

# **Scientists and Human Rights in Argentina Since 1976**

**June 1981**

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American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility  
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036



## AAAS CLEARINGHOUSE ON SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights is a project of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Committee is authorized by the AAAS Board and Council to monitor the actions of the governments of the United States and other nations which circumscribe the freedom of scientists or restrict the ability of scientists to exercise their professional responsibilities, and to report on developments affecting scientific freedom and responsibility.

The Clearinghouse collects and disseminates information about foreign scientists who are victims of government persecution. It is designed to assist those who wish to bring effective aid to foreign scientists who are in serious trouble. The concerns of the Clearinghouse and the Committee are universal and independent of the ideology of any government or the individuals they attempt to aid.

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## Preface

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, I am pleased to transmit the report Scientists and Human Rights in Argentina Since 1976. The report has been prepared by Eric Stover, a member of the AAAS staff and Project Director of the AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights and is based on interviews with Argentine scientists, both living in and outside the country; press reports; and in loco reports on the situation of human rights in Argentina by governmental and nongovernmental groups, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, National Academy of Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Bar Association, and Amnesty International.

The report has been prepared at the request of the Ad Hoc Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights of the American Statistical Association as source material for interested participants attending the International Statistical Institute meetings from November 30 to December 11, 1981 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The report summarizes five years of political events in Argentina which have generated serious concerns among many current and former members of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility. Through this report we witness the experiences of our colleagues who have suffered not only from government restrictions upon their professional work, but also from serious deprivation of their fundamental human rights to life and liberty as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We believe that scientists in all countries have a professional responsibility to inform themselves about serious situations in which the basic human rights of their colleagues and others are violated. Responding to these events is a complex matter, and individual choice of action should be preserved as a fundamental element in any collective strategy. It is not the role of scientific societies to dictate action to their members, but neither can these societies remain aloof from these distressing human problems. We believe that the fundamental contribution which our professional groups can make in responding to violations of human rights is to provide forums in which concerned scientists and engineers have the opportunity to express their personal views and to work collectively to assist their colleagues in trouble.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is grateful to the ASA Ad Hoc Committee for presenting the opportunity to compile and transmit this report about science and human rights in Argentina for the participants in the ISI Conference. We trust that these concerns will receive serious attention by the conference participants and others.

William D. Carey  
Executive Officer  
American Association for  
the Advancement of Science



## Argentina in Brief

Area: 1,072,067 sq. miles  
(2,776,654 sq. kms.)

Population: 26,725,000  
(est. 1979)

The People: Race European  
Language Spanish  
Religion Predominantly Roman Catholic (90%)

Economy: GOP Total US \$48 billion (1977)

Principal exports: meats, grains, wool

Major trading partners: Western Europe and South  
American countries, U.S.S.R.,  
U.S.A., Japan

Inflation: 90% (1980)

Government: Argentines set up their own government in the name  
of the Spanish King in 1810. On 9 July 1816 independence  
was formally declared.

Argentina is a federal union of 22 provinces, one  
national territory, and the Federal District.  
Traditionally, under the Constitution of 1853 (re-  
stored by a Constituent National Convention in 1957  
and amended in 1972), the President and Vice-President  
were elected every four years by direct vote. The  
Congress consisted of two houses: a 69-member Senate  
and a 243-member Chamber of Deputies. Legislative  
representatives were elected by direct vote for four-  
year terms.

On 24 March 1976, a military junta assumed power, ap-  
pointed a military officer as President, and disposed  
of all democratic institutions. This marked the twelfth  
time that the Argentine government had changed hands in  
25 years. The National Congress, provincial legislatures  
and municipal councils were dissolved; the power of all  
civilian authorities and elected officials abrogated;  
all political activity declared illegal; members of the  
Supreme Court and lower courts removed; and trade union  
activity was prohibited. The military junta now rules  
by decree. In March 1981 another military officer was  
installed as President by the junta for a 3-year term.



## General Situation of Human Rights

Late in the evening of 24 March 1976, President Isabel de Péron left a government building on the Plaza de Mayo by helicopter to travel to her home on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. However, her pilot suddenly changed direction and touched down at the municipal airport, where the President was escorted from the helicopter and taken into custody by military personnel. Isabel Péron's twenty-one months as president had ended. That same evening the three General Commanders of the Armed Forces assumed "political power of the republic", dissolved the National Congress, replaced all members of the Supreme Court, appointed Army Chief General Jorge Rafael Videla as president, and suspended all political activity.

The administration of President Isabel de Péron, which began with the death of her husband President Juan Péron on 1 July 1974, was a period of serious political and economic instability. Conflicts between leftist guerrilla organizations such as the Montoneros and the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) and rightist terrorist groups such as the Argentine Anti-communist Alliance (AAA) had created an atmosphere of arbitrary violence and chaos. Bomb attacks, kidnappings and killings by both right-wing and left-wing groups were directed at military officers, journalists, politicians and educators. In November 1975 President Péron introduced a "state of siege", pursuant to Article 23 of the Constitution, which gave the Executive, as well as the military and police, the power to implement severe national security measures to eradicate subversion. Under this provision persons may be held at the disposal of the national executive power (Poder Ejecutivo Nacional = PEN) for an indefinite period of time without charge or trial. The state of siege remains in force today.

Shortly after the military coup of March 1976, the junta issued the "Act for the Process of National Reorganization", a stapled white booklet that contains the junta's basic guiding philosophy and objectives. Under the new national order the

military junta pledged, among other things, to establish "the validity of Christian moral values, national tradition and the dignity of the Argentine person; to ensure national security by eradicating subversion and the factors that abet it; . . . to establish harmonious relations among State, capital and labor; to establish an educational system suited to the country's needs, and an international place for Argentina in the Western and Christian world".

Guided by these objectives, the junta enacted a number of decree laws and communiqués suspending certain constitutional rights. Penalties were established for violation of these laws. For example, a few days after the coup, the junta issued Communique 19: Delito de Prensa (Crime of the Press) which decreed that "anyone who through any medium whatsoever defends, propagates or divulges news, communiques or views with the purpose of disrupting, prejudicing or lessening the prestige of the activities of the armed forces will be subject to detention for a period of up to 10 years". The military enacted similar laws which banned the activities of 48 organizations; established the death penalty; repealed legislation on behalf of professional associations; placed constraints on academic freedom and brought the educational system under direct state control. A section of Article 23 of the Constitution which entitles any citizen detained at the disposal of the executive national power (PEN) the right to opt for exile as an alternative to indefinite imprisonment in Argentina was declared null and void, and certain persons charged with "subversive activities" were placed under the jurisdiction of special military tribunals instead of the courts. Law 21.460 passed on 29 November 1976 loosely defines a "subversive" as anyone who wishes to achieve his ideological ends "by means other than those contained in the rules governing the country's political, economic and social life". As reported in Worldview (May 1979), at a press conference in December 1977 in Buenos Aires, President Videla explained to British journalists that "a terrorist is not just someone with a gun or a bomb, but also someone who spreads ideas that are contrary to Western and Christian civilization". 2

Since 1974 some 8,200 persons have been detained under special executive powers provided during a state of siege. In December 1980 the Argentine government acknowledged that approximately 900 persons remained under PEN detention and that the total number of political prisoners was 1,550. \* Persons held at the disposal of the executive power include prisoners who have never been charged (some detained for over 5 years without charge), those who have been tried but acquitted and others who have been convicted but whose sentences have expired.

Lawyers and human rights groups in Argentina have protested that the power of the executive to hold persons indefinitely is being applied unconstitutionally by the present government. They claim that by denying PEN detainees the right to opt for exile, thus remaining in detention without charge for possibly years, is in itself a punishment. Article 23 of the Constitution forbids the President to take punitive measures against such detainees. Despite a move by the government in 1978 to allow certain PEN detainees the right to opt for exile, the U. S. State Department has reported that their release has been restricted by an "extensive screening process for all applicants" who wish to leave the country.

Amnesty International, the London based international human rights organization, charges that the state of siege has been used "to justify extensive arbitrary detention of many non-violent opponents of the military government, such as trade unionists, officials of the ousted Peronist government, students, journalists and lawyers who had defended political prisoners". After a two-week mission to Argentina in September 1979, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS) recommended that the Argentine government "consider the possibility of lifting the

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\* Prison statistics are taken from "Argentina" in Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1980, U. S. State Department and Amnesty International Report 1980.

state of siege, in view of the fact (sic), according to repeated statements made by the Argentine government, the reasons for which it was imposed no longer exist". The IACHR also recommended that the Argentine government release all those detained at the disposal of the executive power, who have never been charged, or who have been acquitted, or who have completed their sentences. The commission urged the right of option to leave the country be completely restored, and that "the processing of applications not be delayed in any way that might hinder the actual exercise of this right". (See Appendix A) <sup>3</sup>

Argentine citizens and foreigners from all walks of life number among the estimated 10,000 to 15,000 persons (including some 80 children) who have "disappeared" after abduction by police and military personnel or paramilitary groups. In February 1981, a panel formed by the United Nations Human Rights Commission reported that of "involuntary disappearances" in 15 countries, Argentina alone accounted for more than half of the 13,000 cases involving persons who had been arrested, detained or abducted by personnel associated with government agencies that it had examined. It is feared that many of the disappeared are now dead, although many may still be held in 16 secret detention camps throughout the country. <sup>4</sup>

On 6 August 1980, the President of the American Bar Association, Leonard S. Janofsky, wrote to President Videla reiterating the Association's concern about the "arrest, detention without trial and disappearance of Argentine defense lawyers and judges" who had been persecuted for "carrying out their professional duties on behalf of individual clients under the rule of law". The ABA President said his Association gave its "full support to the efforts of the Colegio de Abogados de Argentina (the ABA equivalent), who in 1979 "called for an end to the disappearances of people and an accounting of those missing and those known to be under detention". In April 1979, five members of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York met in Buenos Aires with Minister of Justice Alberto Rodriguez Varela and presented him with lists of 99 lawyers under detention and 92 lawyers who had disappeared. To date, the New York lawyers have received no official written reply from the minister regarding

the situation of the lawyers and judges. In November 1980, a group of European and North American patent lawyers met with the justice minister to discuss the same issues. The minister assured the patent lawyers that he would send details about the cases in the near future. <sup>5</sup>

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Amnesty International have received numerous testimonies by former Argentine prisoners that document the systematic use of torture during interrogation and as a method to obtain confessions. In the Argentina section of the U. S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1980, submitted to Congress to assist members in considering foreign assistance legislation, the Department reports:

Former detainees have reported that torture, practiced during the first days of the interrogation, took the form of electric shock, immersion of the head in water, mock executions, severe beatings, and psychological abuse.

Reports from some people detained for national security during 1980 indicated that physical mistreatment continues to be used during the interrogation phase.

