

# ARGENTINA

## "OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS"? Attacks, Threats and Harassment against Journalists

The freedom of the press in Argentina appears to be under threat. Since the beginning of the 90s, when hundreds of cases of death threats, physical attacks and other forms of intimidation against journalists were reported, violence against journalists has not ceased and may even have escalated during 1997.

Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of attacks on media workers motivated by their legitimate reporting activities, their investigative journalism or their criticism of the authorities. The information received in several cases indicates the possible involvement or acquiescence of members of the police or the security forces. Following the murder of press photographer, José Luis Cabezas, in January 1997, several incidents against members of the press were linked to their reporting on the killing and their coverage of the investigation initiated into his death.

The alarming overall feature has been the lack of exhaustive and conclusive investigations

into the reported incidents. In most of the cases received by Amnesty International, official complaints have been filed before the relevant authorities, but inquiries have been initiated only in a few cases and the incidents have remained unclarified. While in some of the reported cases temporary police protection has been provided, the lack of effective action to protect journalists and their work has created a climate of scepticism about the ability or willingness of the authorities to guarantee the protection of the members of the press and to safeguard their right to exercise their legitimate activities as journalists.

Amongst those journalists subjected to attacks and death threats in 1997 who were also targeted for similar treatment in previous years are Hernán López Echague, Santo Biasatti, Magdalena Ruíz Guiñazú, Gabriela Cerrutti and Daniel Stragá. Amnesty International has presented its concern for their safety to the authorities requesting prompt and thorough investigations in all cases.

The increasing frequency of attacks, death threats and harassment against journalists and members of the media in Argentina registered in 1997 has been such that they have become routine "occupational hazards". According to press reports, by the end of July 1997, the *Unión de Trabajadores de Prensa de Buenos Aires*, Buenos Aires Press Workers Union, had recorded over 113 cases of threats against journalists. The pattern of

attacks and intimidation has manifested itself at different times and in varying contexts and has been closely monitored by Argentine and international organizations working in favour of independent journalism and the defence of human rights<sup>1</sup>.

Unfortunately, attacks against journalists are not new. There is a disturbing record of incidents of this nature. Between 1992 and 1993 alone, Amnesty International recorded over 120 cases<sup>2</sup> of attacks and death threats against members of the media, in several cases with the alleged involvement or acquiescence of members of the security forces.

Amnesty International was greatly encouraged when in late September 1993 the Argentine Embassy in London informed the organization that President Carlos Menem had nominated a Special Attorney (*Procurador Fiscal*) to carry out the investigations into the attacks against journalists and to ensure that those found responsible were brought to justice. However, most of those cases have remained unresolved, including the death of Mario Bonino in November 1993<sup>3</sup>.

Amnesty International believes that these "hazards" are totally unacceptable and fears that the prevailing climate of intimidation against journalists may lead to an undesirable self-imposed censorship.

There are few formal restraints on press freedom in Argentina, and the Argentine Constitution, in Article 32, guarantees freedom of expression. The Argentine Constitution also recognizes all international treaties as part of the national legislation including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, which in Article 19 and Article 13, respectively, upholds freedom of expression. However, Amnesty International has noted with concern that, where members of the media have published information critical of the authorities or have been investigating controversial issues, the authorities have made public statements which have threatening to restrict this freedom.

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<sup>1</sup>The Argentine Association for the Defence of Independent Journalism (*Periodistas: Asociación para la Defensa del Periodismo Independiente*) recorded in its 1997 report, over 100 cases of attacks and intimidation to members of the media.

Sixty cases of journalists and members of the media, all victims of attacks, threats and harassment in Argentina, were featured in the 1997 report by the French organization *Reporters sans Frontières*.

<sup>2</sup>See: *Argentina: Journalism, a dangerous profession: Physical attacks, death threats and harassment of journalists in Argentina*, AI Index: AMR 13/01/94, January 1994.

