



Guide to the Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina Records, 1964-2016

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Summary

Collection Title:

Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina records, 1964-2016, 1973-1986

Creator:

Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina

Source:

Human Rights Archive (Duke University)

Abstract:

The Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina operated in the late 1970s and early 1980s to advocate for the human rights of Argentines targeted during the Dirty War/El Proceso. The committee was formed by prominent Argentines who had resettled in the United States, especially in the Washington, D.C. area. The committee frequently partnered with other human rights organizations, including the Washington Office on Latin America, to sponsor programming and mailings to raise awareness of the situation in Argentina. The Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina records consist of correspondence, mailers, flyers, reports, notes, programming information, petitions, lists, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, poetry, photographs, posters, and journal articles.

Extent:

9.1 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials are primarily in English and Spanish with some materials in French, Italian, and Portuguese.

Collection ID:

RL.11806

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1gm8v>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina records document its members' advocacy for the rights of Argentines and their efforts to document human rights abuses during the Dirty War/El Proceso. The collection comprises three series: the Administrative Files series, 1964-1984; the Publications series, 1965-1986; and the Subject Files series, 1973-2016. The Administrative Files series consists of the materials that directly document the work of committee members to do outreach and lobby government officials to support changes in U.S. foreign policy towards Argentina. The Publications series consists of full-length publications. The Subjects Files series consists of newspaper clippings, photographs, flyers from other organizations, posters, and wires.

Biographical/Historical

The Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina (WCHRA) was founded in 1977 following Argentine dictator Jorge Rafael Videla's rise to power and the beginning of the Proceso de Reorganización Nacional/National Reorganization Process. The committee raised awareness of human rights abuses in Argentina, circulated petitions, and collected testimonies of victims. They also dialogued with government officials as well as professional organizations to change their stances and policies on Argentina in light of human rights abuses perpetrated there. The committee consisted of Argentines living in the United States, mainly in Washington, D.C. The membership consisted primarily of educated professionals and academics including Tomas Gergely, Ana Lajmanovich, and Juan E. Méndez.

The committee often partnered with larger human rights organizations, including the Washington Office on Latin America and the Association Solidarite Franco Argentine (A.S.F.A). WCHRA largely became inactive by the mid-1980s.

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Arrangement

Organized into the following series: Administrative Files, Publications, and Subject Files.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2019.

Processing Information

Processed by Michelle Runyon, February 2020

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2019-0156

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Related Materials

Related Material

[Marshall T. Meyer papers](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Juan Méndez papers](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Patricia Murphy Derian Papers](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Memoria Abierta records](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Washington Office on Latin America records](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Jerome Shestack Papers](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Robert J. Cox papers, 1879-2010](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

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Names and Subjects

- Disappeared persons -- Argentina
- Human Rights -- Latin America
- Human Rights -- Argentina
- Journalism -- Political aspects
- State-sponsored terrorism -- Argentina
- Victims of state-sponsored terrorism -- Argentina
- Jews -- Argentina
- Human rights advocacy
- Argentina -- History -- Dirty War, 1976-1983
- Washington Committee for Human Rights in Argentina
- Human Rights Archive (Duke University)
- Washington Office on Latin America
- Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo (Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina)

- Madres de Plaza 25 de Mayo (Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina)
- Timerman, Jacobo, 1923-1999
- Méndez, Juan E.
- Gergely, Tomas, 1943-

Collection Inventory

Administrative Files, 1964-1984

Scope and Contents

This series consists of working documents of WCHRA including information about events, internal memos, external correspondence, reports, programs, testimonies of victims, and documents from other organizations. The testimonies of victims were largely gathered by WCHRA members.

Events and Campaigns, 1979-1984 Box 1

International Solidarity Congress with Argentina, 1979 Box 1

Correspondence - Teresa Lajmanovich, 1977-1978 Box 1

Correspondence, 1976-1983 Box 1

Petition for Disappeared Scientists, 1982 Box 1

Physical Description: 4 folders

Scope and Contents

The folders consist of different versions of the petition regarding disappeared scientists distributed by the WCHRA, notes, and lists of names for the petition. Notable signatories include George Wald, Salvador Luria, and Noam Chomsky.

