

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 13/011/2003

14 July 2003

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

**ARGENTINA Clara Britos [f]  
Her husband and four children**

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On 13 July, an attempt was made to burn down the house of Clara Britos while she and her family were asleep inside. This is the latest and most serious incident in a series of attacks suffered by Clara Britos, the owner and editor of the monthly newspaper *La Tapa* in Guernica, Buenos Aires Province. She and her family have been continuously threatened as a result of her work as a journalist.

Just after midnight on 13 July, the family heard a noise outside their house. Later, at around 3 am, Clara Britos, her husband and their four children, aged 16, 14, 13 and 8 years-old, were woken by smoke in their bedrooms. Their house is made of wood, and the back of the house has chipboard flooring, which was on fire. They managed to put out the fire and alerted the police guards who were stationed 20 metres in front of their house.

Clara Britos believes this attack, like previous ones, to be a result of articles she has written on the deaths of Darío Santillán and Maximiliano Kosteki two *piqueteros* (protesting unemployed workers) allegedly killed by police during a demonstration on 26 June 2002. She had recently written an article to coincide with the first anniversary of the deaths of the two men. She was also supposed to appear on a radio programme later on 13 July 2003 to discuss the killings and their political implications, but had instead conducted a telephone interview the day before.

Despite filing several judicial and police complaints in relation to threats and attacks she has been subjected to, Clara Britos has not received any information regarding how investigations are progressing.

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

- expressing concern at the attempt against the lives of Clara Britos and her family;
- 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 Argentine 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 Argentine 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 Juan Pablo Cafiero

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

Lic. Jorge Taina

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 25 August 2003.