<sup>3</sup>See also AMR 13/01/94

For instance, in May 1997, reportedly as a result of the extensive press coverage on issues connected with the killing of José Luis Cabezas, the Minister of Interior, Carlos Corach, called for an 'Ethics Tribunal' to be created to punish journalists whose conduct was not deemed to be professional. The initiative was supported by the Head of the Cabinet, Jorge Rodríguez. At the same time, the Secretary to the Presidency, Alberto Kohan, termed "all journalists who lie" as "delinquents". National press organizations rejected these official statements.

The strong objection voiced by government officials at the continual media reporting on contentious issues, was encapsulated in the controversial comment made by President Carlos Menem on 8 September in which he recognized what he called the "freedom to use the stick" as much as the freedom of the press. His comment came at a time when scores of journalists had been subjected to physical attacks and different types of intimidation. President Menem, who was quoting from Benjamín Franklin's words, subsequently apologized for his remark following strong protest by national media and by the *Asociación de Entidades Periodísticas Argentinas* (ADEPA), Argentine Press Association. During his apology the president reiterated his government's interest in supporting the freedom of the press.

Amnesty International believes that the authorities have the duty to ensure freedom of expression by thoroughly investigating all denunciations of attacks, threats, and harassment against journalists, bringing to justice the perpetrators and effectively guarantying the protection of the journalists and their families.

### **José Luis Cabezas**

On 25 January 1997 José Luis Cabezas, a press photographer was killed in the seaside resort of Pinamar, southeast of Buenos Aires, while on assignment for the magazine *Noticias*. His charred body was found handcuffed inside a burned out car. He had been shot in the head. Reportedly, he had previously received death threats.

An investigation into his killing was initiated a few hours after his body was found. A year later the investigation still has not concluded. A number of suspects have been detained and subsequently released. At present, 10 people are in detention including three former police officers.

Reportedly, aspects considered in the investigation include allegations that, on the evening of the killing, police presence in the area had been recalled, leaving the area as a "freed zone" (*zona liberada*). A Chief of Police has been implicated in the crime and subsequently accused of firing the shot that killed Cabezas. The Chief of Police was

dismissed from the police force in June 1997. In an attempt to 'clean up' the Buenos Aires police force another 170 police officers were also discharged.

During the investigation into the murder of José Luis Cabezas, which was initiated over a year ago, the media has reported complaints over the poor quality of the forensic examination, of unnecessary obstacles and doubts about the impartiality and competence of those in charge of the investigation.

The public outrage caused by the murder, and national and international concern over the progress of the investigation, have kept the case in the headlines. As national media continued to cover its slow and deficient progress, members of the media have become the target of anonymous attacks and threats directed at themselves or their families.

### **Santo Biasatti**

One of the many journalists and members of the press who have been subjected to threats and attacks is Santo Biasatti, a well-known radio and TV journalist. During February 1997<sup>4</sup>, anonymous callers left messages with death threats against Santo Biasatti and his family. The anonymous messages were left at *Radio Rivadavia* in Buenos Aires where he presents a program, and on the answering machine of the Buenos Aires Ombudsman's office. On 7 February the message indicated that Santo Biasatti would suffer the same fate as Cabezas ("*Biasatti va a seguir el camino de Cabezas*"). On the same day a second anonymous caller gave warnings that "the one to suffer the most will be the granddaughter" [Biasatti's]. Another two anonymous messages were left on the following days on the answering machine of the Buenos Aires' Ombudsman's office alleging that members of the provincial police would be carrying out a contract to abduct Santo Biasatti ("*por encargo de un cliente procederían a realizar el secuestro*"). The then Ombudsman, Dr. Antonio Cartaña, filed a legal complaint on the incident.

Santo Biasatti reported the death threats to the Buenos Aires Province Governor and investigations into the threats against the journalist were initiated, although reportedly three judges have disqualified themselves from the case. The journalist rejected personal police protection but the radio and TV premises where he works were under police protection for a while. A former police officer was detained and subsequently released. Further anonymous death threats against the journalist were reported again at the end of February and in the following months.

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<sup>4</sup>Urgent Action 50/97, AMR 13/01/97, of February 1997; AI News July 1997, Vol 27, No.4

**Ariel Garbarz, María José Fernández Llorente, Magdalena Ruíz Guiñazú**

On 23 and 24 June two journalists and the sister of a third one were subjected to death threats, physical attack, and intimidation.