Reports and Testimonies, 1977-1984 Box 1

Physical Description: 2 folders

Notes and Resources, 1977-1981 Box 1

Testimonials, 1978-1983 Box 1

Physical Description: 2 folders

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 1980-1981	Box 1
American Association for the Advancement of Science: Reports and Correspondence, 1976-1984	Box 1
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Correspondence from Academics and Scientists, 1976-1983	Box 1
Washington Office on Latin America, 1978-1983	Box 1
Patrick Rice and Religious Organizations, 1977-1981	Box 1
Madres and Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo, 1978-1983	Box 1
Nobel Peace Prize Campaign - Adolfo Perez Esquivel, 1978-1980	Box 1
Centro de estudios legales y sociales (CELS), 1981-1983	Box 1
Emilio Fermín Mignone, 1979-1981	Box 1
Report on Human Rights in Chile Americas Watch Committee, 1982	Box 1
Uruguay Solidarity, 1980-1983	Box 1
France Solidarity, 1977-1981	Box 1
Memos and Documents from Other HR Organizations, 1977-1982	Box 1
Solidarity in Other Countries, 1979-1983	Box 1
Scope and Contents	
Documents about solidarity efforts in Costa Rica, Grenada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Lebanon.	
Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos, 1977-1979	Box 1

Comittee for Human Rights in Argentina, 1976-1978	Box 2
Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 1978-1981	Box 2
Organization of American States, 1980	Box 2
Familiares de desaparecidos y detenidos por razones politicas, 1979-1980	Box 2
Amnesty International, 1977-1981	Box 2
Christmas Cards, 1979	Box 2
Malvinas Campaigns, 1964-1982	Box 2
Mailers, 1980	Box 2
Violations of the Right of Asylum and Testimonies, 1978	Box 2
Testimonies and Information about Disappeared People, 1976-1981	Box 2
Scope and Contents	
Includes substantial information about disappeared children.	
Boletins Informativos de La Direccion General de Prensa y Difusion, 1979-1980	Box 2
Niños Desaparecidos en La Republica Argentina Desde 1976, 1978-1981	Box 2
Niños Desaparecidos en La Republica Argentina Desde 1976 (copy), 1978-1981	Box 2
Testimony on Secret Detention Camps in Argentina, undated	Box 2
Argentine Information Service Center Partial List of Victims of Repression in Argentina, 1978	Box 4
List of Detained P.E.N., 1978	Box 4
Nomina Tentativa de Personas Desaparecidas en la Argentina Desde 1975 a 1978 Incluido, 1975-1978	Box 4

Permanent Assembly for Human Rights List of Disappeared, 1978	Box 4
WCHRA Stamps , undated	Box 8

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Publications, 1965-1986

Scope and Contents

The Publications series consists of publications gathered by WCHRA members. The contents largely cover El Proceso/the Dirty War, the disappeared, human rights abuses, American foreign policy towards Argentina, scientists' responses to human rights abuses and Argentine Jews targeted during El Proceso/the Dirty War.

Amnesty International Report, 1977	Box 2
Argentina Outreach Bulletin of the Argentine Information Service Center, 1977-1979	Box 2
Boletin del CDA Comite por la Democracia en Argentina, 1980-1981	Box 2
Breve Historia de la Argentina, 1965	Box 2
CAS Report Bulletin of the Comision Argentina de Solidaridad, 1977-1978	Box 2
Clearinghouse Report on Science and Human Rights, 1980-1982	Box 2
Cuadernos C.T.P., 1982	Box 2
Educacion, Ciencia, Tecnologia y Subdesarrollo by Dr. Mauricio Schoijet, 1977	Box 2
Embassy of Argentina - Argentine Position with Respect to the Report Prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 1980	Box 2
General Pamphlets, 1977-1983	Box 2
General Periodicals and Reports, 1976-1986	Box 2

Physical Description: 2 folders

Humor, 1982	Box 2
Informe de Amnistia International Violacion de los Derechos Humanos en Colombia, 1980	Box 3
Informe Sobre la Situacion de los Derechos Humanos en Argentina, 1980	Box 3
La Semana, 1983-1984	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Latin America Economic Report, 1978-1979	Box 3
Latin America Political Report, 1978-1979	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Latin America Quarterly Index, 1977	Box 3
Latin America Regional Reports Andean Group, 1979	Box 3
Latin America Regional Reports Brazil, 1979	Box 3
Latin America Regional Reports Caribbean, 1979	Box 3
Latin America Regional Reports Mexico and Central America, 1979	Box 3
Latin America Regional Reports Southern Cone, 1979-1983	Box 3
Latin America Weekly Report, 1979	Box 3
Latin America Weekly Report, 1980	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Latin America Weekly Report, 1981	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Latin America Weekly Report, 1982	Box 3
Matchbox, 1982	Box 3

Scope and Contents

Published by Amnesty International USA.

