



# ARGENTINE COMMISSION for HUMAN RIGHTS

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

International Offices:  
Geneva  
Rome  
Paris  
Mexico City

Contact: Olga Talamante  
Horacio Lofredo 296-8340

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The Washington Information Bureau of the Argentine Commission for Human Rights (CADHU), an organization based in Argentina devoted to the defense of human rights and the restoration of democratic liberties in that country, released the text of a detailed report it has sent to President Carter and to members of Congress on human rights violations and the United States Military Assistance program to Argentina.

The Commission's report is based on information compiled by a broad spectrum of international organizations, investigative commissions, and press reports, as well as from the Argentine Commission's own information gathering network in Argentina.

The Commission's report criticizes the State Department's evaluation of the human rights situation in Argentina, and challenges its justification of continuing U.S. military assistance to the Argentine military government. The report charges the Argentine military government with responsibility for the indiscriminate arrests and kidnappings, the widespread use of torture, the assassinations of prisoners suspected of political crimes, and the persecution and assassination of relatives of political activists and detainees.

The Commission's report points out that the government of Videla refuses even to make public the list of the approximately

20,000 people detained under the strict State of Siege regulations currently in effect in Argentina.

Olga Talamante, a representative of the Commission and U.S. citizen who spent 16 months in prison and suffered torture in Argentina during the government of Isabel Peron, said that human rights violations were common and widespread during the previous government but that the situation has drastically deteriorated under the military regime. Ms. Talamante referred to President Carter's often stated commitment to making human rights an important criteria in defining U.S. foreign policy and said: "The State Department and the U.S. Congress recognize that the Argentine government engages in a gross pattern of violation of internationally recognized human rights. President Carter now has a clear choice in the case of Argentina: he can either allow unimpaired support for these regimes to continue to flow from the U.S. or he can begin to disassociate the U.S. from them by interrupting the Military Assistance Program"

Horacio Lofredo, an Argentine-born U.S. citizen also representing the Commission added: "Argentina is under no foreign military threat. The U.S. military assistance is being used by the Argentine military to strengthen their internal security and counter-insurgency programs. Military assistance gives the Argentine military regime a legitimacy it would otherwise not enjoy. A legitimacy which the majority of the Argentine people do not recognize."

The Commission urged the new Carter State Department to submit new reports for public release giving greater detail on human rights violations in Argentina. The Commission also urged the State Department not to request any monies for security assistance to the Argentine government. The Commission is confident that should the State Department request assistance for Argentina, it would be rejected by Congress as it was done in the cases of Chile and Uruguay.