On 23 June 1997, messages containing threats against **Ariel Garbarz**, computer scientist and columnist for the newspaper *Página 12*, were left with a third person. In two separate telephone calls made by men who reportedly identified themselves as members of the Buenos Aires Province police, Ariel Garbarz was urged to stop his newspaper articles on the Excalibur computerized information systems which were being used in the investigation opened to clarify the killing of José Luis Cabezas. The callers warned that if he did not stop he was going to have problems with them ("*de lo contrario va a tener problemas con ellos*").

A legal complaint on the threats was filed before the Buenos Aires Criminal Court on 24 June. There is no information regarding the outcome of the complaint.

Also on 23 June, **María José Fernández Llorente** was attacked in Palermo, a Buenos Aires neighbourhood, by three men who cut her hand twice with a flick-knife. She is the sister of **Antonio Fernández Llorente**, a journalist with Channel 13, who has been covering the investigation into the killing of José Luis Cabezas. María José Fernández Llorente was warned by her attackers that if her brother did not stop his investigative journalism into the case, his family would pay the consequences ("*de otra manera la familia pagaría las consecuencias*"). Reportedly, her attackers had managed to evade the police protection granted shortly before by the authorities to the Fernández Llorente family following threats and intimidation against Antonio Fernández Llorente and members of his family.

The following day, 24 June 1997, **Magdalena Ruíz Guiñazú**, a well known radio and TV journalist, received anonymous death threats. In four telephone messages made by anonymous callers to the publishing offices of the magazine *Noticias*, Magdalena Ruíz Guiñazú was threatened with becoming the "next one" ("*la próxima va a ser Magdalena*"). This is believed to be a reference to José Luis Cabezas the *Noticias* press photographer killed in Pinamar.

On 2 July, a 38 calibre bullet was left at the door of Magdalena Ruíz Guiñazú's flat in Buenos Aires.

Magdalena Ruiz Guiñazú is a former member of the National Commission on Disappeared People (*Comisión Nacional sobre la Desaparición de Personas*) created in

1983, following the return of civilian government in Argentina, to clarify the tragic events in which thousands of people "disappeared" during the military government (1976-1983).

Amnesty International expressed its concern to the authorities for the safety of Ariel Garbarz, María José Fernández Llorente and Magdalena Ruíz Guiñazú,<sup>5</sup> stressing the importance of a prompt and thorough investigation, urging that the findings be made public and those found responsible brought to justice. Amnesty International remains particularly concerned at the apparent failure of the authorities to pursue a thorough and conclusive investigation into these acts following legal complaints filed before the courts.

In a context of an increasing level of threats and intimidation against journalists, lawyers who also work for the media as journalists have come under repeated threats and other forms of harassment during their broadcasting work on social, legal or human rights issues, as well as when providing legal counsel to victims of police violence.

### **Daniel Stragá**

Daniel Stragá, is a human rights defender lawyer working for the non governmental organization *Coordinadora Contra la Represión Policial e Institucional* (CORREPI), Coordinating Committee Against Police and Institutional Repression. Daniel Stragá is the legal representative for a number of families of victims of police violence. He is also a journalist.

On 14 February 1997 an anonymous death threat was made against Daniel Stragá. In a telephone message left at his office a caller gave an accurate description of his car indicating that he would be shot in the head, placed in his car boot and set on fire. The threat matched the characteristics of the killing of José Luis Cabezas.

A complaint on the threat was filed before the Federal Court No.5 (*Juzgado Federal No. 5*) of Buenos Aires. As a result, an order was made to monitor his office, private and portable telephones<sup>6</sup>.

This is not the first threat against Daniel Stragá. In 1993 during his work as radio journalist at *FM Pais*, a radio station in Morón, Buenos Aires Province, he and two other colleagues received anonymous death threats following their programme on the investigation into the death of a person in custody in Morón Police Station. Again, in

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<sup>5</sup>Urgent Action 194/97, AMR 13/06/97 of July 1997.

<sup>6</sup>Urgent Action 55/97, AMR13/03/97, of February 1997.

