment and intimidation following the conviction of three policemen for the murder of Gustavo Melmann's daughter Natalia. The family have received repeated death threats throughout the murder investigation, which is ongoing.

On 30 September 2002 three policemen from the Buenos Aires police force were sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the rape and murder of Natalia Melmann in Miramar, Buenos Aires province. While the family continues to press for the trial of two other men allegedly involved in the murder, they suffer further threats of violence.

In November 2002 Natalia's grave was desecrated with offensive material, causing great distress to the whole family. Subsequently, a close friend of the family was reportedly threatened with physical violence in the street by the wife of one of the jailed policemen. The Melmann family were also mentioned in her threats. A local radio station received a note that called Gustavo Melmann "*un judío de mierda*" ("a Jewish piece of shit"). Mr Melmann's religion has been a frequent subject of abuse.

Although the authorities are now investigating the threats, the family have filed several judicial complaints as the threats continue. 4 February 2003 will be the second anniversary of Natalia's death and the family continue to press for the trial of the two other men allegedly involved in her murder.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing your concern at the continued threats and intimidation received by the Melmann family and their friends;
- asking for assurances that the authorities will take all necessary steps to protect the threatened parties and effectively guarantee their safety;
- calling for an immediate, independent and thorough investigation into these threats, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice:

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Buenos Aires Province

Sr. Gobernador de la Provincia de Buenos Aires

Ing. Felipe Carlos Solá

Casa de Gobierno

Calle 6 entre 51/53

1900 La Plata, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Telegram: **Governor Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Fax: **+ 54 221 429 4189 (If someone answers say "Fax, por favor")**

Salutation: **Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor**

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Dr. Carlos Ruckauf
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Esmeralda 1212
1003 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Fax: + 54 11 4819 7619
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Mayor of Miramar
Sr Intendente de Miramar
Dr Marcelo Honores
Calle 28 N. 1084
7607 Miramar
Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Fax: +54 2291 42-0751 (If someone answers say "Fax, por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Intendente/Dear Mayor

COPIES TO:

Newspaper
Clarín
Tacuarí 1840
1139 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Fax: + 54 11 4309 7200

and to diplomatic representatives of ARGENTINA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 March 2003