

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 13/06/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 307/92

Fear of "Disappearance"

2 October 1992

ARGENTINA:

Pablo Cristian GUARDATTI, aged 21

Amnesty International is concerned about the physical safety of Pablo Cristian Guardatti who was reportedly taken to "La Estanzuela" police unit, Destacamento Policial de La Estanzuela, department of Godoy Cruz, Mendoza province, on 24 May 1992. A witness testified having seen Pablo Cristian Guardatti at the end of June 1992 being held in unofficial detention on a farm located on military property. However, the police have denied detaining Pablo Cristian Guardatti and a habeas corpus filed on his behalf was rejected.

According to the information received by Amnesty International, in the early hours of the morning of 24 May 1992, after leaving a disco in a Secondary School, Pablo Cristian Guardatti was walking with some friends in a street of La Estanzuela quarter in the department of Godoy Cruz, in the outskirts of the city of Mendoza. Witnesses reportedly stated that while walking, the youths were throwing stones at each other, one of which accidentally hit a passer-by, believed to be a policeman wearing civilian clothes. Immediately the man, who was reportedly armed, began to chase the youths firing into the air. He got hold of Pablo Cristian Guardatti and, without identifying himself as a police officer, handcuffed him and took Pablo Cristian Guardatti to the nearby "La Estanzuela" police unit.

In September 1992, witnesses positively identified the man who reportedly detained Pablo Cristian Guardatti as a police officer from "La Estanzuela" police unit. Following his identification the police officer, who had been transferred to another unit, and three other police officers from "La Estanzuela" police unit were detained and charged with "kidnapping". According to reports, witnesses have received anonymous threats and at least one witness has been placed under police protection. The whereabouts of Pablo Cristian Guardatti remain unknown.

BACKGROUND

Pablo Cristian Guardatti is the third person who has reportedly "disappeared" in Mendoza province since 1990 following their reported detention by members of the police. On 28 April 1990 Adolfo Argentino Garrido and Raúl Baigorria were reportedly detained by uniformed police in General San Martín Park, Mendoza. The car in which the two had been travelling was found two days later in police district Number Five in Mendoza. The car was returned to their relatives, but the whereabouts of the two men remain unknown. The police denied arresting the men or having any record of their detention or the seizure of the vehicle.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters either

in Spanish, English or your own language

- expressing concern for the physical safety of Pablo Cristian Guardatti following his reported detention in "La Estanzuela" police unit on 24 May 1992;
- calling upon the authorities to take all necessary steps to investigate the whereabouts of Pablo Cristian Guardatti;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the physical safety of all witnesses to ensure that they are able to testify without fear of reprisals.

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APPEALS TO

1) State Governor of Mendoza

Sr. Gobernador de la Provincia de Mendoza
Sr. Rodolfo Gabrielli
Casa de Gobierno
Mendoza, Mendoza
Argentina

Telegrams: Gobernador Mendoza, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador

2) Minister of Government of Mendoza

Sr. Ministro de Gobierno
de la Provincia de Mendoza
Dr. Alfredo Porras
Casa de Gobierno, 3er Piso
Mendoza, Mendoza
Argentina

Telegrams: Ministro Gobierno Mendoza, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Ministro Gobierno

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Human Rights Lawyer

Dr. Alfredo Ramón Guevara
Avenida España 970, 4to. Piso, Of.I
Mendoza, Mendoza
Argentina

2) Los Andes (a newspaper)

Avenida San Martín 1049
5.500 Mendoza
Faxes: + 54 61 312 011

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 13 November 1992.