In his recent book, Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number, Jacobo Timerman, a highly respected Argentine publisher and editor, describes the tortures he and other detainees endured while in the custody of the security forces. He writes: "Of all the dramatic situations I witnessed in clandestine prisons, nothing can compare to those family groups who were tortured often together, sometimes separately but in view of one another . . . The entire affective world, constructed over the years with utmost difficulty, collapses with a kick in the father's genitals. . . or the sexual violation of a daughter." <sup>6</sup>

A group of Danish physicians, who have been studying the effects of torture and the treatment of victims for nearly a decade, examined 14 former Argentine prisoners in 1979 "to determine whether they had been tortured, what sequelae, if any, there were to the torture to which they had been subjected and whether there was any basis for treatment of such sequelae". The Danish medical study released a year later by Amnesty International is the most detailed examination of torture victims ever conducted. The physicians

concluded that the 14 had been tortured and that some of them were still suffering from "nightmares, emotional withdrawal, and psychiatric disturbances."

Argentine authorities have themselves admitted that "excesses" by the security forces have occurred, but that the nature of the conflict warranted the application of measures that violated human rights. Past President Videla has referred to the situation in Argentina as a "dirty war". On 8 May 1978, the New York Times reported that the Argentine Minister of the Interior, General Albano Harguindeguy, had acknowledged publicly that "the methods of the subversive guerrillas including the disregard for human life had penetrated some of our legal forces". In January 1980, General Santiago Omar Riveros, the Argentine representative to the Inter-American Defense Board stated: "... we made war with the doctrine (of national security) in our hands, on the written orders of our superiors, we never needed paramilitary organizations . . . in an unconventional war".

According to the OAS human rights commission, the Argentine authorities have begun to list "excesses or abuses in repression" in their replies to the Commission's inquiries concerning the whereabouts of disappeared persons. This has led the Commission to the "moral conviction" that, "in general, these authorities could not have been ignorant of the events as they were occurring and did not adopt the necessary measures to terminate them". The Commission has recommended to the Argentine government:

In order to prevent new cases of disappearance, (it) create a central register of detainees that will enable family members and other interested persons to learn rapidly of detentions that have taken place, to order that such detentions be carried out by properly identified agents, and to give instructions that detainees be transferred without delay to places specifically intended for such purposes.

As far back as 1978, President Videla gave assurances that his government would conduct an inquiry into allegations of "repressive excesses". Yet, to date no one has been arrested or tried for the ill-treatment or torture of prisoners or for the illegal abduction of persons. In 1979, the government enacted

Law 22068: On the Presumption of Death because of Disappearance which allows the courts to declare persons who have disappeared in recent years as absent with presumption of death, without any official explanation or accountability. The OAS human rights commission believes that this law fails to address the fundamental question of "whether these persons are still alive or have died. If they have died, it is necessary to know where, when and under what circumstances they lost their lives and where their remains are buried". In 1980 the Supreme Court ordered the courts to investigate any participation by government forces in disappearance cases. However, in the 1980 country report on human rights conditions in Argentina the U. S. State Department cautions: "It remains to be seen whether the lower courts will be effective in carrying out the Supreme Court's directive".

Last year an Argentine journalist named Manfred Schoenfeld published an article in one of Argentina's oldest newspapers, La Prensa, in which he singled out the military government's silence concerning the fate of the disappeared as the one issue hindering any possible "national reconciliation". Schoenfeld wrote that the Argentine people are "not prepared to accept the pure and simple liquidation, without any explanations or the possibility of an appeal, of several thousand people . . . The Government must take responsibility, not just for what has been done, but for saying what has been done".

Robert Cox, former editor of the English-language Buenos Aires Herald who fled Argentina in 1979 due to death threats, claims that "there is no evidence that public opinion has accepted, or ever will accept, the disappearances". Cox believes that "had the press reported the disappearances from the start, the lives of many innocent people would have been saved," and that many Argentine journalists have remained silent out of fear or because they feel that by suppressing news about the activities of the security forces they are serving "the national interest". Since 1976 the Herald has been critical of the methods used against opponents of the military government. Cox's successor, James Nielson, has received similar death threats for the newspaper's commentary on human rights violations.

After its annual meeting in 1980, the Argentine Publishers Association declared: "it is impossible to state that press freedom exists in Argentina". The Familiares de Desaparecidos Detenidos por Razones Políticas, a Buenos Aires-based human rights group, has documented the cases of some 80 journalists who have disappeared after abduction or arrest. The Association's subcommission on detained and disappeared journalists has received the sponsorship of a number of international journalists organizations, including the Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP) and the International Journalists Organization. 8

Since 1979 reports of gross violations of human rights and the number of disappearances have decreased substantially: Amnesty International reports some 80 disappearances for 1979-80. However, human rights groups in Argentina fear a resurgence of repression is possible as the military government has not taken steps to dismantle the infrastructure that allows human rights violations to take place. In March 1980, two trade union leaders from a rawhide processing plant and a textile factory were abducted by heavily armed civilians, and were feared to have disappeared until they eventually appeared in a police jail. They were later released without charge. Amnesty International has claimed that while in official custody the two labor leaders were tortured with electric shocks.

Human rights groups in Argentina have been harassed and their members arrested by the security forces. In December 1980, police arrested 27 demonstrators at a march supporting the Madres de Plaza de Mayo -- a group comprised of mothers and relatives of the disappeared. Until the government stopped the activities of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in 1978, they would assemble once a week in front of the Ministry of Interior in Buenos Aires' central plaza with the photographs of their missing children and relatives pinned to their clothing. On 13 March of this year, 60 mothers and relatives were detained and held for questioning for several hours before their release.

The arrest on 27 February 1981 of physicist José Westerkamp and several other leaders of the Argentine human rights movement by the Federal Police sparked international protests and drew sharp criticism from several Argentine political leaders who have had their proscription lifted in the past year. Within days after the arrests, a multi-party protest was sent to the authorities demanding the immediate release of the human rights advocates. Arrested with Westerkamp



were Emilio Férmin Mignone, lawyer and former undersecretary of education, Augusto Conte Mac Donell, lawyer and vice-president of the Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, Carmen Aguiar de Lapaco, physical education instructor and member of the Madres de Plaza de Mayo, Boris Pasik, lawyer, and former Buenos Aires councillor, Marcel Parilli, lawyer, as well as three others who were released the following day.

A week after the arrests, the six activists were released by a federal judge pending investigation into charges that they had in their possession plans and diagrams of military establishments. During questioning by the judge the defendants categorically denied possession of the diagrams shown in court. According to reports from Argentina in mid-May, all charges against the six activists have been dropped. Federal Judge Martin Anzoategui, who ordered the arrests, also had the police seize the files of other human rights organizations in July and August 1979 on the pretext that these groups had "abetted false testimony".

With the exception of Parilli and Westerkamp, all of those arrested have children who have disappeared since the military assumed power in March 1976. One of Westerkamp's sons, Gustavo, has been held without charge since 1975. The arrests of Westerkamp and the others are connected to their activities with the unofficial human rights group called the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales -- CELS (Center for Legal and Social Studies). Founded in 1979 by lawyers, scientists and other professionals, CELS provides legal and technical assistance to individuals and organizations affected by human rights violations, especially the families of political prisoners and the disappeared.

The February arrests brought international protests from several scientific groups. In Canada and the United States, telegrams were sent by the National Academy of Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Physical Society, Federation of American Scientists, and the Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars. Fourteen members of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology also expressed strong protests. In Brazil, the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science communicated its concern to the Argentine Foreign Minister. In an interview after his release Westerkamp told a New York Times reporter that he believed the public outcry by scientists around the world led to the release of himself and his colleagues.

Of the activists arrested, Westerkamp and Mignone are perhaps the best known outside Argentina. A respected physicist, Westerkamp worked in the 1960's at Columbia University with Charles Townes, who subsequently won the Nobel Prize for his research on lasers. In May 1980 Westerkamp was dismissed without explanation from his post as professor of physics and director of microwave and laser research at the University of Buenos Aires, where he had taught since the early 1960's. Last January Westerkamp attended the AAAS Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas, held in Toronto, Canada. At the close of the 4-day meetings, Westerkamp told reporters that "the human rights situation has improved in Argentina but I fear that abuses could occur again".

Emilio Mignone, a distinguished Argentine lawyer, has been active in the human rights movement since the disappearance of his daughter following her arrest by heavily-armed men in May 1976. According to family members, the men identified themselves as army personnel. In January 1981 Mignone filed two separate recursos de habeas corpus preventivo because of menacing actions by members of the federal police directed at him and his family. Prior to the police harassment and his arrest in late February, Mignone had testified before the Organization of American States in Washington on the human rights situation in his country. Following his visit to Washington, Mignone travelled to Geneva to present a list compiled by the CELS staff of over 6,000 disappearances attributed to military and police forces to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance. <sup>9</sup>

The international attention given to human rights groups in Argentina has been a source of embarrassment for the military junta. The awarding of the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize to human rights activist and former political prisoner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel was greeted with less than enthusiasm by the Argentine government. Pérez Esquivel was awarded the prize for his work with the Servicio Paz y Justicia, which aims to promote human, social and economic rights in Latin America through non-violent means. A sculptor, Pérez Esquivel left his post as a professor of architecture in 1974 to become the secretary general of the Service for Peace and Justice. Jacobo Timerman, who, like Pérez Esquivel, was imprisoned and tortured while in official custody, has stated: "This award to Pérez Esquivel means that the world is aware of what it means to fight for human rights in Argentina". <sup>10</sup>

Despite appeals from political leaders, the military junta has been unwilling to fix a date for a return to civilian rule. Instead, late last year the junta appointed former Army Chief General Roberto E. Viola to replace President Videla. General Viola assumed the 3-year term as president in March and, like Videla, will act upon the advice of the junta. The IACHR reported that during its visit to Argentina in 1979, General Viola stated that the military was creating a process to re-establish democracy. In December 1979, the junta issued a document outlining the steps for the introduction of political parties and institutions into the military's National Reorganization Process, without a timetable for its implementation. Many Argentine politicians claim that even if the military present a timetable for a return to democracy, it is certain that they will maintain a special institutional role and resist any attempts to submit the Armed Forces to presidential and congressional control. Viola has tried to open conversations with the two major political parties, the Peronists and the Radicals, but to date party leaders have responded by asking their members to reject participation in "the process". 11

In March of this year, General Viola travelled to Washington to meet with Congressional leaders and top-level Administration staff, including President Reagan. During a Senate coffee for members of the visiting delegation, Viola allegedly indicated that the Argentine government was prepared to clarify the situation of the disappeared. The Washington Star on 18 March reported that General Viola had said that "... his government would publish, as a good-will gesture toward human rights groups, a list of the 7,000 to 10,000 political detainees who have died or disappeared during the government's 'dirty war' against left-wing terrorism". However, following his meetings with members of Congress and the Reagan Administration, Viola met in an "off-the-record" session with members of the Argentine press. According to the Agence France Presse, Viola emphasized to the journalists that "his government was not going to publish a list of the so-called disappeared without being absolutely certain that they were actually dead". Viola is also reported in the Argentine daily, Clarín as having said that there will never be an investigation of the role of Armed Forces in these abductions and killings. He explained: "A victorious army is not investigated. . . . If the Reich's troops had won the last world war the (war crimes) tribunal would have been held not in Nuremberg but in Virginia". 12

## Impact of Human Rights Violations on Scientists

Some 60 Latin American and North American scientists at a conference held earlier this year in Toronto, Canada on the topic of science and human rights closed their 4-day meeting with a press statement condemning human rights violations affecting their colleagues and others in several Latin American countries. Violations ranged from harassment to disappearance, torture, detention without charge or trial, and often death. The participants claimed that the situation extends from widespread repression, such as has been carried out by the military governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Uruguay, to the isolated instances of detention and torture of physicians in Colombia, whose democratic government has not adopted a generally repressive policy. The participants were distressed at the conditions in areas of generalized violence, which characterize the current situation in El Salvador and Guatemala, where scientists and particularly medical personnel are being killed by military and paramilitary groups.

