

ARGENTINA Olga Luquez (f) and her family

Olga Luquez's son was shot and fatally wounded by police from Tropero Sosa police station, in Mendoza Province, on 1 October 1999. She has been campaigning for justice ever since, and police from the same station have been threatening her in person and by telephone. The threats have recently become more serious, and Amnesty International believes that she and her family are in grave danger.

On 17 September 2001 she appeared on a regional news TV program to mark the anniversary of her son's death. Later that day a policeman from Tropero Sosa approached her on a bus and drew his gun to intimidate her.

Family friends who appeared on the TV program with her have apparently also received death threats. Some have reportedly been taken in for questioning by police, and told "*que se dejen de joder con ellos porque los vamos a hacer mierda*", "you should stop fucking around with [the Police] because we are going to make a mess of you".

When she took her daughter to school on the morning of 11 October 2001, a police patrol car was waiting for them inside the courtyard of the school. Armed policemen got out of the car when they arrived, and left when Olga Luquez and her daughter went into the school building. The school authorities later told her that nobody had called the police.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Seventeen-year-old Roberto Agustín Luquez had been walking on the street with a friend, when three police officers apparently got out of a patrol car and approached as if to arrest them. The two boys ran away, because they had no identification with them. Roberto Agustín hid in a neighbour's house. The police followed him inside, and fired at him with a shotgun loaded with rubber pellets. Three pellets perforated one of his lungs. He was taken to hospital, but died 16 days later.

One of the policemen has been charged with accidental homicide. The other two have not been included in the judicial investigation, but the inquiries have faced some delays and obstacles, and Olga Luquez is pressing for the investigation to proceed.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Olga Luquez, who has reportedly been threatened by police officers from Tropero Sosa police station, and for her family and family friends;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to protect the Luquez family and their friends, and to guarantee that they will be able to pursue the investigation into the killing of Roberto Agustín Luquez, free from harassment and intimidation;
- calling for an immediate and exhaustive investigation into the threats they are receiving, with the results made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking what progress has been made in the judicial investigation into the killing of Roberto Agustín Luquez.

APPEALS TO:

Provincial Authorities:

Minister of Justice

Ministro de Justicia y Seguridad de la Provincia de Mendoza

Dr. Leopoldo Manuel Orquín

Salta 672, Godoy Cruz, 5501 Mendoza, Argentina

Telegram: Ministro Justicia, Provincia Mendoza, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Fax: + 54 261 449 9083

Governor of Mendoza Province

Sr. Gobernador de la Provincia de Mendoza

Sr. Roberto Iglesias

Casa de Gobierno, 5500 Mendoza, Mendoza, Argentina

Telegram: Gobernador Provincia, Mendoza, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

Fax: + 54 261 449 2142 or + 54 261 449 2143

COPIES TO:

National authorities:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Sr. Ministro de Justicia y Derechos Humanos

Dr. Jorge de la Rúa,

Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos

Sarmiento 329, 5o. Piso, 1041 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Telegram: Ministro Justicia, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Fax: + 54 11 4328 5395/6039

Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Sr. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Sr. Adalberto Rodríguez Giavarini

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Esmeralda 1212 (C1007 ABP), 1003 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Telegram: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Fax: +54 11 48 19 76 19 /20

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 28 November 2001.