

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 13/008/2003

12 May 2003

Further Information on UA 324/02 (AMR 13/014/2002, 1 November 2002) and follow-up (AMR 13/001/2003, 31 January 2003) – Threats/Fear or safety

ARGENTINA: **Gustavo Melmann (m)**
 Laura Melmann (f) his wife
 their four children, other relatives and family friends
 Yesica Mariela Alvarengo (f), witness
 Carlota del Valle Soria (f), witness
 Haydee Susana Lima (f), witness
 Other witnesses and members of the judiciary involved in the Natalia
 Melmann murder trial

Gustavo Melmann, members of his family and family friends were subjected to harassment and intimidation following the conviction of three policemen for the murder of Gustavo and Laura Melmann's daughter Natalia. They are continuing their legal struggle for justice, but have reportedly not received any new death threats.

Amnesty International will continue to closely monitor the situation but asks for no more appeals to be sent at present. Gustavo Melmann has sent the following message of thanks to all those who sent appeals;

8 /5/2003

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank you for the network of solidarity that you created for Nati, our daughter. It has been very important for us. When our spirits weaken, when the pain of the passing of time pierces us, when our daughter does not come back, when her cries for help sound most strongly in our minds, when we seem to see the torture carried out on her, when the authorities of our country try to forget the punishment for all those who took part in the murder of our child..., the arrival of your LETTERS put us back on our feet again. We ask you to accompany us with your action until all these evil people are prosecuted and sentenced.

We would like to send you a big hug and emphasize that with you and other organizations which fight for human rights we will achieve that dreamed-of world of JUSTICE AND PEACE, of equal opportunities for all.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. WITH ALL OUR LOVE.
THE MELMANN FAMILY

(Original note in Spanish – received on 8 May 2003 by the Argentina Research and Action Team)

De Gustavo Melmann, father of Natalia:

Desde lo más profundo de nuestro ser, queremos agradecerles la red solidaria que realizaron por Nati, nuestra hija. Ha sido muy importante para nosotros.

Cuando flaquean nuestras fuerzas, cuando nos va penetrando el dolor del pasaje del tiempo, donde nuestra hija no regresa, cuando suenan más fuertes en nuestras mentes sus gritos de auxilio, cuando nos parece ver la tortura realizada sobre ella, cuando las autoridades de nuestro país tratan de dejar en el olvido el castigo a todos los que participaron en el crimen de nuestra niña..., la llegada de sus CARTAS, nos ponen nuevamente de PIE. Les rogamos que nos acompañen con su accionar hasta que logremos que todos estos seres siniestros sean enjuiciados y condenados. Queremos mandarles un gran

abrazo y destacar que con ustedes y las otras organizaciones que luchan por los derechos humanos lograremos tener ese mundo soñado de JUSTICIA Y PAZ, de igualdad de oportunidades para todos.
MUCHAS GRACIAS. LOS QUEREMOS MUCHO.
FAMILIA MELMANN