

ARGENTINA José Luis OJEDA

Amnesty International is very concerned for the safety of José Luis Ojeda who was shot and wounded outside his home in Buenos Aires on 6 April 1999.

This is the latest in a series of attacks on, and harassment of, José Luis Ojeda and his family since he lodged an official complaint alleging he was beaten and tortured by federal police at Police Station 34 (*Comisaria 34*), while briefly detained there three years ago.

A unidentified man approached him as he was leaving his home, asked for a light and then aimed a gun at him, saying, "*Flaco esto es para que no hables boludeces*", "Skinny, this is to stop you talking rubbish" and "*esto es para que aprendas a bancarte las palizas que te da la policia*", "This is to make you learn to put up with the police beatings". A police patrol from Police Station 34 was apparently sitting nearby at the time but did not intervene or assist José Ojeda afterwards.

The Argentine human rights organization, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Centre for Legal and Social Studies, has reported the attack to the authorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

After José Ojeda complained that police tortured him at Police Station 34 in 1996, two police officers were put on trial. Since then he has been threatened, harassed and, on two occasions, falsely arrested. In November 1997 he was arrested on charges of theft and carrying a firearm and in January 1998 the police raided his home and violently arrested him again. He was acquitted on both occasions.

Despite assurances from the authorities that they will guarantee José Ojeda's safety, following an official complaint on his behalf by CELS lawyers to the Ministry of Interior and the Undersecretary of Human Rights, he and his wife have continued to be threatened by members of Police Station 34. A judicial investigation into the case is reportedly not yet finished and the police involved are believed to be still in active duty.

Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed its concern to the authorities about reports of ill-treatment, torture and killings by the police.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of José Luis Ojeda and his family after he was attacked by a gunman outside his house in Buenos Aires on 6 April 1999;
- expressing concern that the attack on José Luis Ojeda and previous attacks and threats against him and his family appear to be related to his complaint of ill-treatment while in Federal Police detention in February 1996 resulting in legal proceedings against two police officers;
- calling for effective steps to be taken to guarantee the safety of José Luis Ojeda and his family
- calling for a thorough, impartial and conclusive investigation into the attack, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;

APPEALS TO (if a voice answers a fax please ask for a fax tone - "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Minister of Interior

Sr. Ministro del Interior
Dr. Carlos Corach
Ministerio del Interior
25 de Mayo, 101

1002 Buenos Aires, C.F., Argentina

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Faxes:+ 54114 331 4571

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Justice Sr. Ministro de Justicia

Dr. Raul Granillo Ocampo

Ministerio de Justicia

Sarmiento 329, 5o. Piso

1041 Buenos Aires, C.F., Argentina

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Faxes: + 54114 328 6038 / 6039

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Head of Federal Police

Jefe de la Policia Federal

Comisario General Pablo Baltasar Garcia

Moreno 1550

Buenos Aires, CF, Argentina

Telegrams: Jefe Policia Federal, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Faxes:+ 54114 370 5922

Salutation: Sr. Jefe de la Policia Federal / Dear Head of Federal Police

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Secretariat

Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos

Prof. Inés Pérez Suárez

Ministerio del Interior

Av. Leandro N. Alem 150 P.B.

Buenos Aires, CF, Argentina

Human Rights Organization

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)

Rodríguez Peña 266, 1er. Piso

1020 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Faxes:+ 54114 375 2075

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 24 May 1999.