

## GAYS FIRED AFTER ARGENTINE PAPER PRINTS PINK LIST

BUENOS AIRES—In the midst of aggressively escalating harassment of gays by Argentine police and judges, a key Buenos Aires newspaper has published the home addresses and national identity-card numbers of the *Comunidad Homosexual Argentina's* board of directors.

Most of the eight board members were quickly fired from their jobs, according to a CHA spokesperson.

The newspaper, *Actualidad*, also published a second list of 35 known CHA members, along with their ID numbers.

"The list was sent to the newspaper by the attorney general," charged CHA's Emmanuel Valido. "Most of the people are now dismissed from their work."

In response, CHA issued a call for an International Day of Solidarity on Dec. 7, 8 or 9. "You can make a solidarity party in a discotheque to benefit CHA," Valido said. "This was done already in Stockholm with singers, dancers, poets and a costume party."

CHA also called on gay and lesbian activists worldwide to begin "aggressive protests against all Argentine embassies and consulates."

"If you have access to radio and TV, please denounce the situation in Argentina," Valido urged. "We need a big international scandal."

Life for Argentine gays has been

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struggle of the CHA  
(Comunidad Homosexual  
Argentina).

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Comunidad  
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deteriorating for two years. At first, overt harassment came only from police, who arbitrarily arrest gays nightly in the streets to "check" their "records" or because they are prone to "sexual promiscuity in public."

Five laws are used in the ongoing crackdown. The laws permit detainment of "suspicious persons," required prostitutes, persons who permit same-sex dancing, wear "improper clothes" or operate an establishment where "homo-

sexuals gather for immoral purposes."

In August, the crackdown received de facto official approval when a federal appeals court denied CHA any legal status in Argentine society—forcing the shutdown of gay-rights and AIDS work nationwide and preventing the group from renting an office or collecting money.

The court said: "Homosexuality injures the principles of morality and good customs of our society. The pub-

lic acceptance or legalized promotion of a third hybrid gender would contravene not only the principles of natural law, but also Catholic morality is challenged by all these currents that pursue the glorification of homosexual behavior," the court wrote.

CHA is appealing the ruling to the Supreme Court. If that fails, the group will move to the InterAmerican Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica.▼

—Rex Wockner/Chicago