

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 13/018/2001

31 August 2001

Further information on UA 237/00 (AMR 13/11/00, 10 August 2000) and follow-up (AMR 13/006/2001) - Fear for Safety

ARGENTINA Vanessa Piedrabuena - President of the *Asociación Travestis Unidas de Córdoba* (ATUC), United Transvestites' Association of Cordoba

New name: Tania Jaime, transvestite

Transvestite activist Vanessa Piedrabuena has reportedly received further deaths treats from police, after she helped a fellow transvestite file a complaint that she had been injured by the Córdoba provincial police.

Transvestite Tania Jaime was reportedly hit in the left eye by a rubber bullet fired by a police officer on 13 June. She has reportedly since gone blind in that eye. She filed a complaint with the Córdoba judicial authorities, with the assistance of Vanessa Piedrabuena. Two provincial police officers have since approached Vanessa Piedrabuena and said they would kill her, on 25 July and again on 17 August.

Vanessa Piedrabuena reported this to the authorities, but there is no indication that there has been any investigation into either the incident in which Tania Jaime was hit by the rubber bullet, or into the threats received by Vanessa Piedrabuena.

Vanessa Piedrabuena (her adopted name; her legal name is Roque Virgilio Piedrabuena) is the President of the *Asociación Travestis Unidas de Córdoba* (ATUC), United Transvestites' Association of Cordoba. She has campaigned for justice ever since her fellow activist Vanessa Ledesma died in police custody. She has been threatened repeatedly, but the authorities have consistently failed to investigate, or to take action to protect her.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible in Spanish, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that police officers have again threatened to kill Vanessa Piedrabuena;
- expressing concern for the safety of Vanessa Piedrabuena, Tania Jaime and other members of the the *Asociación Travestis Unidas de Córdoba* (ATUC);
- asking the authorities to take immediate action to protect them, and to make sure that Vanessa Piedrabuena can continue her legitimate work with the *Asociación Travestis Unidas de Córdoba* without fear of harassment
- urging the authorities to order an independent, impartial and conclusive investigation into the police attack on Tania Jaime and the threats against Vanessa Piedrabuena, and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking about the result of the investigation into the death in custody of Vanessa Lorena Ledesma (legal name: Miguel Angel Ledesma), and asking whether any of the officers charged have yet been arrested or suspended from duty.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Córdoba Province
Señor Gobernador de la Provincia de Córdoba
Dr. José Manuel de la Sota, Casa de Gobierno
Calle Boulevard Chacabuco 1300,
5000 Córdoba, Córdoba, ARGENTINA

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor

Faxes: + 54 351 434 30 13

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Sr. Ministro de Justicia y Derechos Humanos

Dr. Jorge Enrique de la Rúa, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos

Sarmiento 329, 5 piso, 1041 Buenos Aires C.F. ARGENTINA

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Faxes:+ 54 11 4328 5395

Minister de Relaciones Exteriores

Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

D. Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio

International y Culto

Reconquista 1088 - Piso 14,1003 Buenos Aires C.F. ARGENTINA

Salutation : Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Fax: + 54 11 4819 7619

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Ombudsman for Córdoba Province

Defensor del Pueblo de la Provincia de Córdoba

Dr. José María Zamanillo

Tucuman 25, 4o. Piso

5000 Centro Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Defensor/ Dear Dr Zamanillo

Faxes:+ 54 351 434 20 60 / 434 20 61

Human Rights Organization

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Artigas 218

Córdoba - Córdoba Argentina

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 12 October 2001.