The scientists were also concerned about the regional decline of academic and scientific freedom in recent years; the deterioration in the quality and availability of scientific and general education at all levels, as well as a restricted research environment in certain countries; and that attacks on scientists, whether from the left or the right, imperil the long-range possibilities of national scientific and technological progress.

Participant James Street, North American economist and co-author of Technological Progress in Latin America: The Prospects for Overcoming Dependency, believes that repression directed at scientists by their governments together with military intervention in public universities and scientific institutes is "interfering seriously with the scientific and technological development" in several Latin American countries. Street outlines the process of military intervention as follows:

When a Latin American university is "intervened", it usually means that an official interventor is installed as rector with the specific task of establishing firm control over faculty and students. Deans of faculties are also replaced with military officers or others considered completely loyal to the regime.

Faculty and students are screened to eliminate agitators and textbooks are examined for political content. The interventor is particularly charged with making sure that student elections, which nearly always reflect national issues, do not embarrass the regime in power.

The reason why governments target scientists for repression is explored in a 1977 report by the Council for Science and Society of the British Institute of Human Rights:

Any effective modern government needs the participation of scientists in the shaping of policy for science and of policies based on science. Scientists as a group therefore possess a significant degree of latent political power. Since scientists are not so easily managed by administrators and politicians there is a 'fear of scientists' as an elite group.

Jose Goldemberg, physicist and president of the largest Brazilian federation of scientific societies -- Sociedade Brasileiro por o Progreso Cientifico (SBPC) -- believes that Latin American scientists often face persecution because as an "elite group" they have gained a high degree of visibility and may, by the nature of their work, come to represent popular struggles within the country:

It is the significance of the functions scientists perform that attracts attention to their activities the same way as a doctor in a small village becomes naturally a leader for many purposes. As such they receive honors and are also persecuted because they easily become representatives of the aspirations of many people and are bound to clash with the more repressive groups in society. 13

While the level of scientific development, the situation of human rights, and the extent to which universities and research centers are directly controlled by governments differ from one country to another in Latin America, there are two factors which appear to have restricted academic and scientific freedom in Argentina since 1976:

- a) Individual educators, scientists and students, as well as nearly every sector of Argentine society, have suffered gross violations of universally established human rights, including the right to life, liberty, and personal security.
- b) Violations of human rights by the security forces and paramilitary groups, as well as certain legal measures by the military junta which affect scientific freedom, have created a climate of fear in the universities. Educators and scientists are prohibited from teaching or carrying out research in certain fields eliminated from the university curriculum by government-appointed administrators. Furthermore, those who remain at their posts must practice self-censorship out of fear that any contravention of government norms will label them and their students "subversive", thereby subjecting them to dismissal or arrest.

It is impossible to determine the exact number of Argentine scientists who have been imprisoned or "disappeared" since the military takeover in March 1976. Although the government has issued occasional lists of arrests and releases since December 1979, often they contain contradictions and do not account for the disappeared. (In any event, they never list professions.) However, the impact of human rights violations on the Argentine scientific community may be assessed by examining individual case histories of violations and by examining reports by international and domestic human rights groups; interviewing scientists who are former political prisoners or dismissed from their teaching/research posts; and by documenting those legal measures that restrict the free pursuit of science. (See Appendix B)

The restructuring of the university system was implicit in the junta's national reorganization plan. Within weeks of the coup, the junta enacted Law 21.276 which provided that any faculty or student activities "taking the form of indoctrination, propaganda, or political or trade union agitation" or activities at variance with the basic objectives and purpose determined for the "process of national reorganization" were prohibited. The new law reaffirmed direct state control over the universities by maintaining the exclusion of administrative councils comprised of students, professors and alumni. To this day, the Ministry of Education designates all rectors, presidents, deans or directors, many of whom are active or retired military officers, and governs academic policy.

The ley de prescindibilidad (N. 21.274) -- law of dispensability -- issued by the junta when it assumed power, authorizes the executive power to dismiss immediately "any state employee for unspecified reason" and forbids those dismissed from holding any other government job for 5 years. This decree law circumscribes the universities as well as scientific research centers, hospitals, and psychiatric institutions. By September 1976, the Minister of Education, Ricardo Bruera, had eliminated by decree 95 career fields from the universities and secondary schools and had announced the dismissal of over 3,000 academics, administrators and teaching assistants. While the social sciences and humanities were particularly hard hit, some medical, psychology and mathematics faculties also suffered complete or partial curriculum cuts and personnel revisions.

In May 1976, an article by Horacio Encabo, an associate of the independent social science research center Instituto Torcuato di Tella (ITT), appeared in the Argentine newspaper, La Opinion, emphasizing the risks for the development of Argentine science guided by the national criterion: "quien no es occidental y cristiano es subversivo" (he who is not western and christian is subversive). Encabo was dismissed from his post five days later. Science magazine reported that in a letter sent in late 1976 to President Videla a group of Mexican scientists and intellectuals had protested the firing of nearly 100 research scientists supported by the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnologicas (CNICT), and more than 600 scientists from the National Research Institute for Agriculture and Cattle Breeding, the National Institute for Industrial Technology, the National Physics and Technology Institute at San Miguel and the National Energy Committee. 14

In a more recent case the Argentine government dismissed biochemist Dr. Nicolas Guillermo Bázan from his post at the National University of the South in March 1981. A week earlier he had been acclaimed for his research into epilepsy at the annual meeting of the American Society of Neurochemistry in Richmond, Virginia. In a resolution dated 20 December 1980 and not made public until mid-March, Argentine Minister of Education Dr. Juan Llerena Amadeo declared Bázan "dispensable" and ordered that he leave his post as chairman of the Department of Biology at the university. The Argentine newspaper Clarín reports that no explanation was given for his dismissal. Bázan was quoted in Voz del Interior (18 March 1981): "I have never been involved in political activities.... Furthermore, I consider my dismissal to be a dishonor to the National University of the South".

Bázan received his medical degree in 1965 and was awarded a doctorate of medicine from Harvard University in 1970. While studying in the United States, Bázan served as a research associate at the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard and also at the University of Toronto. According to Clarín, Bázan founded both the Department of Biology and the Institute of Biochemical Research at the National University of the South, located in the Bahía Blanca region south of Buenos Aires. Bázan is best known for his research into epilepsy. In March he received acclaim from American colleagues attending a meeting of the American Society of Neurochemistry for his research into membrane destruction found near the brain cells of epileptic rats. It is hopeful this research will provide clues as to the cause of epilepsy in humans.

The Clarín editorial criticized Bázan's dismissal by the government, stating that in 1976 Bázan had been chosen one of the 10 outstanding young persons in Argentina. On that occasion Bázan received personal congratulations from then President Jorge Videla. The editorial concluded: "It is well known that there are numerous Argentine scientists who are working outside of our country because of economic reasons and because they are unable to carry out credible professional work here -- among them are many who, like Bázan, have been declared 'dispensable'. Does the Minister of Education believe that his action against Bázan will encourage young people . . . to enroll in the university and pursue a career? Does the Minister believe that with this act he has projected a good image of the country to the international scientific community?"



Although dismissal from an academic or scientific research post has caused considerable hardship for scientists and their families, they have been relatively fortunate. The National Academy of Science's Committee on Human Rights and the AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights have documented an alarming number of cases of scientists, engineers, technicians, medical professionals, and science students who have been detained without charge or trial (often involving ill-treatment or torture), or have disappeared after arrest. Cases that have been brought to the attention of the Clearinghouse include:

A statistician whose whereabouts is unknown:

In early February 1977, CARLOS NORIEGA, an Argentine statistician, was detained in the presence of his wife and three small children while on vacation near Mar del Plata. To date, the Argentine authorities have not acknowledged his whereabouts.

During his career, Noriega has served for 3 years as Regional Adviser on National Accounts to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America in Santiago. He left that post to become the Director General of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos in Argentina.

It was in that capacity that Noriega served as a member of the host committee for a delegation from the American Statistical Association in May 1976. During that same year, the United Nations Statistical Office asked him to apply for a post as senior adviser in that office. He declined the offer, but did accept a short-term assignment as consultant to UNICEF and the UN during August and September 1976 on a project for the Statistical Institute of Peru. After completion of this assignment the UN Statistical Office had an understanding with him that he would be available for short-term assignments in connection with UN sponsored projects on statistical development, particularly in Peru, Central America and Mexico.

In a letter dated 10 January 1977 to an American colleague, Carlos Noriega wrote, "I believe next year I will follow up the assistance to Peru by UNICEF. At present, I am engaged in independent professional activities on my own, in connection with which I am considering the feasibility of doing some research work on the brain drain in Argentina". He then returned to Mexico for a brief period. Shortly after his arrival in Argentina he was abducted. 15

An economist whose whereabouts is unknown:

GRACIELA MELLIBOVSKY, an economist and translator, was abducted on 25 September 1976 on a street in Buenos Aires only eleven days after her 29th birthday. At the time of her abduction she held a post as an economist at the Secretaria de Agua y Energia de la Nacion. Mellibovsky holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Economics from the University of Buenos Aires. She has translated a number of papers by North American economists into Spanish. 16

An electronics technician whose whereabouts is unknown:

DAVID VARSAVSKY, 22, an electronics technician, was preparing to enroll in engineering school. According to a denunciation brought before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Varsavsky was detained at 1:30 p.m. on 16 February 1977 by four armed civilians and one person in uniform identifying themselves as the police. The men told Varsavsky's family that he was being taken in for "routine" questioning and that they should go to a nearby command post later that evening for further information. However, Varsavsky's mother said that neither this post, which was a military post, nor any of the others that she contacted, had any information about her son. 17

A biochemist whose whereabouts is unknown:

ADOLFO RUBEN MOLDAVSKY, 34, biochemist and director of a private clinical analysis laboratory in the province of Buenos Aires, was abducted from his home on 1 August 1977 by 14 armed, plainclothed men in four automobiles who identified themselves as belonging to Comisaria 17 (Police Station 17). This police post denies any involvement.

A released prisoner has stated that he saw Adolfo Moldavsky in prison in August 1977; since that date there has been no more news of his whereabouts. The reasons for his abduction are unknown. A writ of habeas corpus filed by his family was rejected by the authorities. In November 1977, the Moldavsky family met with the U. S. Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Patricia Derian during her visit to Buenos Aires.

