

ARGENTINA Luis Alberto Bordón,
Miriam Medina de Bordón, parents of Sebastián Bordón

The parents of Sebastián Bordón, an 18-year-old student who "disappeared" while in police care and was later found murdered, have reportedly received intimidating telephone calls and have been harassed as the trial of those accused of killing their son began. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

Oral public proceedings (*Juicio Oral y Público*) began in the trial on 24 August in the provincial city of San Rafael, Mendoza Province. Seven members of the police and two civilians are charged with involvement in the killing of Sebastián Bordón, whose battered body was found on 12 October 1997 after he had been missing for 11 days.

On 31 August, the lawyers acting on behalf of the Bordón family reportedly received three anonymous telephone calls making references to the trial. The Bordón family have also received anonymous telephone calls privately, despite being ex-directory. The caller asked for "mum and dad" while police sirens were heard in the background. Also, on 28 August, the day when Luis Alberto Bordón was to present his testimony to the court, men believed to be members of the police wearing civilian clothes in a private vehicle were reportedly watching the Bordón family home.

Amnesty International believes that the harassment of Sebastián Bordón's parents is directly related to their efforts to bring to trial those involved in his killing. The lawyers acting on behalf of the Bordón family have made a public complaint regarding the threats and an official complaint has been filed before the Federal Prosecutor (*Fiscalía Federal*).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sebastian Bordón, a 18-year-old secondary school student, was travelling on a school trip from the capital, Buenos Aires, to the Mendoza Province when he went missing. He was last seen alive on 2 October 1997 when he was left in the care of the Mendoza Provincial police, having decided not to continue the trip as he was feeling depressed. He was missing for 11 days before his body was found on 12 October 1997, showing signs of having been severely beaten. An investigation into his "disappearance" and death was launched after his parents, who had received anonymous death threats, filed judicial complaints.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Luis Alberto Bordón and his wife Miriam Medina, parents of Sebastian Bordón, following intimidating telephone calls and the appearance of a suspicious vehicle outside their home in San Rafael;
- expressing concern that these threats seem to be related to their legal efforts to find the truth about their son's killing, and to obtain justice;
- urging that relevant and effective steps are taken to guarantee their safety, and to ensure that those taking part in the trial can do so without fear of intimidation;
- urging the authorities to investigate the threats and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Provincial Authorities

Minister of Justice

Ministro de Justicia y Seguridad
de la Provincia de Mendoza
Dr. Leopoldo Manuel Orquín
Salta 672, Godoy Cruz
5501 Mendoza, Argentina
Fax: + 54 261 449 9083

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Governor Mendoza Province

Sr. Gobernador de la Provincia de Mendoza
Sr. Roberto Iglesias
Casa de Gobierno
5500 Mendoza, Mendoza, Argentina
Fax: + 54 261 449 2142 or + 54 261 449 2143
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor

National authorities

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Sr. Ministro de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Dr. Ricardo Gil Lavedra,
Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Sarmiento 329, 5o. Piso
1041 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Fax: + 54 11 4328 5395
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Newspapers

Provincial Newspaper

Diario Los Andes
Avenida San Martín 1049
5500 Mendoza, Argentina
Fax: + 54 261 420 2011

National Newspaper

Diario Clarín
Tacuarí 1846
1139 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Fax: + 54 11 4309 7200

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 16 October 2000.