

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

To Organizers and National Committee Members

Dear Comrades,

Attached are a fact sheet and a petition being circulated by the U.S. Committee for Justice for Latin American Political Prisoners (USLA) concerning the case of Ana Maria Piffaretti, a feminist hospital worker who was recently abducted by persons wearing federal police uniforms in Buenos Aires.

In New York, USLA activists plan to ask for support to this petition from the National Organization for Women and from Local 1199 of the Hospital Workers Union. Comrades in other cities may also have opportunities to circulate the petition, especially where we have a base in Hospital Workers unions, or where we have worked with feminist organizations in defense of political prisoners.

Since USLA has a lot of concrete information about Ana Maria Piffaretti, this case can be effectively used to draw attention to the situation of the thousands of political prisoners and "disappeared" persons in Argentina, among whom are many of our own comrades of the Argentine Socialist Workers Party (PST). Moreover, since Ana Maria is both a feminist and a hospital worker, people from these two milieus will be especially interested in her case.

Signed petitions should be sent directly to the president of Argentina, with copies of them sent to USLA.

Comradely,



Caroline Lund
SWP National Office

Save the Life of Ana Maria Piffaretti— Argentine Feminist and Trade Unionist

Ana Maria Piffaretti, a trade unionist and activist in the women's movement in Argentina, has joined the ranks of several thousand Argentines who have "disappeared" in the last two and a half years of brutal military rule.

On June 28 of this year she was abducted by uniformed police from the Guemes Clinic in Buenos Aires, where she works as a nutritionist and dietician. But authorities have so far refused to admit to inquiring friends and relatives that she has been detained. Nor has there been any response from the courts to the writ of Habeas Corpus that was immediately filed on her behalf.

In Europe, a campaign is underway to discover her whereabouts and obtain her release. The London headquarters of Amnesty International, among others, has taken up her case. In Sweden Amnesty has requested of the Swedish government that she be granted asylum in that country upon her release. Other activities in her behalf are also underway in England, France and the United States. An international campaign is imperative to save Ana Maria from torture and possibly death.

Who is Ana Maria Piffaretti?

Ana Maria, 32, was born in the city of Rio Cuarto in the Province of Cordoba. Her father is a doctor and her mother a biochemist.

Ana Maria graduated from a Catholic high school and attended college in the city of Cordoba, where she became a dietician. Once graduated she went to work at the Emergency Hospital in that city. At her job, her co-workers elected her as a delegate of the infirmary and kitchen section of the hospital.

In 1974 she moved to Buenos Aires to take advanced courses at the Clinical Hospital of the City of Buenos Aires, graduating with highest honors. She settled in Buenos Aires and went to work at the Ford plant in the town of General Pacheco where, as a dietician and nutritionist, she was put in charge of one of the cafeterias.

In April 1978 she went to work at the Guemes Clinic in Buenos Aires. During this time she also worked in a health care center in her community, a small city called Ituzaingó, near the capital.

A Fighter for Women's Rights

Throughout her life, Ana Maria's activities centered around the struggle for women's rights. Since her early years in college she championed the feminist cause, fighting consistently for women's issues in the university, in the hospital, in the factory and in her daily life. She was a founding member of several feminist groups, taught courses and gave lectures on the subject. And, as a dietician, she spoke frequently on television on such topics as women and the home, children, working women, etc. Her articles have been published in various newspapers.

Why Has She "Disappeared"?

When the military dictatorship took power in April 1974 it suppressed all democratic rights. Piffaretti continued her activities, risking without hesitation the dangers of the savage repression that has now made her a victim.

In an effort to form a women's movement under its control and in support of its policies, the junta recently called and campaigned for a "First Symposium of the Multinational Women's Center," organized by the United Nations' InterAmerican Women's Commission. Ana Maria criticized the symposium initially for the undemocratic circumstances under which it took place and later for what came out of it. She wrote, spoke, and organized meetings on this issue. The government's response was to kidnap her.

How Can You Help?

Like Ana Maria, hundreds of other unionists and political activists have been kidnapped or "arrested" in Argentina, many being brutally tortured. Many have not survived. *Your help is urgently needed to save Ana Maria's life.*

- Please send letters and telegrams demanding to know her whereabouts and her immediate release to:

Argentine Embassy
1600 New Hampshire Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20009

- Circulate the petition on her behalf among your co-workers or members of your organization.

Please send signed petitions, as well as copies of all letters and telegrams to:

USLA Justice Committee
853 Broadway, Suite 414
New York, N.Y. 10003
(212) 254-6062

Free Ana Maria Piffaretti

General Jorge Videla
Casa Rosada
Buenos Aires
Argentina

We, the undersigned, are gravely concerned over the disappearance June 28 from the Sanatorio Guemes in Buenos Aires of dietician-nutritionist Ana Maria Piffaretti. Abducted while at work by uniformed police and not heard from since, we understand that Argentine authorities deny her arrest. We demand information concerning her whereabouts and her immediate release.

Name	Address	Title/Organization
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