

20 March 2001

Further information on UA 62/01 (AMR 13/007/2001, 16 March 2001) - Fear for safety / death threats

ARGENTINA	Pedro ORTIZ (m)]	
	Mary ORTIZ (f), his wife]		
	Lidia ZARATE (f)]	Parents of children killed
	Delia GARCILAZO (f)]	in police shootings
	Oscar RIOS (m)]	
	Silvia RUIZ (f)]	
	Alberto BARRETO (m)]	
	Their families		

Killed: Martín GONZÁLEZ ZARATE (m), aged 16, son of Lidia ZARATE

Sixteen-year-old Martín González Zarate was shot dead by an unidentified gunman driving by in a vehicle in Buenos Aires province on 16 March. A policeman has reportedly been arrested in connection with the killing.

Martín's older brother, Juan Marcelo, was killed by the police on 19 March 2000. Since then, their mother, Lidia Zarate, has been campaigning for his killers to be brought to justice. The Zarate family has repeatedly been threatened and told to stop their campaign for justice. The police recently told Lidia Zarate to look after her other children, unless she wanted them to end up like Juan Marcelo. In the last year, the police had detained Martín three times. They had reportedly beat him and told him that he would die younger than his brother. He had also been injured in another shooting, where the gunmen had shouted while driving by "this is your mum's fault. Tell her not to mess about with the police" ("*esto te pasa por culpa de tu vieja. Decile que no joda con la cana*").

Lidia Zarate is a member of the *Comisión de Familiares de Víctimas de Gatillo Fácil*, Commission of Relatives of Victims of Police Shootings, an organization established by a group of parents whose children have been killed by the police. The organization has been campaigning for the truth about the killings to be established, and for those responsible to be brought to justice. Lately, several members of the organization, including those named above, have been intimidated and threatened by the police (see original UA). The killing of Martín González Zarate illustrates the seriousness of the situation, and emphasizes the danger they are in.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern that Martín González Zarate has been shot dead after the police told both him and his mother that he would be killed;
- calling for a thorough and independent investigation to be carried out into the killing, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of members of the *Comisión de Familiares de Víctimas de Gatillo Fácil*, including Pedro Ortiz, Mary Ortiz, Lidia Zarate, Delia Garcilazo, Oscar Rios, Silvia Ruiz and Alberto Barreto, whose children have been killed in police shootings, and who have been threatened by the police because of their legitimate campaign for justice;

- urging the authorities to guarantee their safety and that of their families, and to publically recognize the legitimacy of their campaign;
- asking for full and impartial investigations to be carried out into the threats, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS 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
Sarmineto, 329- 5 piso
1041 Buenos Aires
Argentina

Telegram: Ministro Justicia Buenos Aires Argentina

Fax: + 54 11 4328 5395

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of the Interior

Sr. Ministro del Interior
Dr. Federico Storani
Ministerio del Interior
Balcerce 50
1064 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Fax: + 54 11 4342 6081

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Provincial Authorities

Governor of Buenos Aires Province

Sr. Gobernador de la provincia de Buenos Aires
Sr. Carlos Ruckauf
Casa del Gobierno
Calle 6. Entre 51 y 53, 1900 La Plata
Buenos Aires C.F., Argentina

Fax: + 542 21 429 4189

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

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1092 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 1 May 2001.