February 1995 he was the target of several anonymous death threats in connection with his work as a lawyer.

On all occasions complaints were filed before the relevant courts but no judicial investigation has been initiated into any of them.

### **Carlos Alberto López de Belva**

Another case in point is that of Carlos Alberto López de Belva, a lawyer and presenter of the weekly radio program "*Oral y Público*" (Oral and Public), at *Radio FM Palermo* in Buenos Aires, where he scrutinizes issues related to justice and human rights.

On 22 August 1997, an anonymous caller warned him that he would "die like a fly" if he did not stop talking nonsense ("*se dejara de decir boludeces por radio sino iba a morir como un mosquito*").

Carlos Alberto López de Belva officially reported the threat to the Police Station No.3 in San Miguel, Buenos Aires Province. A legal complaint was filed before Court No.3 in San Miguel, and a preventive *habeas corpus* writ on his behalf was also filed at Court No. 19 in Buenos Aires.

Information received by Amnesty International indicates that temporary police protection was granted to Carlos Alberto López de Belva by the local head of police following the incident. However, by the end of September 1997, the court had not replied to the *habeas corpus* writ and no judicial investigation into the incident has been initiated to date.

Amnesty International addressed its concern to the Argentine authorities, once again in September 1997, requesting investigations into the complaints and pointing out that lack of visible action from the authorities could be perceived as acquiescence on their part which could encourage the recurrence of such acts. The organization requested information from the authorities on the steps taken by them to clarify the reported incidents against journalists. No information in this regard has been forthcoming from the authorities.

Reports indicate that journalists covering events in several provinces were victims of attacks and threats by members of the police. In some cases reports of anonymous threats made to journalists have followed official statements by members of the police.

In May, **Domingo Abel Velázquez**, a journalist working with the news agency *TELAM*, needed hospital attention after having been beaten up by members of the gendarmerie in Jujuy Province. The journalist was covering a public demonstration in the locality of Libertador General San Martín, National Highway 34 (*Ruta Nacional 34*). Although he had shown his press credentials to the gendarmerie, the beating continued even after he had fallen to the ground. He was kept under custody for several hours and subsequently treated at the local hospital Oscar Orías. Domingo Abel Velázquez filed a legal complaint before Court No. 2 of Jujuy.

**Delfo Rodríguez**, a photographer with the newspaper *Diario Los Andes* of Mendoza (Mendoza Province), was violently dragged out of a vehicle by members of the provincial police who argued that he had insulted them while he was covering a local football match on 4 October 1997. He was taken to Police Station No. 5 where, allegedly, he was told that he was labelled as a campaigner for the José Luis Cabezas case and was threatened with suffering the same fate as the press photographer ("*le iba a pasar lo mismo que a Cabezas*"). He was forced by the police to sign a statement against himself admitting infringement of the Provincial Code of Misdemeanours, (*Código de Faltas*), under offences against authority and refusal to provide identification.

Delfo Rodríguez was released several hours later, following the intervention of three lawyers and the Mendoza Press Union (*Sindicato de Prensa de Mendoza*). An investigation was opened and three police officers were arrested for nine days. They were subsequently transferred to another police station.

In November, **Eduardo Olivares**, radio producer for *Radio FM Máxima of San Luis* (San Luis Province), allegedly received anonymous telephone threats against himself and his family after the Provincial Head of Police publicly stated that journalists were delinquents.

### **The New Year : 1998**

In a very worrying continuation of the 1997 pattern of intimidation against members of the press, before the first month of 1998 was over, new threats were registered against journalists.

### **Esteban Macallister**



Esteban Macallister, Vice-President of the *Asociación de Reporteros Gráficos de Argentina*, Association of Press Photographers of Argentina, received an anonymous death threat left on the answering machine of his office on 26 January 1998. An unidentified person said "you are dead, you are dead" ("*has muerto, has muerto*"). The threat followed his participation in a public demonstration on behalf of José Luis Cabezas.