Moldavsky holds a M.S. Degree in Biochemistry from the University of Buenos Aires and has written several research papers. He is a member of the Argentine Association of Biochemistry and Argentine Association of Microbiology. The University of Cincinnati Medical School has offered Moldavsky a research post and friends in the USA have guaranteed him financial support. He is married with a 3 year old daughter. 18

A physician whose case has been dismissed by the courts but who remains at the disposal of the executive power (PEN):

On 25 April 1978, NORBERTO IGNACIO LIWSKI, aged 34, a physician specializing in pediatrics, was reported in a denunciation brought before the IACHR to have been kidnapped at his home by a group of heavily armed persons. During the abduction he was shot and wounded in both legs. He was reportedly taken away by his abductors and "tortured with electricity throughout his body, especially on the genitals; he was whipped for days, and burned with a branding iron also placed on his genitals". He later "appeared" with eight other persons in a Buenos Aires police station, where he was held "in a cell measuring 2 x 2 meters without sanitary facilities, and without sunlight for two months".

In August 1978, the Executive ordered that he be detained. He was subsequently transferred to Villa Devoto prison and placed under the jurisdiction of the military. According to the IACHR, after examining Liwski's case a military tribunal determined it had no jurisdiction over it as there were no crimes of terrorism or subversion involved, and he was placed under the jurisdiction of the civil courts. On 20 July 1979, federal Judge Martin Anzoategui dismissed the case and ordered that Liwski be released.

Liwski, who is still detained at the disposal of the executive power in Unit 9 of La Plata prison, has recently written a paper while in prison on "The Child and the City" which was presented at a pediatrics congress sponsored by the Childrens Hospital of Buenos Aires. 19

A physicist released after 7 months detention and tortured while in custody:

In May 1977, MAXIMO PEDRO VICTORIA, a physical metallurgist, testified before the IACHR concerning his detention without charge and torture from April to October 1976.

On 1 April 1976, Maximo Victoria was detained at the personnel office of the Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica - CNEA (Argentine Atomic Energy Commission) after reporting there to resume a research post he had left in 1973 on leave of absence from the Commission. Victoria had been with the CNEA since 1963. In August 1973 he left the Commission on leave of absence to direct the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial - INTI. Shortly after the military coup of 24 March 1976, he was dismissed from his post at the INTI and subsequently returned to the CNEA to see if he could take up his old post. He reported to the personnel office and was told by the personnel manager, a Navy officer, that he was under arrest. No explanation was given for his arrest.

Victoria stated:

I was taken back to the entrance hall of the CNEA at gunpoint and was then placed in a police car. About three blocks from the CNEA building the car went up a side road. I was then gagged, blindfolded and a hood was put over my head. Still at gunpoint, I was told to lie on the floor of the police car and driven to what I suppose was the port of Buenos Aires, and taken to a cabin in a Navy boat. I stayed there, completely isolated, for fourteen days. The whole procedure was very violent, and I was constantly beaten with fists and guns.

In the boat I was constantly harassed by my guards, who frequently pounded on the cabin door and shouted that I was next in line to be shot or thrown into the sea. I never saw the faces of my guards as I had to face a wall each time the door was opened or they put a hood over my head when I had to go out of the cabin to use the toilet.

While detained on the boat, Victoria was chained to a bed post and frequently interrogated about his political and religious beliefs. He heard the names of nine other scientists from the CNEA being mentioned by the guards and realized they were also on the boat. During this period he was given no food or water. Eventually, Victoria and the other scientists were transferred to Villa Devoto Prison and detained at the disposal of the executive power. At one point he was held for 45 days "without communication with the outside world" in an isolation cell 1 by 2 meters in size. "All visits, even from lawyers, were prohibited. No mail came in or went out."

On 6 September 1976, Victoria and 50 other prisoners were transferred by plane to Sierra Chica prison. During the transfer Victoria reported that they were beaten with sticks and guns and were forced to sit with their heads between their knees:

About ten guards from the Federal Prison System continued to beat us, walk over our backs, and made us shout "long live the military!", "long live General Vilas!", etc. After about 45 minutes, we arrived at an airport near Sierra Chica. Once inside the prison, we were stripped naked for a "medical check up" and forced through a double file of guards who beat us with sticks. The beating continued while we tried to pick up our personal belongings. One at a time, we were forced to run naked from the main building to the cell pavilion, a distance of about one hundred meters. The floor was covered with small sharp stones. It was probably there that I broke two toes on my right foot . . . also, my front teeth were beaten out and my back was covered with sores. No medical attention was provided. Two days afterwards we were asked to sign a paper saying that the wounds had been self-inflicted or we would not be allowed visitors.

While detained in Sierra Chica Prison, Victoria noticed two fellow prisoners who were psychologically disturbed as a result of torture. "Another one had lost the use of one arm because of electrical shocks." On 11 October 1976, Victoria was released from detention and was told to leave the country as "the security of my family and my own life were in danger". He and his family left Argentina on the day of his release and now live in Belgium.

On 30 June 1976, La Nación reported that military personnel in the universities had been given the authority "to control and prevent all ideologically subversive activities that in any way deviate the country from a Christian and democratic way of life. These activities will be reported to the military and police authorities competent in the matter". The expanded powers given to the military broadened the junta's so-called war against subversion to include ideological enemies. Consequently, individual scientists and even certain scientific disciplines -- notably in the social and health sciences -- were singled out for repression.

During July and August 1976 the police and military in the Bahia Blanca region south of Buenos Aires carried out a purge of professors and students at the Universidad Nacional del Sur. Led by the local Army Commander General Acde Vilas, the military and police arrested a former rector of the university, Victor Benamo, and 16 economics professors. Among those arrested was Horacio Ciafardini, author of several books on Argentine economics. In addition, arrest warrants were issued for some 30 academics and students, including Dr. Gustavo Malek, a former Minister of Education, who had been appointed director of the regional office of science and technology of UNESCO for the Latin American and Caribbean region. The arrests and reports of ill-treatment brought strong international protests.

At a dramatic press conference held on 5 August 1976 and covered by the major Argentine newspapers, General Vilas claimed that the military and police had uncovered an "international conspiracy" of "ideological and socio-cultural infiltration" in the university aiming to indoctrinate students in "Marxist ideology" and using it as

a base to spread its teachings. Photographs of the press conference showed a table covered with "subversive material" confiscated during the arrests. Among the books were such works as The Open Veins of Latin America by Eduardo Galeano, Fundamental Concepts of Historical Materialism by Marta Harnecker, short stories by the internationally famous exiled Argentine writer Julio Cortazar and a history book on Chinese literature. By June 1977 six of those arrested remained in preventive detention.

General Vilas was reported to have told the press: "Until we can cleanse the teaching area, and professors are all of Christian thought and ideology we will not achieve the triumph we seek in our struggle against the revolutionary left". According to La Nación, evidence of the existence of a plot included charges by the General that during the 1960's these economists had studied economics at the University of Buenos Aires together with students who had "socialist tendencies" because "they were given the opportunity of studying economics from a political historical point of view". Furthermore, many of them had also studied in foreign universities, such as the National University of Mexico, the University of Colorado(USA) and the University of Grenoble (France), thereby receiving further "ideological indoctrination". Upon returning to Argentina, the professors had taken up teaching posts in universities around the country, and established the National University of the South as their base, where they introduced a curriculum for the Bachelors of Economics (licenciatura) with Marxist ideological content. 21

In the months following the March 1976 coup, the military and police searched the homes and offices of university professors and students. On 3 April 1976, the local commander in Cordoba burned books confiscated during raids: the event was shown on television. In Mendoza, the military rector of the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Air Force Colonel Hector Ruiz, held a press conference at which he displayed some 10,000 "subversive books" seized during raids on the homes of professors and students. According to a report published by the Buenos Aires based Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) in November 1980, the Secretary of Communications has prohibited the postal circulation of over a hundred books and periodicals, many of a scientific nature, by invoking Law: 20.216. According to the CELS report, "although this prohibition only excludes postal distribution, in practice it warns distributors and book shops not to sell them, and that they should not be used in schools and universities".

One of the first books to be banned by the authorities was a children's book about the horrors of nuclear war entitled La Anti-Bomba. The authorities have also stopped the distribution of numerous student science magazines, such as the biological journal "Double Helice" and the Math/Physics journal "Interaccion". The student center Library of Exact Sciences at the Universidad de Buenos Aires has been closed. CELS reports that the amount of books published in Argentina during 1979 was 45% less than the number published in 1976. 22

In 1977 the Task Force on Latin American Health Workers of the American Public Health Association (APHA) brought two Argentine health workers, José Carlos Escudero and Sylvia Berman, to Washington, D. C., to report on human rights violations affecting members of their profession. Escudero is an exiled former chief of vital statistics and deputy director of the Department of Social Medicine at the University of Buenos Aires, and Berman is a psychiatrist and former co-director of psychopathological research at the Policlinic Finochietto who fled the country after the disappearance of her eldest daughter. In a paper presented to the APHA task force, Berman and Escudero testified to the persecution of health workers and the closing down of numerous mental health facilities since the coup. The military junta has forbidden the use of Freudian techniques in the psychiatric services of state hospitals. They reported that in May 1976 more than 100 soldiers occupied the Santa Maria Psychiatric Hospital in Cordoba (which housed 3,000 patients) and allegedly maltreated some of the staff and patients. During the occupation all patients were evacuated and one psychiatrist, Carlos Sassatelli, and two psychologists were jailed.

Sylvia Berman's brother, Claudio Berman, also a psychiatrist and director of a small psychiatric clinic in Cordoba, was arrested on 27 April 1976 and held without charge until his release in September 1978. According to Nature magazine, Berman was released into the custody of an Israeli representative only when he was actually aboard the aircraft bound for Israel. Psychologist Beatriz Perozio, former President of the Association of Psychologists of Buenos Aires, was less fortunate. During a number of arrests of mental health professionals in August 1978, Perozio was abducted by armed civilians (one of whom identified himself as an agent of the Federal Security Police) at her place of work and has since "disappeared".



In the province of Rio Negro a special health program had been set up in 1973. Over 100 full-time medical posts were created in the health system of the province. However, after the coup, the military government cancelled the program.

In 1977 Amnesty International reported that 7 department heads and 100 volunteers at the Borda Hospital in Buenos Aires were dismissed. In Cordoba, where numerous mental health professionals were reported to have been arrested and in some cases abducted by paramilitary groups, the Secretary-General of the University of Cordoba declared that the arrests and dismissals of certain faculty members were intended to curb the spread of subversive ideas that had found expression in the curriculum. According to Berman and Escudero, 90% of the staff of the Department of Psychology has been dismissed and the remaining professors have been placed under the supervision of the Faculty of Medicine. The Department of Sociology at the university was made dependent on the Faculty of Law and its post-graduate course was cancelled. Herbert C. Kelman, a former President of the Inter-American Society of Psychology, has written to the Argentine Ambassador to the United States to express his concern about reports of human rights violations against psychologists and psychiatrists in Argentina. To date, he has received no substantive reply from the embassy.

Berman and Escudero believe psychologists, psychoanalysts, social workers, and nurses have been singled out for persecution in Argentina "because their professions attempt to explain the workings of the mind by theories and procedures that some members of the Armed Forces consider dangerous . . . or for doing professional work among population groups -- workers, slum dwellers, poor peasants, the 'marginal' population -- that the junta consider its enemies". 23

Jose Westerkamp, Vice President of the recently formed Permanent Commission in Defense of Education, has described the university atmosphere as follows:

In a word: the universities only carry their name. Fear is the only thing that predominates and makes the professors and teaching staff docile. The reprisals taken against certain faculties have completed their mission: to sow fear among those professors who remain, even if they can still think freely, and to strengthen the authoritarian aspect among those professors who are authoritarian by nature.

