IMMEDIATE ACTION

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ASUNCION 3764

E.O. 12065: N/A TAGS: SHUN, PA

OR TORTURE.

SUBJECT: ALLEGED TORTURE OF ARGENTINE CITIZENS IN PARAGUAY

1. INTER-FAITH CHURCH COMMITTEE (PROTECT SOURCE) HAS RECIEVED WHAT APPEAR TO EE RELIABLE REPURTS EMANATING FROM POLICE CIRCLES THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES ARE ERUTALLY TORTURING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF ARGENTINE REFUGEES IN PARAGUAY. THE PARAGUAYAN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE HAVE PICKED UP AT LEAST 13 ARGENTINE CITIZENS SINCE AUGUST 4. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE HAVE TURNED THESE PEOPLE OVER TO ARGENTINE TORTURES" WHO ARE QUESTIONING THESE ALLEGED MONTONEROS.

THE REFUGEES ARE ALSO SAID TO BE PART OF AN ILLEGAL RING WHICH MAS BEEN CETAINING DOCUMENTATION FOR ARGENTINE EXILES WHO WISH TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA. PARAGUAYAN POLICE SOURCES ARE REPORTEDLY APPALLED AT THE EXTREME BRUTALITY USED BY THEIR ARGENTINE COHORIS AND FEAR THEY WILL KILL THE PRISONERS, RETURN TO ARGENTINA AND LEAVE THE PARAGUAYAN POLICE TO TAKE THE BRUNT OF ANY COMPLAINTS WHICH MAY ARISE FROM THE PRISONERS DEATH

2. AMONG THOSE DETAINED ARE: ENRIQUE OSVALDO LANDI, 27, ARGENTINE; HIS WIFE, OFELIA BADIE DE LANDI, 25; THEIR SON, ENRIQUE O. LANDI, 3 YEARS OLD; JUAN CARLOS SILVA, 24; AND HIS FATHER, RAMON SILVA, 49. SIX ARGENTINE EMPLOYLES OF A SMALL ASUNCION TEXTILE MILL, CASA MARTEL, HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRESTED. IN ADDITION, THE POLICE DRAGGED AN ARGENTINE MAN AND HIS URUGUAYAN WIFE FROM A HOUSE NEAR THAT OF PARAGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CARMEN DE LARA CASTRO ON AUGUST 7.

3. THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAS ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS THAT URUGUAYAN SECURITY FORCES ARE TORTURING URUGUAYAN CITIZENS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE HEADQUARTERS. HOWEVER, THESE REPORTS ARE LESS SUBSTANTIATED AND MAY NOT BE ACCURATE.

4. COMMENT: SOME OF OUR SOURCES SPECULATE THAT THE POLICE ACTION IS BEING TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH ARGENTING ARMY CHIEF GENERAL VIOLA'S AUGUST 15 VISIT TO PARAGUAY. HOWEVER, WE OR THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORT THAT WOULD CONFIRM THIS SPECULATION. EMEASSY PLANS TO RAISE THESE REPORTS WITH GOP OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO CLARIFY SITUATION.

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