



Silvina Parodi de
Orozco who
"disappeared" when
pregnant in March PUBLIC
1976

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Fea

ARGENTINA Sonia Torres de Parodi, member of human rights organisation
Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo

Elvio Zanotti and his family, lawyer working with the Grandmothers of Plaza
de Mayo

Maria Teresa Sánchez, lawyer working with the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Sonia Torres de Parodi, a member of the human rights organization *Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo*, Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, in Córdoba province, and lawyers working on their behalf who have been threatened and intimidated.

Sonia Torres de Parodi has been searching for her "disappeared" daughter Silvina Parodi de Orozco, her son-in-law Daniel and the couple's child, reportedly born in captivity. In April 1999, she received an anonymous letter which threatened that she and members of other human rights organizations could suffer an accident. In March and April she was also reportedly followed by unidentified individuals.

Elvio Zanotti, a legal adviser to the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, has also apparently received anonymous threatening letters. The latest, in February, said that both he and his family were sentenced to death. Maria Teresa Sánchez, another legal adviser to the organization, has also been threatened and harassed. In April someone was seen taking photographs of her home and she appeared to be under surveillance by unidentified individuals.

Complaints about the threats have been made to the Federal Court in Córdoba (*Juzgado Fiscalia Federal*), as well as to the Ministry of the Interior and the media.

Amnesty International believes that the threats are related to the investigation currently being carried out by a judge in Córdoba on the case of the "disappearance" of Silvina Parodi de Orozco and her husband.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the years of military government from 1976 to 1983 thousands of people were abducted by the security forces and "disappeared". The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo was established in 1977 by relatives of the "disappeared" to try to find children who had been abducted as well as those born in captivity, many of whom were adopted by members of the security forces.

Amnesty International has received frequent reports of threats and harassment against human rights defenders in the country (see UA 87/98, 18 March 1998, and UA 297/98, 19 November 1998).

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Sonia Torres de Parodi, Elvio Zanotti and his family, and María Teresa Sánchez and calling for immediate steps to be taken to guarantee their safety in the province of Córdoba;
- expressing concern that the threats are an attempt to intimidate members of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and human rights lawyers seeking justice in cases of human rights violations committed under the military government;
- calling for a prompt, full and impartial investigation into the threats, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Provincial Governor

Sr Gobernador de la Provincia de Córdoba
Sr Ramón Mestre, Casa de Gobierno
Calle Boulevard Chacabuco 1300
5000 Córdoba, Córdoba, ARGENTINA
Telegrams: Sr Gobernador, Córdoba, Argentina
Faxes: + 54351 4690453
Salutation: Sr Gobernador / Dear Governor

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 Interior, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Faxes: + 54114 331 1156 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")
Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Ministro de Justicia, Dr Raúl Granillo Ocampo
Ministerio de Justicia, Sarmiento 329, 5o. piso
1041 Buenos Aires, C.F., ARGENTINA
Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Faxes: + 54114 328 6038 / 328 6039
Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organisation

Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, Corrientes 3284-4o. piso, Dto H
1193 Capital Federal, ARGENTINA
Faxes: + 54114 864 3475

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 2 July 1999.