According to Westerkamp, the current environment in the universities is not disposed to open discussion on contemporary social issues, especially topics considered "dangerous", such as political prisoners or the disappeared. This has been particularly true in the social sciences, where the few remaining social scientists have had to practice "self-censorship", either for personal or institutional preservation. 24

Over the past 5 years, a handful of independent social science research centers, which deal with such issues as demography and economics, have managed to provide meaningful employment for a few social scientists who may otherwise have been forced into non-scientific work or to leave the country. However, the centers lack the resources to expand their staff and must devote considerable time trying to obtain funding from international agencies. Often, these centers have been unable to undertake large national surveys because of the costs involved and because it is necessary to receive the permission of the government. A hostile environment for critical social research has forced the centers to restrict their research methods, refrain from making explicit policy recommendations, and to limit their findings to descriptive and analytical data. Founded in 1967, the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), a private institution coordinating numerous social science research centers in Latin America, has offered moral and financial support to the independent centers in Argentina by bringing them into the community of social science research. 25

In 1979, AAAS passed a resolution calling on scientists and scientific organizations to join it in expressing concern about the lack of human rights in Argentina. Later that year, the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility joined with the

Human Rights Committee of the National Academy of Sciences in a statement calling upon the Argentine government to account for scientists, engineers and students who have disappeared or been subjected to torture, inhumane conditions, or the suspension of legal rights. The statement said: "Argentina cannot have a respected place in the world of international science until the respect for human rights of all citizens permits honest inquiry and freedom of discussion without fear for personal safety. . . . The systematic repression of scientists -- or systematic denial of fundamental human rights -- in any society ultimately threatens scientists and scientific freedom everywhere".

Individual scientists and scientific societies in a number of countries have been active defending the human rights of their foreign colleagues. Activities have ranged from appeals to the Argentine authorities on behalf of individual scientists to assisting scientists who have left the country to find meaningful employment. Universities and research centers in Mexico and Venezuela have been particularly forthcoming in taking Argentine scientists onto their staff. Similar efforts have been made by individual scientists in Spain, Belgium, Italy, France, Sweden, Great Britain, the United States and Canada.

The Asociación Interciencia, a network of science organizations from the Americas founded in 1975, aims to unite the scientific communities of the region in an effort "to aid development of the nations and the welfare of their people". The Association's journal, Interciencia, encourages open discussion on "all problems related to science and technology" in the hemisphere and has published articles on issues affecting scientific freedom. 26

In Europe and the United States a growing number of scientific societies are taking a more active role in defense of basic human rights and scientific freedom. While most of these groups have limited their activities to letter writing campaigns on behalf of foreign colleagues in trouble and seminars on science and human rights issues at their annual meetings, a number of groups have been exploring new initiatives, such as embassy visits and in loco missions to countries where the impact of human rights violations on the scientific community has been particularly severe. For example, in March 1978 two members of the National Academy of Science's Committee on Human Rights went to Argentina and Uruguay to meet

with scientists, government officials, and families of scientists who were in prison or who had disappeared. In the same year, the AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights assisted participants at the 12th International Cancer Congress meeting held in Buenos Aires in their efforts to express human rights concerns to the Argentine authorities. 27

With the objective of ameliorating the condition of human rights in Argentina and other Latin American countries, participants at the AAAS Conference on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas held in Toronto in January 1981 recommended greater cooperative efforts by scientists and scientific societies in Latin America and North America in responding quickly to violations of the human rights of scientists; the establishment of a Latin American regional center to monitor and support scientific and academic freedom; the monitoring by scientific groups of the granting of loans by international lending institutions to educational and scientific institutions to ensure conditions of academic freedom; and the recognition by public and private funding institutions of the need to support research on the underlying causes of repression and violations of human rights.

The participants affirmed that the advancement of science is fundamentally linked to the advancement of human rights. Scientists therefore have a responsibility not only to promote scientific freedom but also to promote the basic rights guaranteed to all people under international law. Furthermore, scientists have a duty to refuse to participate in actions which violate the human rights of others. (Appendix D)

## Notes

1. "Argentina", Information Almanac, Atlas, and Yearbook 1980, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1980), pp. 140-141; "Argentina" in Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1980, a report submitted to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, U. S. House of Representatives and Committee of Foreign Relations, U. S. Senate, by the Department of State (Washington, O. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1981), pp. 329-339; Argentine Economic Development: 1976-1979, (Buenos Aires: Ministry of Economics, 1980).
2. Cynthia Gorney, "Argentina Considers Releasing Isabel Peron", The Washington Post (28 January 1981), p. 12; Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Report on Situation of Human Rights in Argentina, (Washington, O. C.: General Secretariat, Organization of American States, April 1980), pp. 13 - 24; Rosemary A. Chalk and Thomas Johnston, "Background Paper on the Persecution of Argentinian Scientists", Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, American Association for the Advancement of Science. (12 October 1977); Marketa Freund, "The Law and Human Rights in Argentina", Worldview (May 1979), pp. 37 - 41.
3. Prison statistics are taken from "Argentina" in Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1980, U. S. State Department, p. 332; see also "Argentina", Amnesty International Report 1980, (London: Amnesty International Publications, 1980), pp. 103-111, Amnesty International sent a mission to Argentina in 1976; IACHR, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Argentina, p. 268.
4. Estimates of the number of "disappeared" vary: Amnesty International places the figure at 15,000 and in 1980 issued a computer list of more than 3,600 documented cases. The Association of Families of those Disappeared or Detained for Political Reasons, based in Buenos Aires, have issued similar documented lists. Two political prisoners who escaped from an Argentine prison camp in 1979 testified to their detention in five different secret military camps, see "The Disappeared in Argentina 1976 - 1980", Index on Censorship (March 1980), pp. 41 - 42; For further details about the findings of the U. N. panel on disappearances see Washington Post (6 February 1981).

5. "Human Rights of Judges and Lawyers", Congressional Record, U. S. Senate, (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, December 1980), pp. S16642. Attorneys wishing to participate in human rights activities on behalf of their foreign colleagues should contact: Mike Posner, Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights, 236 East 46th Street, New York, New York, 10017.
6. Jacobo Timerman, Prisoner Without A Name, Cell Without A Number, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf), 164 pp. Also see Anthony Lewis, "The Final Solution in Argentina", New York Times Book Review (10 May 1981); Jacobo Timerman, "Reflections (Argentina)", the New Yorker (20 April 1981).
7. Amnesty International Danish Medical Group, Results of Examinations of 14 Argentinian Torture Victims, (A.I. Danish Section: AMR 13/09/80); "Argentina" in Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1980, U. S. State Department, pp. 331, 333.
8. "The Disappeared in Argentina" and Robert Cox, "At Least 10,000", Index on Censorship (March 1980), pp. 42-52. Founded in 1972, Index on Censorship reports through its journal on conditions governing freedom of expression and opinion throughout the world. In addition, occasional "Briefing Papers" on persecuted writers, scholars, academics, publishers and journalists are available from the journal. Write: Index on Censorship, 21 Russell Street, London WC2R 5HP, Great Britain.
9. The arrests of José Westerkamp and several other Argentine human rights advocates received extensive international news coverage. See Terri Shaw, "Argentine Police Raid Human Rights Office, Seize Leading Activists", Washington Post (1 March 1981); Juan de Onís, "Argentina Arrests Key Rights Activists", New York Times (1 March 1981); Colin Norman, "U.S. Scientists Protest Argentina Arrests", Science (20 March 1981); Editorial: "Words Count", New York Times (13 March 1981); Editorial: "The Hunted in Argentina", New York Times (5 March 1981); "6 Argentine Rights Activists Are Ordered Freed by Judge", New York Times (7 March 1981). Also see: Editorial: "An Argentine Sakharov", Buenos Aires Herald (5 March 1981).

10. See Amnesty International Reports 1979/1980. After the announcement in October 1980 that Pérez Esquivel had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the press reported virtual silence from the Argentine authorities. See "Peace Prize: 'Why Him?', Newsweek (27 October 1980); The AAAS Clearinghouse has received a copy of Mignone's recurso de habeas corpus preventivo. Harassment of human rights groups in Argentina has been documented in the IACHR report. Human Rights Internet, an international communication network and clearinghouse on human rights, publishes a newsletter on the activities of human rights groups throughout the world. Directories are available from the Internet on current groups concerned with human rights and social justice: Human Rights Directory: Latin America, Africa, Asia and North America and North American Human Rights Directory. Write: Human Rights Internet, 1502 Ogden Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20010.
11. Arrigo Levi, "Argentines Debate How They Can Live With Each Other", The Times (London, 30 June 1980); IACHR, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Argentina, pp. 248-250; also see Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Informe Sobre la Situación de los Derechos Humanos en Argentina: Octubre de 1979 - Octubre de 1980, (Buenos Aires: November, 1980), pp. 19-22. Their report is available by writing to: Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Sarmiento 1562, Piso 5/C, Buenos Aires 1042, Argentina.
12. See "Statement of Orville H. Schell, Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights on Human Rights in Argentina" before the Subcommittees on Human Rights and International Organizations and Inter-American Affairs, Committee on Foreign Affairs, United States House of Representatives (1 April 1981). Also see "Luces y sombras de una realidad", Clarín (22 March 1981), p. 11.
13. Eric Stover, "New Responses to Attacks on Human Rights of Scientists in Latin America Called For", Science (6 March 1981) pp. 1034-1035; James Street, "Political Intervention and Science in Latin America", The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (February 1981), p. 14; Council for Science and Society in collaboration with the British Institute for Human Rights, Scholarly Freedom and Human Rights, (London: Barry Rose Ltd., 1977), p. 13. I would strongly recommend that scientists interested in science and human rights issues read the Council's report, write: The Council for Science and Society, 3/4 St. Andrew's Hill, London EC4 5BY, Great Britain. Also see Joel Primack, "Human Rights in the Southern Cone", Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (February 1981), pp. 24-29. Jose Goldemberg, "Scientists and Human Rights in Latin America", paper presented at AAAS Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas, Toronto 2-5 January 1981, p. 8.

14. A concise analysis of international human rights law is made by Thomas Buergenthal and Judith V. Torney, International Human Rights and International Education, (Washington, D.C.: U. S. National Commission for UNESCO, 1976); Amnesty International, "Report on Repression Against Intellectuals in Argentina" (29 July 1976), p. 2; IACHR, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Argentina, pp. 126-128.
15. The AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights refers cases of persecuted foreign scientists to affiliated scientific societies. Information on Carlos Noriega is based on reports from the United Nations Statistical Office, New York and the American Statistical Association.
16. The case of Graciela Mellibovsky was referred to the AAAS Clearinghouse by relatives.
17. The case of David Varsavsky is documented in the IACHR Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Argentina, pp. 71-72. For further information about the persecution of engineers in Argentina, Iraq and the Soviet Union see the May, 1981 issue of Civil Engineering magazine.
18. Details on the situation of Adolfo Ruben Moldavsky were provided by an American colleague who was in Argentina at the time of Moldavsky's abduction.
19. The case of Norberto Ignacio Liwski is documented in the IACHR report, pp. 157-159.
20. In May 1977, the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility brought Maximo Pedro Victoria to Washington, D.C. to testify before the IACHR. Other testimonies in the IACHR report on the torture of scientists include the Tarnopolsky Family (Case 2274) and Alberto Samuel Falicoff (Case 2662), pp. 72-86.



