

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 279/93 Death Threats

19 August 1993

ARGENTINA: Hebe DE BONAFINI (female), President of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo Organization

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Hebe de Bonafini President of the human rights organization Madres de Plaza de Mayo, Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, having just received reports that she has been subjected to death threats at her home in the city of La Plata.

According to information received by Amnesty International, an unknown number of unidentified individuals rang the bell of Hebe Bonafini's home at La Plata at 3am on 5 August 1993. Without opening the door she requested information on who was calling and a male voice shouted "If you do not shut your mouth we will shut it with bullets" (*Si no cierra la boca se la vamos a cerrar a balazos*). The threat followed Hebe Bonafini's denunciation the previous night, during a broadcast on La Plata FM Radio Futura Station, of the killing of five adolescents a few days before in Buenos Aires Province, allegedly by members of the police.

This is not the first time that Hebe Bonafini has received anonymous death threats for her outspoken condemnation of the human rights questions in Argentina. During 1991 Hebe Bonafini received a number of telephone death threats and the headquarters of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires was broken into four times by unknown persons. Confidential material and computer files were among the items reportedly stolen by the assailants (see UA 194/91, AMR 13/04/91, 10 June 1991).

Although there is no direct evidence of the involvement of the security forces in the incident on 5 August 1993, Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Hebe Bonafini and is calling on the authorities to investigate the nature of the threats and to take measures to ensure her safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo is a women's human rights organization set up to campaign on behalf of their imprisoned or "disappeared" children and relatives during the years of military government (1976-1983). With Argentina's return to democracy they have continued their campaign for the investigation of past human rights violations and denunciations of human rights abuses in recent years.

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

- expressing concern at the threats on the life of Hebe de Bonafini;
- urging that there be an immediate investigation into these threats with a view to bringing those responsible to justice;
- urging that steps be taken to ensure her safety.

APPEALS TO

1) Ministry of Interior:
Sr. Ministro del Interior
Dr. Gustavo Beliz
Ministerio del Interior
Casa de Gobierno
Balcarce 24
Buenos Aires
Argentina

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Telexes: 21194 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: + 54 1311 1239 (Via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

2) Governor of Buenos Aires Province:
Sr. Gobernador de la Provincia de Buenos Aires
Sr. Eduardo Duhalde
Casa de Gobierno
Buenos Aires
Argentina

Telegrams: Gobernador Provincia Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Salutation: Señor Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Madres de Plaza de Mayo
Hipólito Yrigoyen 1442
1089 Buenos Aires, Argentina

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 September 1993.