noti cierto Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos, 1980-1982	Box 3
Noticias de Argentina extractos de la prensa Argentina y extranjera, 1980	Box 3
"Report of an Amnesty International Mission to Argentina, 6-15 November 1976", 1977 Physical Description: 2 copies	Box 3
Report of the Mission of Lawyers to Argentina, 1979	Box 3
Report of the Special Committee on Violations of the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, 1977	Box 3
Reports on Human Rights, 1977-1984 Physical Description: 3 folders Scope and Contents The reports largely detail human rights in Latin America, the treatment of Argentine Jews during the Dirty War, or human rights advocacy work by professional scientific organizations.	Box 3
Science and Human Rights Uruguay and the Southern Cone, 1980	Box 4
Scientific Publications, 1977-1984 Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 4
Scientists and Human Rights in Latin America, 1981	Box 4
Separata Movimiento Ecueménico por los Derechos Humanos (MEDH), 1978	Box 4
The Argentine Situation Concerning Human Rights, 1978	Box 4
Update Latin America, 1978-1982	Box 4
Uruguay, 1979-1982	Box 4
Women in Dialogue Inter-American Meeting, 1979	Box 4

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Subject Files, 1973-2016

Scope and Contents

The Subject Files series consists of newspaper clippings, flyers, posters, newsletters, drawings, photographs, poetry, magazine articles, and wires. Some of these materials were annotated by WCHRA members and appear to have been circulated among members.

Argentine Newspaper Articles, 1976-1980	Box 4
Book Proposal The Disappeared of Argentina, undated	Box 4
Clippings from Westerkamp, 1979 Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 4
Congressional Record House of Representatives, 1980	Box 4
Drawing by Julio Alberto Carreras, 1982	Box 4
Gabriel Alejandro Cwilich, 1973-1979	Box 4
Horacio Alberto Castro Informe, undated	Box 4
Intellectuals and students on Argentina, 1982-1983	Box 4
International Policy on Human Rights of International Federation of Social Workers, undated	Box 4
Jacobo Timerman, 1984	Box 4
La Nación Clippings, 1981	Box 4
La Prensa and the Buenos Aires Herald Clippings, 1982	Box 4
Latin American book trade, 1978-1982	Box 4
Lists of Detained Clippings, 1978	Box 4
Look into the real Argentina, 1978	Box 4

Los Niños de Nuestra Patria, 1979	Box 4
Military and Human Rights Clippings, 1976-1977	Box 4
Newspaper Clippings, 1976-1979 Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 4
Newspaper Clippings, 1980-1982	Box 4
Newspaper Clippings, 1983-1984	Box 4
Newspaper Clippings, undated	Box 4
Newspaper/Magazine Articles and Book Sections, 1977-1983 Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 4
Observaciones al Proyecto de Ley de Reformas al Código de Justicia Militar, 1983	Box 5
Personal Materials of Tomas Gergely, 1981, 2016, undated	Box 5
Photographs, 1980	Box 5
Poetry, 1977	Box 5
Press Clippings Inter American Development Bank, 1982-1983	Box 5
Rodolfo Walsh, 1977	Box 5
Science and Technology, 1979-1982	Box 5
Scientists - Human Rights, 1977-1982	Box 5
Somos familiares padres or tíos de niños desaparecidos en Argentina, 1981-1982	Box 5

Scope and Contents

This pamphlet outlines stories of the disappeared relatives of Osiris Dominguez, Mabel Castro de Dominguez, Marta Enseñat, Nelson Hernandez, Adolfo Luis Lopez Mateos, Jorge Nadal, Julio Ramirez, and Adalberto Eraldo Rossetti. It includes lists of facts about the disappeared, newspaper clippings

about their cases, and personal statements from the relatives who created the pamphlet.

The Clinic of Hope Joelito Filártiga, 1982	Box 5
Una Experiencia Educativa Argentina Manuel Sadosky, 1980	Box 5
U.S. Magazine and Newspaper Clippings, 1977-1980	Box 5
Washington Post and New York Times Clippings, 1975-1980	Box 5
Wires, 1970s	Box 5
Wires, 1981-1983	Box 5
Wires, undated	Box 5
Newspaper Pages, 1977-1980	Box 6
Newspaper Pages, 1981-1984	Box 6
Posters, undated	Box 7
Newspaper Pages, 1977-1980	Box 7
Newspaper Pages, 1981-1982	Box 7
List of Disappeared, 1981	Box 7

Scope and Contents

Published in La Prensa.

Posters, 1978-1979, undated	Oversize-folder 1
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