

# ARGENTINE COMMISSION for HUMAN RIGHTS

COMISION ARGENTINA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS (CADHU)  
 Washington, D. C. Information Bureau

International Offices:

Geneva  
 Rome  
 Paris  
 Mexico City

March 19, 1977

Cesar Chavez  
 President, United Farm Workers  
 Box 62  
 Keene, Ca. 93531

Dear Cesar,

As you know from our past conversations and from the news every day, the situation in Argentina is very bad, not only for working people but for the population as a whole. The most recent news indicates that the inflation rate was over 300% last year at time when the government was keeping wages frozen. And the kidnappings, torture and executions continue as before.

Here in Washington our office has been keeping on top of the many developments both in Argentina and the U.S. regarding human rights. We have become the focal point for a wide network of distribution of this information through church groups, unions and human rights organizations in general not only in the U.S. but also in Mexico and Europe.

We believe that our work has contributed substantially to generating the pressure on the Carter administration which led to the reduction of the military aid request for Argentina in the upcoming budget. However, as positive a development as the reduction is, we feel that it is also a move on the part of the administration to get Congress to drop the issue, not investigate Argentina any further, and especially not act to completely cut-off the aid.

Therefore we are stepping up our effort to make sure that Congress acts decisively in the next few months, with the support of several grassroots committees around the country including the group that worked in my defense. Among our efforts has been increased contact with labor union people here in Washington. We are of course working with Esteban Torres very closely. Recently we met with Andrew McClellan of the AFL-CIO and Tony Masaki of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Shortly we will be meeting with people from the Graphic Arts Union and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers.

What we are asking them, and what we are asking you, is to write to four key members of Congress whose names are listed below, using essentially the letter which is enclosed as a sample. These four are the chairmen of the committees which handle military assistance legislation, and it is crucial at this time for them to feel heat on this issue from all around the country. Can you write to them on behalf of human rights in Argentina?

Secondarily, we would like to ask you for a letter of endorsement for our work here with other unions. Esteban is currently preparing such a letter, which itself will be very useful to us. But a statement from you,

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we feel, would also be very helpful especially with some of the more progressive union people who might have a possible interest in the Argentine situation to begin with.

I have enclosed a brief fact sheet about the very bad problems facing Argentine workers and unionists. Of course I would be happy to talk with you about this at greater length if you come back here to Washington. I will actually be in the Bay Area from about March 30 to April 5 and would be glad to get together with you around then. I understand you will be at LaPena on April 29; if you will be staying in the Bay Area for a couple of days perhaps we could meet then.

Although we were rather far removed from the news about the agreement with the Teamsters, we share everyone's happiness at this one very important victory.

With best wishes,

*Olga Talamante*  
Olga Talamante

Letters should be sent to:

Rep. Gus Yatron  
Chairman, Subcommittee on InterAmerican Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Hubert Humphrey  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Foreign Assistance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Clarence Long  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Daniel Inouye  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510