

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death threats

31 March 1995

ARGENTINA

Maria Alejandra BONAFINI (female), aged 29

Maria Alejandra Bonafini, daughter of Hebe Bonafini, the President of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo organization, is reported to have been subjected to death threats.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on the evening on 22 March 1995 an unknown number of unidentified individuals followed Maria Alejandra Bonafini in a vehicle after she left her mothers' house in the city of La Plata. When she arrived to her house an anonymous telephone caller warned her that "if your mother keeps screwing us up we are going to make you eat shit" ("si tu madre sigue jodiendo, te vamos a hacer mierda"). Following the threats Maria Alejandra Bonafini abandoned her home in fear for her safety.

The threats to Maria Alejandra Bonafini has been denounced to the Minister of Interior, but Amnesty International is not aware of any investigation having been initiated into the incident. Although there is no direct evidence of the involvement of the security forces in the incident, Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Maria Alejandra Bonafini and is calling on the authorities to investigate the nature of the threats and to take measures to ensure her safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned that the threats to Maria Alejandra Bonafini are related to the outspoken condemnation of the human rights questions in Argentina made by her mother Hebe Bonafini as President of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.

The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo is a women's human rights organization set up to campaign on behalf of their "disappeared" children and relatives during the years of military government (1976-1983). This threats are seen in the context of recent demonstrations and denunciations made by relatives of the "disappeared" following the declarations by Captain Adolfo Francisco Scilingo an Argentine former naval officer that "disappeared" detainees held at the Naval School of Mechanics (ESMA) were sedated and thrown naked from aircraft into the ocean. Amnesty International has consistently emphasised to the Argentine authorities the need to clarify the fate and whereabouts of the "disappeared" as the relatives of the victims have the undeniable right to a full search for the truth and public identification of those responsible.

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

- expressing concern at the threats made to Maria Alejandra Bonafini and asking for an investigation into the incident of 22 March 1995;
- asking for guarantees for the safety of Maria Alejandra Bonafini and for all those who search for the whereabouts of "disappeared" relatives;
- reminding the government of their obligation to clarify the fate and whereabouts of the "disappeared".

APPEALS TO

President

Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente
de la República Argentina
Dr. Carlos Saúl Menem
Casa Rosada Balcarce 50
Buenos Aires, CF, Argentina

Faxes: +541 331 6735 / 0474 (if voice, ask for fax "por favor, conectar el fax")

Telegrams: Sr. President, Casa Rosada, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Salutation: Señor Presidente/ Dear Mr. President

Minister of Defence

Sr. Ministro de Defensa
Dr. Ocar Camilión
Ministro de Defensa
Paseo Colón 255
Buenos Aires, CF, Argentina

Telegrams: Sr. Ministro Defensa, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Interior

Dr. Carlos Corach
Ministerio del Interior
Casa de Gobierno
Balcarce 50
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Faxes: +541 331 1156

Telegram: Ministro Interior, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Salutation: Señor Ministro /Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Madres de Plaza de Mayo
Hipólito Yrigoyen 1442
1089 Buenos Aires, 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 20 May 1995.