

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 13/09/97

22 October 1997

Further information on UA 325/97 (AMR 13/07/97, 17 October 1997) - Fear for safety

ARGENTINAMario Humberto Gómez Yardez

Gloria Alvarez (f)

Natalia Gómez (f), aged 5, daughter of above

The trial of the police officers accused of torturing Mario Humberto Gómez Yardez, scheduled to start on 20 October 1997, has been postponed prior to the start of proceedings. It is thought to be rescheduled to take place in December 1997 though no official date has been set.

Although the authorities have now provided the family with police protection, Amnesty International continues to be concerned for their safety, given that this protection appears to be only provisional and that no official date has been set for the trial.

The trial was postponed due to the absence of a court judge and a request by defence lawyers for additional time to study the case file (*expediente*). A number of police officers remain in detention in connection with the case.

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

- welcoming reports that Mario Humberto Gómez Yardez, Gloria Alvarez and Natalia Gómez are receiving police protection but seeking assurances that it will continue for as long as Mario Humberto Gómez Yardez and his family deem necessary;
- expressing concern that the trial of those allegedly responsible for the torture of Mario Humberto Gómez Yardez has been postponed, calling for the proceedings to be started promptly and asking to be informed of the official new start date;
- seeking assurances that before and during the trial the authorities take effective measures to guarantee the safety of Mario Humberto Gómez Yardez and his family and that the family, lawyers and witnesses be allowed to perform their role without fear or intimidation;
- expressing concern and calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the campaign of threats against Mario Humberto Gómez Yardez and his family; urging those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Mendoza Province

Dr. Arturo Lafalla

Gobernador de la Provincia de Mendoza

Casa de Gobierno

5500 Mendoza

Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina

Telegrams: Gobernador, Mendoza, Argentina

Faxes: + 5461 492142

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

Undersecretary of Justice

Dr. Julio R. Gomez

Subsecretario de Justicia

Ministerio de Gobierno

Casa de Gobierno, 3er Piso

5500 Mendoza,

Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina

Telegrams: Subsecretario de Justicia, Mendoza, Argentina

Faxes: + 5461 492142

Salutation: Sr. Subsecretario de Justicia / Dear Secretary of Justice

Interior Minister

Sr. Pablo Marquez

Ministro de Gobierno Interino

Ministerio de Gobierno

Casa de Gobierno

3er Piso - Cuerpo Central

5500 Mendoza,

Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina

Telegrams: Ministro de Gobierno, Mendoza, Argentina

Faxes: + 5461 492142

Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Government Human Rights Body

Human Rights Under secretariat

Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos

Ministerio del Interior

Dra. Alicia Pierini

Moreno 711, 2o. Piso

1091 Capital Federal, Argentina

Faxes: + 541 343 2326

Newspapar

Diario Los Andes

San Martín 1049

5500 Mendoza,

Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina

Faxes: + 5461 491218

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 3 December 1997.