



COMISION ARGENTINA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS  
ARGENTINE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
CADHU

The Argentine Commission For Human Rights is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose purpose is to work for the defense of human rights in Argentina as defined by the Argentine Constitution and Universal Declaration Of Human Rights of the United Nations.

CAHDU was officially constituted by a group of Argentine lawyers in response to the dramatic events which followed the military takeover of the country on the 24th of March 1976. Through the practice of their profession, these lawyers had become increasingly aware of the need for a permanent national and international organization that would work to protect human rights in their country.

The commission now has permanent representatives in its Bureaus in Buenos Aires, Rome, Paris, London, Geneva, and Mexico City.

Through its bulletin, produced in Argentina, CAHDU has disseminated information on the continuing violation of human rights in that country. Testimonies and documents obtained and compiled by CAHDU have been received as evidence by the United Nations High Commission On Human Rights, The European Parliament, the French, Italian, and British Parliaments, the U.S. Congress, and other international bodies.

Two CADHU representatives testified before hearings held by members of the House International Affairs Committee in September 1976. Attornies Lucio Garzon Maceda and Gustavo Roca told the Congressmen that in Roca's words, "The level of atrocities taking place in my country is such that there is no way I could stop myself from speaking publicly without defying my own conscience."

Because of these hearings, which were called by Representative Donald Fraser of Minnesota, concrete evidence of the violations of human rights in Argentina has now been placed before the U.S. Congress. According to press reports, the Argentine military is very concerned about the potencial impact of these hearings on its ability to continue its current policies free from the scrutiny of international public opinion.

At the same time, it is clear that further hearings are necessary to reveal the full extent of human rights violations in Argentina. The experience of the past hearings indicates to us a need for a permanent information Bureau in Washington to make available witnesses, documents, and testimonies which would otherwise not be available in the United States.

This service, we believe, will be indispensable for the U.S. public and their representatives to be able to contribute to the restoration of human rights in Argentina.

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