

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 13/10/00

5 July 2000

Further information on UA 170/00 (AMR 13/09/00, 22 June 2000) -
"Disappearance" / Fear for Safety

ARGENTINA

José Segundo ZAMBRANO

Pablo Marcelo RODRÍGUEZ

On 3 July 2000 two bodies, believed to be those of José Zambrano and Pablo Rodríguez, were found in the Godoy Cruz neighbourhood of Mendoza city some 5 kilometers from where José Zambrano's blood stained car had previously been found abandoned. It is reported that DNA tests are to be carried out with results expected in a month.

Lawyers representing the men's relatives are apparently facing a campaign of harassment. Defamatory claims about them were distributed to the press on 26 June. Two days later local radio and television carried untrue reports that one of the lawyers, Diego Lavado, had been arrested.

On 29 June the local press reported that Provincial authorities, including the Minister for Justice and Security, had claimed that the lawyers were acting only for their own financial gain, and had misled Amnesty International.

However, the local press has also reported that it was international pressure that obliged the authorities to continue their search for the two men. Appeals from the Urgent Action network have received good coverage.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation, and take further action as necessary. Please send a final round of telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the "disappearance" of José Segundo Zambrano and Pablo Marcelo Rodríguez, and expressing particular concern that state agents may have been involved;
- welcoming the opening of investigations into their "disappearance", and urging that these investigations be independent, thorough and conclusive, that their results are made public and those found responsible are brought to justice;
- expressing concern at reports that lawyers representing the men's relatives are being harassed;
- urging the authorities to take all measures that the lawyers themselves deem necessary to guarantee their safety.

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

Faxes: +54 261 449 9083

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Governor Mendoza Province

Sr. Gobernador de la Provincia de Mendoza

Sr. Roberto Iglesias
Casa de Gobierno
5500 Mendoza, Mendoza, Argentina
Faxes: + 54261 449 2142 /3
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor

National authorities

Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Sr. Ministro de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Dr. Ricardo Gil Lavedra,
Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Sarmiento 329, 5o. Piso
1041 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Faxes: + 5411 4328 5395
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Newspapers
Provincial Newspaper
Diario Los Andes
Avenida San Martin 1049
5500 Mendoza, Argentina
Faxes: + 54261 420 2011

National Newspaper
Diario Clarín
Tacuarí 1846
1139 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Faxes: + 5411 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 16 August 2000.