

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 13/07/96

25 October 1996

Further information on UA 59/96 (AMR13/02/96, 1 March 1996) - Fear for Safety/Harassment

ARGENTINA Raúl Alberto LÓPEZ

Raúl Alberto López, one of two witnesses to a fatal shooting by members of the police force, continues to be subjected to harassment, intimidation and death threats. The victim of the shooting, Alejandro Mirabet, was wounded during an incident outside Raúl Alberto López' pizzeria in Buenos Aires on 20 February; he died in hospital nine days later.

Amnesty international is extremely concerned for the safety of Raúl Alberto López who will be the main witness when the case comes to court. One member of the Federal Police has been charged with manslaughter (*homicidio simple*) and is being held at present in preventive detention.

Amnesty International has received reports that, since the shooting, Raúl Alberto López' has been subjected to persistent telephone death threats made by unidentified callers. On 17 August he was shot at by an unknown assailant outside his pizzeria; he was not injured. He denounced this attack to the Vice-Minister of the Interior. Although he has moved to alternative accommodation, the telephone threats have continued.

The Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, a non-governmental human rights organization, has expressed its deep concern for the safety of Raúl Alberto López, to the authorities.

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

- expressing concern at the attempted shooting of Raúl Alberto López;
- expressing concern at the apparent lack of effective steps taken by the authorities in spite of Raúl Alberto López' complaints to the Ministry of Interior of harassment, intimidation and death threats;
- requesting information on the steps taken to thoroughly and independently investigate the attempt on the life of Raúl Alberto López on 17 August and their outcome;
- urging that all necessary steps be taken to guarantee his physical safety.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior

Sr. Ministro del Interior

Dr. Carlos Corach

Casa de Gobierno

Balcarce 50

Buenos Aires, C.F.

Fax: + 541 331 7354

Telegrams: Ministro Corach, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Human Rights Sub-Secretariat

Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos

Dra. Alicia Pierini

Moreno 711, Piso 5

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Buenos Aires, C.F.
Argentina

Faxes: + 541 343 2326

Telegrams: Dra. Alicia Pierini, Subsecretaría Derechos Humanos, Buenos Aires

Salutation: Sra Subsecretaria/Dear Dra Pierini

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
Rodríguez Peña 286 - piso 1
1020 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Faxes: + 541 371 3790

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 6 December 1996.