**Gabriela Cerrutti,**

Gabriela Cerrutti, a journalist with *Trespuntos* magazine, received anonymous death threats on 27 January 1998. The unidentified caller indicated that the messages were from the Cueva Command, warning her to look after herself because "she was as good as dead", ("*somos el Comando Cueva. Que se cuide porque es boleta*"). The threat followed the widely publicised interview she carried out with former Navy Officer Alfredo Astiz, where he admitted to having participated in operations by units of the *Escuela de Mecánica de la Armada*, Navy Mechanics School (ESMA), aimed at abducting, "disappearing" or killing people during the years of military government.

As a result of the interview, Alfredo Astiz was punished with 60 days of disciplinary arrest for having discredited the Navy. Subsequently he was stripped of his Navy rank and dismissed from the Navy. Coincidentally, an hour before the threats were made to Gabriela Cerrutti, Alfredo Astiz was released from detention following his dismissal from the Navy.

**Amnesty International's Recommendations**

Amnesty International is concerned that freedom of the press in Argentina seems to be under attack as government officials publicly discredit the media for reporting on corruption, political matters and controversial issues. This coupled with the lack of thorough and conclusive investigations into complaints of attacks, death threats and harassment against members of the media which ensure that those found responsible be brought to trial, could lead to a general atmosphere of intimidation that endangers the freedom of expression. The failure in thoroughly investigating the incidents and bringing to justice those found responsible could encourage those engaged in such actions to continue their threatening campaign.

Journalists have a legitimate role in objective investigative reporting and this role should be protected by the authorities. Amnesty International believes that in order to protect the freedom of the press the Government of Argentina should:

- Make public declarations recognizing the legitimacy and importance of the work of the media;
- conduct thorough prompt, impartial and conclusive investigations into all complaints on attacks, threats and intimidation on members of the media;
- cooperate with investigations already initiated, as in the case of José Luis Cabezas, granting the necessary resources for their progress and ensuring that they are not hampered by administrative obstacles so that they can be completed;
- make public the methods followed during the course of the investigations and their outcome;
- bring to justice those found responsible;
- guarantee the protection of members of the media and their families;
- guarantee the right to reparation for the victims and their relatives.

**MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE MEDIA  
ATTACKED, THREATENED OR HARASSED  
DURING 1997 (PARTIAL LIST)**

(List of complaints received by Amnesty International on Individual cases)

Name and Media	Date	Details
<b>Aguad, Alberto</b> Radio: <u>FM La Ciudad</u> (La Rioja Province)	26/08/97	Written death threat. Investigative journalism on provincial police authorities.
<b>Basualdo, José Luis</b> Newspaper: <u>El Chubut</u> Puerto Madryn (Chubut Province)	31/03/97	Beaten, subjected to mock execution and threatened by unidentified attackers. Investigative journalism on alleged criminal activities of a local police officer.
<b>Bejjier, Genoveva</b> Radio Journalist, <u>Radio América</u> Buenos Aires	06/97	Two anonymous telephone threats ( " <i>Te vamos a reventar a vos y a todos los de Radio América</i> " - "We are going to smash you and all the others at Radio América to bits" ).
<b>Biasatti, Santo</b> TV and Radio Journalist <u>Channel 13</u> and <u>Radio Rivadavia</u> Buenos Aires	07,10 & 21/02/97 & 03/97	Several anonymous death threats and warnings of an alleged plan by members of the provincial police for his kidnapping. A police officer arrested and subsequently released.
<b>Cabezas, José Luis</b> Press Photographer: <u>Noticias Magazine</u>	25/01/97	Killed in Pinamar, Buenos Aires Province. An investigation about his killing is still to be completed. Ten people including three