21. "La Penetración Marxista en las Casa de Estudios", La Nación, (Argentina, 5 August 1976) pp. 1,3,8; "General Lanusse Esta Internado Desde Ayer en Una Unidad de Campo de Mayo", El Pais, (Uruguay, August 1976); "Confirman la Prison a Detenidos en Bahia Blanca", La Nacion, (Argentina, 24 June 1977) p. 12; "Infiltracion en la UNS: Revelaciones", La Nacion, (Argentina, 23 June 1977), pp. 1,8.
22. Nick Caster, "Cleansing the Teaching Area", Index on Censorship, (London, May/June 1978), pp. 18-24; Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Informe Sobre la Siutacion de los Derechos Humanos en Argentina: Octubre de 1979 - Octubre de 1980, (Buenos Aires, November 1980), pp. 42-26.
23. 8. S. Herrington, "Dissent in Argentina", Psychiatric News, (Washington, D. C., 16 December 1977), pp. 3, 28; Amnesty International, "Argentina: Report on the Medical Profession" (May, 1978), p. 1-4; Nicolas Wade, "Repression in Argentina: Scientists Caught Up in Tide of Terror", Science (24 December 1976), pp. 1397-1399; Letter to Ambassador Jorge Espil from Herbert C. Kelman. Dated 3D September 1977. (Unpublished)
24. José Westerkamp, "La Situacion Universitaria", El Socialista Argentino, (November 1980).
25. Information provided by North American social scientists working with colleagues in Latin America.
26. Membership of the Interciencia Asociacion consists of the Sociedade Brasileira para o Progreso da Ciencia (SBPC), Asociacion Colombiana para el Avance de la Ciencia (ACAC), Association of the Scientific, Engineering and Technological Community of Canada (SCITEC), American Association for the Advancement of Science, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia de Mexico (CONACYT), Asociacion Venezolana para el Avance de la Ciencia (AsoVAC), Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnologicas de Costa Rica (CONICIT), Costa Rica, y the Jamaican Society of Scientists and Technologists, Jamaica. For more information about the association contact the scientific groups mentioned above or write: Interciencia, Apartado S1842, Caracas 1050 A, Venezuela.

27. Scientific groups active in the area of human rights in North America include Human Rights Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Committee of Concerned Scientists, Federation of American Scientists, Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars as well as a number of scientific societies. Groups in Europe include the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the British Physical Society, Swedish Committee of Concerned Scientists, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Human Rights Committee of the French Academy of Science. The International Council of Scientific Unions has two committees active in defense of the human rights of scientists, Committee on the Safeguard of the Pursuit of Science and the Committee for the Free Circulation of Scientists. No doubt, I have left out a number of groups.

## Appendices

- Appendix A: Conclusions and Recommendations to the Government of Argentina by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States
- Appendix B: List of Argentine Scientists, Engineers, Medical Professionals, and Science Students Who Have Disappeared Since 1976
- Appendix C: Bibliography
- Appendix D: "New Responses to Attacks on Human Rights of Scientists in Latin America Called for", Science (6 March 1981)
- Appendix E: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

## Appendix A

### Conclusions and Recommendations to the Government of Argentina By the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

At the invitation of the Argentine government, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States conducted an on-site investigation of human rights practices in Argentina from the 6-20 September 1979. The Commission interviewed provincial and federal government officials, prison directors, religious and trade union leaders, and representatives of professional and human rights groups. During the visit the IACHR set up stations at various locations around the country to listen to complaints of human rights violations from citizens. In April 1980, the IACHR issued its findings in a Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Argentina. Included in the 294-page report were recommendations to the Argentine government on measures for improving the situation of human rights in that country.

The Argentine government charged in a document sent to the OAS in late-1980 that the IACHR report was neither impartial nor objective. The authorities claim that while the report covers a period when terrorism was prevalent, the problem of terrorism is ignored. The government's response also addresses such issues as torture, the disappeared, and the denial of habeas corpus, but contends that these topics are not real problems and that the IACHR findings are biased or exaggerated.

During the November 1980 sessions of the OAS General Assembly held in Washington, D. C. several delegates urged the adoption of a resolution condemning the human rights situation in Argentina on the basis of the IACHR report. After a lengthy debate, a compromise resolution was eventually passed which did not mention Argentina by name but urged the "governments of the member states that have not yet done so to adopt and put into practice the necessary measures to preserve and safeguard the full exercise of human rights..".

## REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA

By the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### A. Conclusions

1. In light of the background information and the considerations set forth in the present report, the Commission has reached the conclusion that, due to the actions or the failure to act on the part of the governmental authorities and their agents, numerous serious violations of fundamental human rights, as recognized in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, were committed in the Republic of Argentina during the period covered by this report--1975 to 1979. In particular, the Commission considers that these violations have affected:

a) the right to life, by virtue of the fact that persons belonging to or connected with government security agencies have killed numerous men and women subsequent to their being placed in detention; the Commission is particularly concerned about the circumstances relating to the thousands of detainees who have disappeared and who, for the reasons set forth in the report, based on the evidence, may be presumed dead;

b) the right to personal freedom, in that numerous persons have been detained and placed at the disposal of the executive (PEN), in an indiscriminate manner and without reasonable cause; who have continued to be held in detention sine die, which in effect is tantamount to their serving an actual sentence; this situation has been aggravated by the severe restrictions and limitations placed on the right of option (to leave the country) provided for in Article 23 of the Constitution, thus undermining the true purpose of this right. Similarly, the prolonged residence in embassies of persons seeking asylum constitutes an infringement on their personal liberty which again is tantamount to their serving an actual sentence;

c) the right to personal integrity and security, by means of the systematic use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, the practice of which has taken on alarming characteristics;

d) the right to a fair trial and due process, by virtue of the limitations the Judiciary is encountering in exercising its functions; the lack of proper guarantees in trials before military courts, and the inefficacy that has been demonstrated, in practice and in general, with respect to writs of Habeas Corpus in Argentina, all of which is aggravated by the serious difficulties encountered by defense counsels in their work on behalf of persons in detention, for reasons of security or public order (l'ordre publique), some of whom have died, disappeared or are presently in prison for having taken on defense work of this kind.

2. With regard to other rights established in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the Commission notes that while the failure to observe them does not assume the same gravity of the previous cases, the limitations to which they are subject also affect the total protection of human rights in Argentina. The Commission makes the following observations with respect to these rights:

a) that the complete exercise of the freedom of opinion, expression and information has been limited, in different ways, by the enactment of emergency laws that have contributed to creating a climate of uncertainty and fear among those responsible for the communications media;

b) that labor rights have been affected by the norms which have been decreed in this area and by their application, which has had a particular impact on the right of trade union association, due to military interference, and the promulgation of laws which injure the rights of the working class;

c) that political rights are suspended;

d) that, in general, there are no limitations on the freedom of religion and worship; however, the Commission was able to confirm that serious restrictions are placed on Jehovah's Witnesses in the practice of their religion, and that, while there is no official policy of antisemitism, in practice, and in certain cases, there has been discrimination against some Jews.

3. Also, the Commission considers that human rights defense agencies have encountered, and continue to encounter, unjustified obstacles in carrying out their work.

4. The Commission observes that subsequent to its visit to Argentina, in September 1979, violations of the right to life, liberty, personal integrity and security, and of the right to a fair trial and due process have decreased, and that particularly since October 1979, no denunciations have been submitted with respect to further disappearances to persons.

#### B. Recommendations

By virtue of the conclusions set forth above, the Commission feels that the following recommendations to the Government of Argentina are warranted:

1. With regard to the deaths that have been attributed to the Governmental authorities and their agents, to initiate the corresponding investigations, to bring to trial and to punish, with the full force of the law, those responsible for these deaths.

2. As regards the "disappeared", to implement the preliminary recommendations, made by the Commission to the Argentina Government on September 20, 1979 <sup>1/</sup> and, to inform the Commission in detail with respect to the situation of these persons.

3. In order to prevent new cases of disappearance, to create a central register of detainees that will enable their family members and other interested persons rapidly to learn of detentions that have taken place, to order that such detentions be carried out by properly identified agents, and to give instructions that the detainees be transferred without delay to places specifically intended for such purposes.

4. To consider the possibility of lifting the state of siege, in view of the fact that, according to repeated statements made by the Argentine Government, the reasons for which it was imposed no longer exist.

5. As regards detainees at the disposal of the Executive (PEN) and the right of option to leave the country, that the following measures be adopted:

a) That the power granted to the Head of State pursuant to Article 23 of the Constitution, which authorizes the detention of persons during a state of siege, be made subject to a test of reasonable cause, and that such detentions not be extended indefinitely;

b) That the following persons, detained at the disposal of the Executive (PEN), be released:

- i. Persons who have been detained without reasonable cause or for a prolonged period of time;
- ii. Persons who have been acquitted or who have already completed their sentences;
- iii. Persons who are eligible for parole.

c) That the exercise of the right of option to leave the country be completely restored, so that the processing of applications not be delayed in any way that might hinder the actual exercise of this right.

6. To conduct an in-depth investigation of the denunciations concerning the use of torture and other unlawful forms of coercion, and to punish with the full force of the law those responsible for such acts.

7. To instruct all the officials and agents responsible for the maintenance of public order, the security of the state, and the custody of detainees, with respect to the rights of detainees, particularly as regards the prohibition of all cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and to inform them of the sanctions to which they become liable in the event that they violate these rights.



8. To provide humanitarian treatment to those detained for reasons of security or public order, which treatment should in no case be inferior to that given to common prisoners, bearing in mind in both cases the internationally accepted Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

9. To take the following steps with regard to due process guarantees and legal defense:

a) To assure legal due process guarantees to persons who are brought to trial before military courts, especially the right to a defense by an attorney of the defendant's choosing.

b) To appoint a Commission of qualified jurists to study the trials conducted by military tribunals during the state of siege, and to make pertinent recommendations in those cases due process guarantees were lacking.

c) To guarantee and facilitate an effective judicial investigation of the cases of persons detained under the security laws.

d) To facilitate the provision of an effective defense by attorneys providing legal services to defendants.

10. To cooperate fully with the Judiciary to ensure the effectiveness of the writs of Habeas Corpus and Amparo.

11. As regards the right of opinion, expression and information, to repeal or, where appropriate, to amend, those laws, such as Law 20.840 and others, that limit the exercise of this right.

12. As regards labor rights, to take the necessary measures to ensure their actual observance, and as regards of trade union association, to guarantee the rights of workers' organizations, repealing, or, where appropriate, amending, laws that prevent their normal development.

13. As regards political rights, to take such steps as are necessary to restore the activity and participation of political parties in the public life of the nation, as well as to guarantee the political rights of citizens.

