

# ARGENTINE COMMISSION for HUMAN RIGHTS

COMISION ARGENTINA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS (CADHU)  
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Dear friends,

We are approaching the "now or never" stage of the campaign to cut off all military aid to Argentina. Our reading of the situation is that a lot of support exists for such a move among members of the House International Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The sticking point is actually getting an amendment introduced so it can be voted on. We have pinpointed six key staff people on the Hill who are moving towards such an amendment, and our request is that you make a phone call to them and encourage them to take concrete action on such an amendment in the next few days. Listed here are those staff people, with a brief description of their position on the issue as of this writing.

Bill Richardson (224-7523) -- staff of Foreign Assistance Subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Richardson is under pressure from several directions to write such an amendment, most specifically from other committee staff. Richardson has also seen the hundreds of letters coming in from around the country on the issue. He knows all the arguments about Argentina and the situation there, but seems oriented towards making only a partial cut-off if any at all. Without his active co-operation our task will be difficult indeed. Please urge him to write and push an amendment for a complete cut-off. Suggested language for such an amendment is in his hands; he needs to feel more pressure and to know that many people and institutions are looking to him for such action.

Dick McCall (224-3244) -- staff of Senator Hubert Humphrey. McCall favors a complete cut-off and is pushing for a good amendment. He needs to be encouraged in this (rather than pressured). He should know that many people want a complete cut-off and that a partial cut-off satisfies neither the law, public opinion, or the seriousness of the problem of human rights violations in Argentina.

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John Reusing (225-9405) -- staff of the InterAmerican Affairs Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee. This subcommittee will be making recommendations to the full HIRC on legislation regarding Latin America. In an effort to avoid controversy, the subcommittee has asked the full committee for recommendations as to what it should recommend back to the full committee (!) Reusing has been informed fully of the situation in Argentina and he knows that a complete cut-off is justified by the facts. He needs to be urged into action. Urge him to make a complete cut-off of military aid to Argentina one of the subcommittee's recommendations to the full committee, or at least to have the subcommittee call the attention of the full HIRC to the problem of human rights in Argentina. Emphasize the need for the subcommittee to have

hearings on Argentina very soon so that the subcommittee members will have the opportunity to delve into the situation themselves.

Bob Sylvester (225-5006) -- staff of Rep. Cardiss Collins, who is a member of the InterAmerican affairs subcommittee of the HIRC. Sylvester seems the most open of all HIRC staff we have talked to regarding a cut-off for Argentina. He seems willing to introduce such an amendment but also seems pre-occupied with other things. He should be encouraged to see the urgency of the situation in Argentina and the opportunity that if missed now will not come up for another year. He should be urged to raise the issue within the subcommittee and to push for a subcommittee recommendation that all aid be cut off. Also urge him to push for Ms. Collins to introduce and push such an amendment herself if the subcommittee will not act.

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Beth Bloomfield (225-3061) -- staff of Rep. Clarence Long, chairman of the Foreign Operations subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. If we do not succeed in the authorization process we will fight in the appropriations process. Long has been consistently critical of the Administration's human rights policy for not being strong enough on aid-receiving violators such as Argentina. But with many issues on his mind he needs to understand the urgency of action on Argentina. Bloomfield is open and receptive on the issue but has not seen as much of the public concern as have the staff people on the authorization side. Insist on the urgency of the Argentine situation, and refer to Rep. Drinan's call for a complete cut-off. Urge her to have Rep. Long initiate an aid-cut-off by sponsoring an amendment such as the one his subcommittee passed on Uruguay last year. Also encourage the subcommittee to have hearings on Argentina such as yesterday's on Nicaragua which were very useful. Possible witnesses would include Ms Patricia Erb (a U.S. citizen kidnapped from her parents' home in Argentina, Father Drinan, someone from the Argentine-American Chamber of Commerce and the Military Attache for another representative of the junta.

Charles Flynn ((225-2436) -- staff of Rep. Edward Koch, who is a member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appr. Comm. Koch is taking extensive initiative around Nicaragua and, it seems, will succeed easily in cutting that aid. Given that fact, Flynn and Koch should be encouraged to take similar initiative on Argentina. Also mention the possibility of hearings as described above under Beth Bloomfield.