Buenos Aires		former member of the police have been arrested.
<b>Cerrutti</b> , Gabriela Journalist: <u>Trespuntos</u> Magazine	27/01/98	Anonymous death threats following interview with former Navy Captain, Alfredo Astiz.
<b>Colussi</b> , Alejandro Radio Journalist Radio: <u>Universidad</u> , Santa Fé (Santa Fé Province)	29/01/97	A Molotov bomb exploded at his parents house. Investigative journalist on provincial corruption.
<b>Domínguez</b> , Mario Radio: <u>FM América</u> Town of Yuto (Jujuy Province)	02/03/97	Injured by gun shot, by unidentified attackers, anonymous death threats. Investigative journalism on provincial authorities, allegedly involved in criminal activities.
<b>Enz</b> , Daniel Journalist: <u>Análisis</u> Magazine. <u>Radio ABC</u> Paraná (Entre Rios Province)	03/97	Written anonymous death threat against him, <b>his wife</b> , and 9-year-old <b>daughter</b> , following several previous threats. Investigative journalism on alleged provincial corruption.
<b>Escribano</b> , José Claudio Associated editor: Newspaper <u>La Nación</u> Buenos Aires	17/06/97	De-activated letter bomb and anonymous message addressed to him and sent to <u>La Nación</u> warning that the next time "it would be for real".
<b>Farinia</b> , Sixto Press Photographer: <u>Arena</u> Magazine, Misiones	04/04/97	Attack and threats while on assignment for <u>Arena</u> magazine. Publication of critical articles about provincial government.

(Misiones Province)		
<b>Fernández Llorente, Antonio</b> TV Journalist: <u>Channel 13</u>	05/06/97  06/06/97 12/06/97 23/06/97	Anonymous telephone threats warning that his family would suffer if he did not stop covering the progress of the investigation on the killing of José Luis Cabezas. Threats against his <b>nephews</b> .  Physical attack on his <b>sister, María José</b> .
<b>Fiol, Ana</b> Radio and TV Journalist: <u>LT10 Radio Universidad</u> <u>Channel 2 'Cablevideo'</u> Santa Fé (Santa Fé Province)	21/02/97	Anonymous telephone threat a few hours before filming a program on secret detention centres in use during the past military government and testimonies by former political prisoners.
<b>Garbarz, Ariel</b> Journalist: <u>Página 12</u> Buenos Aires	24/06/97	Two telephone threats from men who identified themselves as members of the Buenos Aires Province police, saying he was to stop writing about the killing of José Luis Cabezas or he "was going to have problems with them".
<b>Graham-Yooll, Andrew</b> Journalist, Editor: <u>The Buenos Aires Herald</u> , English Daily Newspaper Buenos Aires	09/09/97	Two anonymous telephone threats the same day with the same message (" <i>Mirá Inglés de mierda, vos y ese diario la van a ligar</i> " - "Look, you English shit you and that paper are going to get in trouble")
<b>Jacobson, Verónica</b> Press Photographer: <u>Noticias Magazine</u> Buenos Aires	05/08/97	Telephone death threat while covering José Luis Cabezas in the city of Dolores (" <i>Que no siga en el caso porque, sino, va aparecer en un zanjón</i> " - "Don't continue working on the case, otherwise you will end up in a ditch").

<b>La Opinión de la Costa</b> Newspaper in San Bernardo (Buenos Aires Province)	07/97	Molotov bomb thrown at the newspaper premises, followed by anonymous telephone warning (" <i>fue una advertencia, la próxima vez quemamos todo</i> " - "That was a warning, the next time we will burn everything"). The newspaper had reported complaints on Buenos Aires police corruption.
<b>López de Belva, Carlos Alberto</b> Journalist and Lawyer Radio: <u>FM Palermo</u> , Buenos Aires	22/08/97	Anonymous caller warned him that if he did not stop "saying stupid things on the radio" he would "die like a fly" ( <i>se dejara "de decir boludeces por radio" sino iba a "morir como un mosquito"</i> ) if he did not stop his weekly radio program " <i>Oral y Publico</i> " (Oral and Public) where he scrutinizes issues related to justice and human rights.
<b>López Echague, Hernán</b> Journalist and Writer Buenos Aires	15/07/97	Written threat, which named <b>his children</b> , left at his letter box at home (" <i>Chau López Echague, Los amigos de Alberto Bujia, el negro</i> " - "Goodbye López Echague - friends of Alberto Bujia - The Black"). López Echague had published a book about a close aide to the provincial governor.
<b>López Foresi, Liliana</b> Journalist Buenos Aires	16/07/97	Telephone threat against her 12-year-old <b>son</b> . A preventive <i>habeas corpus writ</i> ( <i>recurso de habeas corpus preventivo</i> ) was filed before the courts.

