

La Salette House of Studies

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in Washington told me, the more publicity the better. The more static that the Argentine government gets from the most possible sources the better. I found it to be true in my regard and with regard to the seminarians.

Taking this into consideration, I have contacted many of the groups here in the States who helped us out and asked them to do the same with regard to your cousin Patrick. Of course, they cannot do as much since your cousin is not a U.S. citizen and so it makes it more difficult for our government to make too much noise over him.

However, I spoke to our State Department and they told me that if I could get some Congressmen to inquire about him, they would communicate this to the Argentine government. So I have been in touch with the offices of several Congressman and Senator Kennedy and the said they would do this. I have also been in contact with Washington office of Amnesty International who work on the protection of human rights all over the world and will be going to Argentina with a Jesuit Congressman from Massachusetts, Father Drinan, to have an on sight inspection of Argentine prisons etc. They said they would present the case of your cousin to the government of Argentina. I know that the London office of Amnesty is also working hard on the case.

I intend also to get in touch with Irish-American groups and clubs to get them to write letters to the Argentine Ambassador here in Washington and the President of Argentina and let them know that almost 1/4 of the American population is Irish descent and are very upset about the fate of Fr. Rice and will be communicating this to their Congressmen.

Amos
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who will be voting on whether or not to cut off military aid to Argentina. There are very many religious and lay groups here in Washington and around the country who will be doing the same. All that's left to be done is to pray.

Tell Fr. Rice's Mother not too worry...

I know from my own experience that once one is known to be in the hands of the police ~~there~~ and there is some much International notoriety they will not torture him and it's just a question of time that they relent and free him. I have been informed by the Irish embassy here in Washington that Mr. Lennon, the Irish Ambassador in Buenos Aires has seen him and he's in good spirits. So don't worry. Just keep working to keep him in the news.

With regard to the charges you may be sure that they are trumped up as they were in my case. It's just that in the case of so many atrocities, kidnappings, murders and torturing a priest in conscience must speak out for human rights and identify himself with his suffering people and of course the government doesn't like that. Besides, anyone working with the poor as your cousin was, is already marked as a Communist by the Government. It's a sad commentary and a sad day for humanity when only the Communists can work for and with God's poor. Thank God that there are still people like Fr. Pat who choose to do so in spite of government threats. Many simply will not. Be assured also that in spite of the danger he is in, he is experiencing God's peace and presence more than ever in his life and that no matter what happens he wants all of you to experience it also and to know the joy that he has been chosen by God to give witness to the gospel with this life and to be the voice of those who have no voice.

Peace, Love and Joy in Christ, Fr. Jim Weeks, M.S.