14. As regards the right of freedom of religion and of worship, to repeal Decree No. 1867 of August 31, 1976, which prohibits Jehovah's Witnesses from conducting any kind of activity, and to investigate and punish any discrimination against Jews.

15. As regards human rights defense agencies, to facilitate their contribution to the promotion and observance of human rights in Argentina.

## Appendix B

### List of Argentine Scientists, Engineers, Medical Professionals And Science Students Who Have Disappeared Since March, 1976

This list is compiled from reports from the Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, Amnesty International, American Physical Society, National Academy of Sciences Committee on Human Rights and the AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights. This is not a definitive list.

#### Federico Eduardo ALVAREZ RDJAS

Profession: Physicist-worked for Atomic Energy Commission of Argentina (AEC)

Age: 34

I.D. #: 6157717

Date of Disappearance: October 1, 1976, at 1 a.m., abducted together with his wife, Hilda LEIKIS. Writ of Habeas Corpus introduced (Judge Sarmiento) with negative result.

#### Jorge AYASTUY

Profession: Chemist

Age: 31

I.D. #: 1849766

Date of Disappearance: Abducted December 6, 1977 from home.

#### Jorge Luis BADILLO

Profession: Physicist-worked in "Desasi, S.A." and in the Atomic Center (Atucha)

Age: 26

I.D. #: 6369602

Date of Disappearance: July 8, 1977, abducted from home. Writ of Habeas Corpus introduced (Judge "B", Secretary N 3 del Val) Negative results.

Esther BALLESTRINO

Profession: Chemist  
 Age: 59  
 I.D. #: 4241455 (Paraguayan)  
 Date of Disappearance: December 8, 1977, abducted around 7:40 p.m.  
Writ of Habeas Corpus introduced (Judge Marquardt). Rejected.

Graciela Mabel BARROCA

Profession: Student of Physics, employee of the AEC  
 Age: 24  
 I.D. #: 7063745  
 Date of Disappearance: July 15, 1977, abducted from her home.

Hilda Graciela LEIKIS DE ALVAREZ ROJAS

Profession: System Analyst and Programmer-worked in Bairesco,  
 S. A. (Burroughs)  
 Age: 40  
 I.D. #: 4754885  
 Date of Disappearance: October 1, 1976, abducted from her home with  
 her husband.

Susan Mirta BATTELLI

Profession: Biochemist  
 Age: 34  
 Date of Disappearance: Abducted December 21, 1976.

Daniel Eduardo BENDERSKY

Profession: Physicist-worked in AEC since 1976.  
 Age: 27  
 I.D. #: 10265855  
 Date of Disappearance: September 16, 1978, abducted from his home.  
Writ of Habeas Corpus (Judge Rivarola) Rejected.

Adriana CALVO DE LABORDE

Profession: Physicist

Age: 29

I.D. #: 5887916

Date of Disappearance: Abducted on February 1, 1977 in La Plata.

Gustavo Neloy CAMIN

Profession: Engineer (Chemical) - worked in "El Refugio".

Age: 57

I.D. #: 3396801

Date of Disappearance: Abducted on May 22, 1978, at 1 p.m. from  
Patricias Mendocinas 743, Mendoza, Writ of  
Habeas Corpus introduced (Judge Rocabarren)  
Rejected.Gabriela CARABELLI

Profession: Physicist-Professor of Physics, IMAF, Cordoba

Age: 37

I.D. #: 23197109 (Italian)

Date of Disappearance: April 3, 1976, abducted in Cordoba with  
3 year old daughter.Jean Ives CLAUDET FERNANDEZ

Profession: Industrial Chemist

Age: 36

I.D. #: 3642911-9 (French-Chilean)

Date of Disappearance: November 1, 1975; he stayed in the Hotel Liberty  
under suggestion of a French priest. According  
to his family, he was abducted from there.Ricardo Dario CHIDICHIMO

Profession: Meteorologist-worked for Air Force

Age: 27

I.D. #: 6149700

Date of Disappearance: November 20, 1976, abducted in Ramos Mejia.

Roberto ARDITO

Profession: Electronics Engineer-worked with the AEC  
 Age: 33  
 I.D. #: 4784471  
 Date of Disappearance: Abducted, October 12, 1976, along with wife.

Juan José FICARA

Profession: Chemist  
 Age: 22  
 I.D. #: 7158251  
 Date of Disappearance: Abducted April 1, 1977, from home. Writ of habeas corpus introduced before the Court of Appeals.

Angel Mario GARMENDIA

Profession: Master in Chemistry-worked in ALNIC SRL, San Miguel de Tucuman.  
 Age: 33  
 I.D. #: 8084214  
 Date of Disappearance: On June 21, 1977, arrested at the home of his mother, by four persons identifying themselves as provincial police. Denunciations made before Governor, Ministry of Interior. Writ of habeas corpus introduced.

Alfredo Antonio GIORGI

Profession: Master in Chemical Physics-worked in National Institute of Industrial Technology-INTI.  
 Age: 33  
 I.D. #: 4518950  
 Date of Disappearance: Arrested November 27, 1978, in his laboratory at 4:20 p.m. by six men. Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge Montoya). Rejected. The Supreme Court ruled that the case should be investigated thoroughly; however, nothing has been done.

Jorge Israel GDRFINKEL

Profession: Nuclear Physicist-worked in the AEC, and University  
of Buenos Aires

Age: 30

I.D. #: 5894427

Date of Disappearance: November 25, 1977, left his home at 11:30 a.m.,  
hasn't been seen since. Writ of habeas corpus  
introduced (Judge Barcelo). Rejected.

Julia Natividad HUARQUE

Profession: Masters in Physics

Age: 25

I.D. #: 6651764

Date of Disappearance: Abducted from home in Rosario on June 8, 1976.  
Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge No. 1,  
Secretary Andrada). Rejected.

Federico Gerardo LUDDEN

Profession: Masters in Physics

Age: 34

I.D. #: 4618D44

Date of Disappearance: On November 30, 1977, abducted from home at  
3:00 a.m. in City Bell, Buenos Aires. Writ of  
habeas corpus introduced (Judge Granillo  
Fernandez). Rejected.

Dora Rita MERCER DE SDTUYO

Profession: Biochemist

Age: 26

Date of Disappearance: Kidnapped from home on August 14, 1976, in  
Bahia Blanca.

Antonio MISETICH

Profession: Physicist-was member of MIT faculty; Secretary for Academic Affairs, University of Buenos Aires.  
 Age: Unknown  
 Date of Disappearance: Abducted April 19, 1976. Since then, nothing has been heard from him. The Government first acknowledged he was arrested, but later denied his detention.

Adolfo Ruben MOLDAVSKY

Profession: Master in Biochemistry  
 Age: 30  
 I.D. #: 5231955  
 Date of Disappearance: Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Secretary Garcia Santillan). Rejected-November 1, 1977.

Eduardo Jorge MURILLO

Profession: Chemist  
 Age: 23  
 I.D. #: 7248143  
 Date of Disappearance: Abducted November 10, 1976 at 1:30 a.m.

Eduardo Alfredo PASQUINI

Profession: Nuclear Physicist  
 Age: 37  
 I.D. #: 6519233 (LE)  
 Date of Disappearance: Abducted from his home on June 10, 1976. Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge No. 2 in Rosario) Rejected.

Miguel Angel PORTA

Profession: Chemist  
 Age: 29  
 I.D. #: 780303  
 Date of Disappearance: Abducted on the street June 26, 1978. Writ of habeas corpus introduced. Rejected.



Eduardo Jose' RDDRIQUEZ

Profession: Chemist-worked in Muller F. D.  
 Age: 31  
 I.D. #: 67D16D3  
 Date of Disappearance: Arrested in his home August 14, 1976.  
 Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge Silvestrini). Rejected.

Daniel Lazaro RUS

Profession: Physicist-had scholarship with AEC (No. 1454/76)  
 Age: 27  
 I.D. #: 5817397  
 Date of Disappearance: Kidnapped as he left the AEC at 2:30 p.m.  
 Three writs of habeas corpus introduced since then. Rejected.

Miguel SCHWARTZ

Profession: Chemical Engineer  
 Age: 28  
 I.D. #: 7627612 (LE)  
 Date of Disappearance: On February 14, 1977, abducted from his home in Buenos Aires.

Oscar Eduardo SEGAL

Profession: Biochemist  
 Age: 31  
 I.D. #: 5258D22  
 Date of Disappearance: On May 16, 1977, at 11 a.m., abducted from his home in Buenos Aires.

Mario Nestor SERRA

Profession: Chemist-worked in Baradero (Refinerias de Maiz)  
 Age: Unknown  
 I.D. #: 1D392435  
 Date of Disappearance: On May 19, 1977, abducted from his home in Baradero. Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge in San Nicolas). Rejected.

Gerardo STREJILEVICH

Profession: Physicist-working for AEC

Age: 27

I.D. #: 5255812

Date of Disappearance: On July 15, 1977, disappeared from the street in Buenos Aires. Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge Ledesma).

Jorge Alberto TORNAY NIGRO

Profession: Chemical Engineer-worked in Dosicenter, S. A.

Age: 30

I.D. #: 6818112; LE 6305528

Date of Disappearance: On September 1, 1978, disappeared from the street in Buenos Aires. Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge Giletta).

Guillermo Claudio VARGAS AIGNASE

Profession: Masters in Physics

Age: 35

Date of Disappearance: On March 24, 1976, abducted in S.M. de Tucuman.

Ricardo Antonio DIAZ ANSEMI

Profession: Industrial Chemist-worked in Lab of the Instituto del Torax.

Age: 24

I.D. #: 1069DD26 (DNI)

Date of Disappearance: On February 7, 1977, abducted from Calle 40 ND. 1710, La Plata, Writ of habeas corpus introduced (Judge No. 3, Secretary Legna).  
Rejected.

Hector ABRALES

Profession: Physical Engineer-did research at the CNRS,  
Bellevue, France (1966/67)

Age: 42

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: Arrested at his home on January 22, 1979 by two policemen. Later the same day, he telephoned his wife to inform her that he was being detained. Another man came on the line and told her that her husband was being held in connection with "economic and legal matters". The man promised that he would telephone the next day with more news, but he didn't. The police subsequently denied that Abrales was under arrest. Abrales was a leading figure in the electronics industry and worked at Sisagro, S.A., an agro-industrial development firm. He worked for the government and with the OAS in 1971 and 1972.

Liliana Mazraji PASQUINI

Profession: Psychoanalyst

Age: Unknown

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: Abducted on June 10, 1976, along with her husband, Eduardo Pasquini. Writ of habeas corpus introduced. Rejected.

Jorge Claudio LEWIAna Maria Sonder LEWI

Profession: Chemists

Ages: Unknown

I.D. #s: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: The Lewi couple disappeared on approximately October 8, 1978, in Buenos Aires. Writ of habeas corpus was filed on October 11, 1978. No word has been heard from the couple since their disappearance.

Carlos NORIEGA

Profession: Statistician-worked with United Nations and National Institute of Statistics and the Census (Director)  
 Age: Unknown  
 I.D. #: Unknown  
 Date of Disappearance: Arrested allegedly for political reasons in February 1977; while on vacation in Mar del Plata. He has not been heard from since.