<b>Lopreite</b> , Darío Radio: <u>Radio Del Plata</u>	07/97	Anonymous death threats made to him, and on a separate occasion <b>his wife</b> , by telephone, at his private number.
<b>Macallister</b> , Esteban Vice- President: The Association of Press Photographers, <u>Asociación de Reporteros Gráficos de Argentina</u>	26/01/98	Anonymous death threats, following his participation in a public demonstration about José Luis Cabezas.
<b>Menéndez</b> , Fernando TV Journalist: <u>Telefé Channel</u> (Buenos Aires)	03/08/97	Anonymous death threat (" <i>Que Menéndez no hable mas, porque sino va a ser boleta</i> " - "Menéndez, don't talk anymore, otherwise you will be killed"). He was covering the case of José Luis Cabezas.
<b>Olivares</b> , Eduardo Radio: <u>FM Máxima</u> San Luis (San Luis Province)	11/97	Anonymous telephone threats against him and <b>his family</b> . The threats followed a public statement by the provincial head of police, labelling journalists as 'delinquents'.
<b>Rodríguez</b> , Delfo Press Photographer, Newspaper <u>Los Andes</u> Mendoza (Mendoza Province)	04/10/97	Arrested by provincial police while covering a sports event in Mendoza. He was threatened with the same fate as Cabezas - " <i>le iba a pasar lo mismo que a Cabezas</i> ". Told that he was labelled as a campaigner for the José Luis Cabezas case - " <i>a este lo tenemos fichado no quiere a la policia es uno de los que anda en las movilizaciones por Cabezas</i> ". An investigation was opened. Three police officers were arrested and subsequently transferred to another police station. .

<p><b>Ruíz Guiñazú, Magdalena</b> Radio and TV Journalist <u>Radio Mitre</u> and <u>Channel 9</u> Buenos Aires</p>	<p>24/06/97  02/07/97</p>	<p>Four anonymous telephone death threats to <u>Noticias</u> magazine, warning that “the next time it will be Magdalena”. A 38 calibre bullet left at the door of her flat as a warning.</p>
<p><b>Suárez, Carlos</b> Investigative Journalist Parliamentary adviser (FREPASO party)</p>	<p>22/09/97</p>	<p>Kidnapped at gun point when arriving at his home in the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of Palermo Viejo. Blindfolded and subjected to several hour of interrogation. His book about mafias and government links was about to be published.</p>
<p><b>Taddei, Elena</b> <u>Radio Municipal</u> Buenos Aires</p>	<p>02/07/97</p>	<p>Telephone threats to her home, against her and Magdalena Ruíz Guiñazú (“<i>vos y Magdalena estan marcadas a fuego, les vamos a cortar la lengua</i>” - “You and Magdalena are marked - we are going to cut your tongues out”).</p>
<p><b>Talpone, Esteban</b> Journalist, Producer: <u>Radio Mitre</u>. (Buenos Aires)</p>	<p>31/07/97</p>	<p>Anonymous telephone message (“<i>te voy a matar, te tengo fichado, muy fichado, no me importa nada</i>” - “Watch out, because I’m going to kill you, I know all about you. Nothing matters to me”). Investigative journalism on corruption in the local government.</p>
<p><b>Velázquez, Domingo Abel</b> Journalist, News Agency: <u>Telam</u>, Jujuy (Jujuy Province)</p>	<p>05/97</p>	<p>Beaten up by members of the gendarmerie in Jujuy Province, while covering a public demonstration in the locality of Libertador General San Martín, Ruta Nacional 34.</p>



<b>Welsh de Barrios</b> , Edgardo Daily Editor: <u>Tiempo Fuegino</u> , Ushuaia (Tierra del Fuego Province)	03/97	Shooting at his vehicle in the centre of Ushuaia. Investigative journalism on Provincial corruption.
<b>Zabaleta</b> , Pedro Reporter, Newspaper: <u>Arena</u> , La Pampa, (La Pampa Province)	04/97	Threats by provincial officials. He was warned that he would "become another Cabezas" (" <i>sos un Cabezas mas</i> "). Investigative journalism on municipal irregularities.