

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 13/003/2005

31 March 2005

UA 76/05 Fear for safety/death threat

ARGENTINA **Andrés Amado (m), human rights defender and member of the *Coordinadora Contra la Represión Policial e Institucional*, Association against Police and Institutional Repression (CORREPI)**
Other members of CORREPI

Andrés Amado, a human rights defender working on behalf of victims of police violence, has been assaulted and has received a death threat. This is an apparent attempt to discourage him and other human rights defenders from carrying out their legitimate and peaceful work.

Andrés Amado, a member of the human rights organization *Coordinadora Contra la Represión Policial e Institucional*, the Association against Police and Institutional Repression (CORREPI), was attending a regular weekly meeting on 26 March with families of victims of police violence in the neighbourhood of Villa Fiorito, Lomas de Zamora municipality, Buenos Aires province. Two unidentified men followed him onto a bus he boarded after the meeting, and as he was sitting on the bus, they struck him on the back with a truncheon. One of the men then pointed a gun at Andrés Amado's head and pulled the trigger three times, saying, "*la próxima va con plomo*" ("next time it'll be loaded"). Andrés Amado managed to get away from the men. He filed an official complaint about the incident with the Office of the Public Prosecutor in Lomas de Zamora municipality on 28 March.

This assault and death threats against Andrés Amado may be linked to the human rights work undertaken by CORREPI. In 2004 CORREPI carried out research into illegal police activities in the southern part of Buenos Aires city. These included cases of "*gatillo fácil*" ("trigger-happy style killings"), torture and extortion. CORREPI also alleged that police officers and former police officers were involved in "social cleansing", or purging members of disadvantaged groups in society, including through summary executions. As a result of CORREPI's research, several police officers from Lomas de Zamora and the nearby municipality of Avellaneda are currently facing trial for dereliction of duty, and for their involvement in extortion, manslaughter and aggravated homicide.

Members of CORREPI and families of victims have demonstrated against police violence outside police stations and courts in Avellaneda and Lomas de Zamora, and have also handed out leaflets regarding cases where police officers are allegedly involved.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Argentine authorities to ensure that members of the security forces who commit human rights violations are brought to justice. Those who campaign for justice in these cases should be able to carry out their legitimate work in safety. Members of CORREPI and lawyers working for the organization have been the targets of death threats and intimidation in the past (see UA 201/02, AMR 13/006/2002, 3 July 2002; UA 304/99, AMR 13/06/99, 24 November 1999; and UA 55/97, AMR 13/03/97, 20 February 1997).

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Andrés Amado after he was assaulted and threatened on 26 March;
- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to guarantee the safety of Andrés Amado and other members of the organization CORREPI in accordance with their wishes;

- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the incident, for the results to be made public, and those responsible to be brought to justice;
- reminding the authorities that the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Buenos Aires Province

Señor Gobernador de la Provincia de Buenos Aires
Dr. Felipe Solá
Casa de Gobierno, Calle 6 Entre 51/53
1900 La Plata, Prov. Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Fax: + 54 221 429 4189
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

Minister of Security of Buenos Aires Province

Sr. Ministro de Seguridad de la Provincia de Buenos Aires
Dr León Carlos Arslanián
Calle 2 e/51 y 53, CP 1900 La Plata, ARGENTINA
Fax: + 54 221 429 3187/ 88 (ask for the fax: "me da tono de fax por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Secretary of Human Rights

Sr. Secretario de Derechos Humanos
Dr. Eduardo Luis Duhalde
Secretaría de Derechos Humanos
Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Moreno 1228 - 2º, 1041 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Fax: + 54 11 4316 4926 (ask for the fax: "me da tono de fax por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Secretario/ Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto
Sr. Rafael Bielsa
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto
Esmeralda 1212, 1003 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Fax: + 54 11 4819 7324

Secretary of Human Rights in Buenos Aires Province

Sr. Secretario de Derechos Humanos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires
Dr Remo Carlotto, Calle 53 No. 653, La Plata, ARGENTINA
Dr Remo Carlotto, Calle 53 No. 653, La Plata, ARGENTINA
Fax: + 54 221 489 3960/63 (ask for the fax: "me da tono de fax por favor")

Human rights organization

Coordinadora contra la Represión Policial e Institucional - CORREPI
Av. Corrientes 1785 Piso 2º C, 1042 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

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 12 May 2005.