

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 13/016/2003

15 October 2003

Further Information on UA 53/03 (AMR 13/002/2003, 21 February 2003) and follow-ups (AMR 13/005/2003, 16 April 2003 and AMR 13/011/2003 14 July 2003) - Fear for Safety/Death threats

ARGENTINA

Clara Britos (f), journalist  
Members of her family

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Clara Britos following her recent temporary abduction. Together with her family, the owner and editor of the monthly newspaper *La Tapa* in Guernica, Buenos Aires Province has been continuously subjected to threats, which are believed to be related to her work as a journalist.

On 5 October at 6.30pm, Clara Britos was returning home alone from her parent's house, when a man approached her from behind and pushed what she presumed was a gun into her back. She was then forced into a car containing two other men and driven off. Whilst in the car, a cap was placed on her head in order to cover her eyes and her head was forced down. She was told "*en Guernica manda Rodríguez y se hace lo que el señor Oscar Rodríguez dice...cuándo lo van a entender hija de puta?*", "Mr Oscar Rodríguez is in charge in Guernica and everyone does as he says...when are you all going to learn, bitch?". (Oscar Rodríguez was the former mayor of the municipality of Pte. Perón, Buenos Aires Province).

During her time in the car Clara Britos felt a continual pressure, presumably from a gun, against the back of her neck, which left marks on her skin. Eventually Clara was released approximately 20 blocks from her house with the warning, "*bájate, pero la próxima vez no volvés a casa*", "get out – next time you won't be going home".

The following day Clara Britos filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor in La Plata, Buenos Aires province. However, Amnesty International is concerned that as of yet no investigations appear to have been initiated into judicial and police complaints filed by Clara regarding previous acts of intimidation and threats.

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

- expressing concern at the abduction of Clara Britos on 5 October and the death threats against her;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and independent investigation into this incident as well as into all the judicial and police complaints made by Clara Britos, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- asking for assurances that the authorities take all necessary and effective steps to protect Clara Britos and her family, and that she be allowed to perform her legitimate work as a journalist without threats and harassment in Argentina.
- asking the authorities to let Clara Britos know the progress they have made in the existing investigations, and their plans for the current case.

**APPEALS TO**

Governor of Buenos Aires Province

Sr. Gobernador de la Provincia de Buenos Aires

Ing. Felipe Carlos Solá

Casa de Gobierno

Calle 6 Entre 51/53  
1900 La Plata  
Prov. Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Telegrams:** **Governor, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina**  
**Fax:** **+ 54 221 429 4189**  
**Salutation:** **Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor**

Minister of Justice and Security of Buenos Aires Province  
Sr. Ministro de Justicia y Seguridad de la Provincia de Buenos Aires  
Dr Gustavo Osvaldo Beliz  
Calle 2 e/51 y 53  
1900 La Plata  
Prov. Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Telegrams:** **Minister of Justice and Security, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina**  
**Fax:** **+ 54 221 429 3188/3187 (If someone answers say 'Fax, por favor')**  
**Salutation:** **Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister**

Under-Secretary for Human Rights  
Sra. Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos  
Dra. Alicia Oliveira  
Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos  
Humanos  
Sarmiento 329  
1041 Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Telegrams:** **Under-Secretary for Human Rights, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina**  
**Fax:** **+ 54 11 4 819 73 24 (There could be some problems getting through to this number. If someone answers say 'Fax, por favor')**  
**Salutation:** **Sra. Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos/ Dear Under-Secretary**

**COPIES TO:**  
Secretary of Human Rights of Buenos Aires Province  
Sr. Secretario de Derechos Humanos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires  
Remo Gerardo Carlotto  
Secretaría de Derechos Humanos  
Calle 53 No.653  
1900 La Plata  
Provincia de Buenos Aires  
Argentina  
**Fax:** **+ 54 221 489 39 60/ 63 (If someone answers say 'Fax, por favor')**

Association for the defence of Independent Journalism - JOURNALISTS  
Asociación para la Defensa del Periodismo Independiente – PERIODISTAS  
Piedras 1675 Oficina B  
Secretaría de Derechos  
1140 Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Fax:** **+ 54 11 4300 6149**

Newspapers  
Clarín  
Tacuarí 1840  
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 26 November 2003.