Beatriz PEROSIO

Profession: Psychologist, President of the Argentine Federation of Psychologists and the Buenos Aires Association of Psychologists.  
 Age: 30  
 I.D. #: Unknown  
 Date of Disappearance: On August 8, 1978, taken from a child care center by armed men who identified themselves as Federal Police. Perosio left a handwritten note saying that she had been told to accompany a Mr. Juan Manuel Sanchez of federal security to central headquarters of the federal police in Buenos Aires for questioning. Writ of habeas corpus introduced (August 8-12, 1978.) It was reported that on July 4, 1979, that Perosio had been seen alive in a secret camp shortly after her disappearance. (Testimony of Estrella Iglesias (in Spain), a "disappeared" who was released on May 18, 1979.

Marta BREA

Profession: Psychiatrist  
 Age: Unknown  
 I.D. #: Unknown  
 Date of Disappearance: Following the March 1976 coup, Brea was interrupted while interviewing a patient by four plainclothesmen and told she was under arrest. Though she argued with them, she was taken forcibly out of her place of employment, the Lanus Policlinic. She has not been heard of since.

Raul Edgardo BORELLI CATTANEO

Profession: Science Teacher

Age: 26

I.D. #: 92.303.220 (Uruguayan citizen)

Date of Disappearance: On December 22, 1977, arrested at his home in Buenos Aires province. Writ of habeas corpus introduced and rejected. Since his arrest he was reported to have been seen in a secret camp by a prisoner later released. His current whereabouts is unknown.

Francisco Garcia FERNANDEZ

Profession: Medical Doctor

Age: Unknown

I.O. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: Around April 14, 1978, Dr. Garcia and three colleagues were detained in Buenos Aires. Nothing has been heard from them since.

Carolina BARRIENTOS

Profession: Scientist

Age: 35

I.O. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: On December 30, 1977, abducted in Buenos Aires.

Alberto Oscar BOSSIO

Profession: Medical Doctor

Age: 34

I.O. #: LE 5195779

Date of Disappearance: November 18, 1976, abducted in La Plata.

Santiago BRUSCHSTEIN

Profession: Scientist

Age: 58

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: June 11, 1976, in LaValle.

Hector CATOVSKY

Profession: Medical Doctor

Age: 28

I.O. #: 6D32896

Date of Disappearance: June 3, 1977, in Buenos Aires. Writ of habeas corpus introduced.

Carlos DEFRANCESCO

Profession: Scientist

Age: Unknown

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: December 1976 in La Plata

Carlos Alberto DE LORENZO

Profession: Scientist

Age: 25

I.O. #: ONI 8366617

Date of Disappearance: July 28, 1977, in Buenos Aires province.

Monica Maria Candelaria MIGNONE

Profession: Educational Psychologist, also Assistant Professor in Educational Psychology, Universidad Nacional de Lujan, Buenos Aires. She was also working as a social worker in Bajo Flores, a slum in the Buenos Aires area.

Age: 26

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: On May 14, 1976, a group of armed men who identified themselves as members of the military forces entered the Mignone residence at 5:00 a.m. and kidnapped Monica Maria Candelaria Mignone. Writ of habeas corpus introduced. Formal request filed at the Ministry of Interior, petitions sent to the Argentine Episcopal Conference, Red Cross International and others.

Ignacio IKONICOFF

Profession: Physicist  
Age: 35  
I.D. #: 4767411  
Date of Disappearance: On June 12, 1977, abducted in Buenos Aires.  
Writ of habeas corpus introduced. Wife,  
Maria Beddian de Ikonicoff also abducted.

Mario YACUB

Profession: Political Scientist/Lawyer  
Age: 38  
I.D. #: Unknown  
Date of Disappearance: On November 1, 1976, abducted in Buenos Aires  
Writ of habeas corpus introduced.

Marta Zelmira ANORAOE

Profession: Medical Doctor  
Age: 39  
I.D. #: DNI 3624259  
Date of Disappearance: On September 21, 1976, abducted in La Plata.  
Two writs of habeas corpus introduced.

Ruben Benjamin ARAUJO

Profession: Medical Doctor  
Age: 33  
I.D. #: LE2368323  
Date of Disappearance: On December 22, 1976, abducted in La Plata.  
Writ of habeas corpus introduced.

Susana Noemi DIAZ

Profession: Chemical Engineer  
Age: 28  
I.D. #: 5944348 (LC)  
Date of Disappearance: On October 14, 1976, abducted in Buenos Aires.  
Writ of habeas corpus introduced but rejected.

Enrique Ernesto ESPECHE

Profession: Physicist

Age: 34

I.D. #: 8089293

Date of Disappearance: On May 28, 1977, kidnapped from his home in S. M. de Tucuman, at 4 a.m. Writ of habeas corpus introduced before the Supreme Court of Justice of Tucuman. Rejected.

Jorge BDNAFINI

Profession: Physicist

Age: 26

I.D. #: LE 8383673

Date of Disappearance: Abducted on February 8, 1977 in La Plata.

Hugo TARNOPOLSKY

Profession: Chemical Engineer

Age: 52

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: Abducted on July 14, 1976 with wife Blanca Edelberg and three children. Writ of habeas corpus introduced.

Jorge Omar ASTUDILLO

Profession: Chemist

Age: 28

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: Abducted near La Plata in July 1976.

J. CARDELLIChristina VECHINO de CARDELLI

Professions: Mathematicians-University of La Plata

Ages: Unknown

I.D. #: Unknown

Date of Disappearance: Abducted at the end of 1975 in Cordoba.



## Appendix C

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## SCIENCE

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### New Responses to Attacks on Human Rights of Scientists in Latin America Called for

Participants at a conference of North American and Latin American scientists, engineers, and medical professionals from 13 countries, meeting in conjunction with the AAAS Annual Meeting in Toronto, condemned the violations of human rights currently taking place against their colleagues and others in several Latin American countries. Violations have ranged from harassment to disappearance, torture, detention without charge or trial, and often death.

Cochaired by John T. Edsall, then chairman of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR), and Marcel Roche, editor of *Interciencia*, the Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas was arranged by the CSFR.

Some 55 participants expressed concern over the decline of academic and scientific freedom in recent years. This has led to a deterioration in the quality and availability of scientific and general education at all levels and to a restricted research environment. The conferees noted that human rights and scientific freedom are closely linked, so that attacks on scientists and students imperil the long-range possibilities for national scientific and technological progress and contribute to the "brain drain."

The condition of human rights and scientific freedom differs from one country to another. The situation ranges from widespread repression, such as has been carried out by the military governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Uruguay, to isolated instances of detention and torture of physicians in Colombia, where the democratic government has not adopted a generally repressive policy.

The workshop participants were concerned that, in conditions of generalized violence which characterize the current situation in El Salvador and Guatemala, scientists—particularly medical personnel—are being killed by military and paramilitary groups. This represents a breakdown of the Geneva Convention which pledges nations to regard doctors and nurses as well as the sick and wounded as neutrals during military conflict.

All attacks on basic human rights recognized under international law, whether from the right or the left, no matter whether they occur in repressive or in so-called "moderately repressive" regimes, were condemned.

José Goldemberg, president of the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science, pointed out that workshop participants "didn't get together to cry about the violation of human rights in Latin America, but to find new ways of facing these problems." It was concluded that the attacks on human rights and scientific freedom have become a chronic problem, requiring the exploration of new initiatives.

The working groups recommended greater cooperative efforts by scientists and scientific societies in Latin America and North America in responding quickly to violations of the human rights of scientists: the establishment of a Latin American regional center to monitor and support scientific and academic freedom; the monitoring by scientific groups of the granting of loans by international lending institutions to educational and scientific institutions; and the recognition by public and private funding institutions of the need to support research on the underlying causes of repression and violation of human rights.

It became clear during the meeting that there is an urgent need for scientific societies in the United States, Canada, and Latin America to create groups charged specifically with responding promptly to violations of the human rights of their colleagues.

The workshop recommended that the scientific communities in the Americas work in conjunction with public and private groups to establish a regional human rights documentation center in Latin America. Such a center would strengthen the international network of scientists and scientific societies concerned with human rights, and would emphasize the responsibilities of scientists to respond to violations when they occur.

Participants emphasized that human rights violations have their roots in the larger social, economic, and political environment, and they urged that social scientists in all countries make it an important research priority to clarify these causes and to develop a greater understanding of the social conditions which promote respect for the life and dignity of every human being. This goal could be facilitated by establishing research fellowships in this area.

The workshop recommended that scientific organizations encourage international lending institutions to include human rights considerations in their loan criteria and to establish beyond a doubt that scientific and academic freedom will be preserved when loans are granted to educational and scientific institutions. In particular, it was suggested that scientific societies take it upon themselves to monitor, to suggest policy, and if possible to participate in the process by which decisions are made for such loans.

In conclusion, the participants affirmed that the advancement of science is fundamentally linked to the advancement of human rights. Scientists therefore have a responsibility not only to promote scientific freedom but also to promote the basic rights guaranteed to all people under international law. Furthermore, scientists have a duty to refuse to participate in actions which violate the human rights of others.

In a related action, on 7 January, the AAAS Council by unanimous vote adopted a resolution condemning attacks on scientific freedom and human rights and encouraging other scientific societies and individual scientists to do likewise.

A report of the Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas is being produced and will be available through the CSFR later this year. For further information on the workshop, contact Eric Stover, human rights coordinator, CSFR, at the AAAS address.

ERIC STOVER

Committee on Scientific  
Freedom and Responsibility



HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC FREEDOM

On 7 January 1981 the AAAS Council unanimously adopted the following resolution proposed by the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Whereas human rights and scientific freedom are closely linked, and both of them remain under attack and continue to deteriorate in many countries throughout the world, and

Whereas the AAAS Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas, meeting at the same time as the AAAS 1981 Annual Meeting in Toronto, with the participation of numerous scientists from Latin America and North America, has expressed deep concern about the deterioration of human rights and scientific freedom in a number of countries in Latin America, and in particular the continued detention of scientists, engineers and medical professionals as well as many other political prisoners, in many cases without charge or trial and in conditions of great physical hardship and torture; the deterioration of the quality and availability of scientific education at all levels; and the dismissal of a large number of scientists from teaching and research posts, accompanied by a general decline of academic and scientific freedom, and

Whereas the lack of scientific freedom and the attack on human rights has become a chronic as well as a currently urgent problem, requiring the exploration of new initiatives as well as continued response to attacks on individuals as they occur,

Therefore be it resolved that AAAS, as a matter of high priority, extend and intensify its efforts to defend and advance both scientific freedom and basic human rights and to condemn attacks on them, and that it urge its affiliated societies and other organizations and individual scientists to become more actively involved in these matters.

# Appendix E

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed this declaration as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations."*

**Article 1.** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

**Article 2.** Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

**Article 3.** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**Article 4.** No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

**Article 5.** No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**Article 6.** Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

**Article 7.** All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

**Article 8.** Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

**Article 9.** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

**Article 10.** Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

**Article 11.** (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

**Article 12.** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

**Article 13.** (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

**Article 14.** (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

**Article 15.** (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

**Article 16.** (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

**Article 17.** (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

**Article 18.** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20. (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21. (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22. Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23. (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25. (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26. (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27. (1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28. Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29. (1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

