

# Transparency International is behind purge of Argentine police

by Gonzalo Huertas

Last Dec. 21, on the pretext of “fighting corruption,” Gov. Eduardo Duhalde of Buenos Aires province, the largest and most politically important of Argentina’s provinces, put the Buenos Aires police department into receivership for 90 days. With 47,000 officers, the department is larger than the Argentine Army. Duhalde named as trustee, former provincial legislator Luis Enrique Lugones, and immediately fired 243 high-ranking officers, including sheriffs, majors, and inspectors. The department’s 18 regional units were dissolved, and 20 investigatory brigades were eliminated. At the same time, a Criminal Policy Institute was created, and the planned creation of a private police university announced.

There is no doubt that corruption, and worse, exists within the Buenos Aires police department. But, those who twisted Duhalde’s arm to launch this “cleanup,” such as former federal prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, or former Justice Minister León Carlos Arslanián, are not motivated by a desire to create a more “honest” or “democratic” police force. Rather, the operations launched against the Buenos Aires police are part of an offensive headed by London-directed organizations, including the non-governmental organization Transparency International (TI) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), against the Argentine nation-state itself.

Luis Moreno Ocampo is the president for Latin America and the Caribbean of TI, whose founding in May 1993 was blessed by the British monarchy’s Prince Philip. Under the slogan of “fighting corruption,” its principal work is to dismantle institutions of the sovereign nation-state, supposedly to make them more “transparent” (see box). Moreno Ocampo’s NGO, Citizens’ Power Foundation, has been generously funded by the NED, a key element in the U.S. “secret government” apparatus behind the Iran-Contra scandal. Its most prominent individuals, such as former President George Bush and Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.), financed weapons- and drug-trafficking to support the Nicaraguan Contras. The NED gave nearly \$300,000 to Moreno Ocampo’s foundation between 1993 and 1995.

Why attack the Buenos Aires police? Because it is closely tied to the political machinery of the ruling Justicialista Party (Peronists), and, to the machinery of Duhalde, a contender in the 1999 Presidential elections. Under the dictatorship of London’s “democracy,” there can be no toleration of political machines which could prove obstacles to London’s policies against the nation-state. In the Dec. 21 *Página 12*, Eugenio

Raúl Zaffaroni, a collaborator of Moreno Ocampo, reminded Duhalde that the governors of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Zulia, Venezuela “lost elections” last year because they failed to reform local police forces.

## ‘Reinventing the police’

This attack on Argentina was launched a year ago, after the gruesome Jan. 25, 1997 assassination of a *Noticias* magazine photographer, José Luis Cabezas, near the Pinamar beach resort, some 380 kilometers southeast of Buenos Aires. A group of Buenos Aires policemen was blamed for Cabezas’s murder and, more recently, for desecrating graves in the Jewish Cemetery of La Tablada, in Buenos Aires province.

A few weeks before the December action against the Buenos Aires police was announced, Moreno Ocampo told the daily *La Nación* that instead of just “intervening” against the police, they should be “reinvented.” Said Moreno Ocampo, “Reinvent the system. . . . The crisis caused by the Cabezas case, the attack against AMIA [Israeli-Argentine Mutual Association, whose headquarters were destroyed in a July 1995 car-bombing] define the before and the after.” He proposed creating “a private, non-partisan, independent, *ad honorem* and autonomous commission” charged with this “reinvention.” But, what emerged is neither independent nor autonomous. It is “transparently” a political instrument.

Among the gaggle of sociologists, political scientists, and psychologists brought in to “reform” the police, are former legislator and Justice Minister León Carlos Arslanián, and Alberto Binder, the security “expert” for Frepaso, the political coalition linked to Fidel Castro’s narco-terrorist São Paulo Forum. Both are authors of the so-called “Immediate Action Plan” for the police reform. The former judge linked to the opposition Radical Civic Union (UCR), Ricardo Gil Lavedra, and Frepaso Congressman Juan Pablo Cafiero, have been designated to ensure UCR and Frepaso support for the police reform. Both Arslanián and Gil Lavedra participated in the 1985 trial of the military junta members who took power in a 1976 coup.

Binder, director of the Institute of Comparative Studies in Criminal Sciences, has extensive experience in security matters and has lent his services — along with TI — to judicial and security reforms in Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Binder is also coordinator of the Latin American Network for

the Democratization of Justice.

Arslanián explains that the true objective of the reform is “to do away with the caste spirit which begins in the [police] academies.” He openly states that he wants to run the same kind of campaign against the Buenos Aires police that was run against the country’s Armed Forces, and which has resulted in the de facto annihilation of this institution in Argentina. And, Moreno Ocampo is one of the individuals behind the campaign to annul the laws of “due obedience” and “end point,” according to which there can be no more trials of military personnel accused of alleged human rights violations during the 1970s.

Enacted under the 1983-89 government of Raúl Alfonsín, these laws were intended as a step toward national reconciliation, putting a halt to the politically destabilizing trials of officers who had defended the nation against the terrorist onslaught of the 1970s. The allegation of “human rights violations” was one of the tools used by the international media and human rights mafia in their assault against the Armed Forces. Today, the same grouping, with the aid of allies such as Moreno Ocampo, has launched the campaign to annul these laws. Were they to succeed, it would further the assault on Argentina’s already destroyed military, and set a precedent for action against other of Ibero-America’s Armed Forces. The Brazilian and Chilean militaries, for example, also carried out anti-terrorist operations during the same period, and were subsequently granted amnesties from prosecution. Both institutions are immediate targets.

Raúl Zaffaroni, director of the Criminal Law and Criminology Department of Buenos Aires University, and a Buenos Aires legislator, states that “demilitarizing” the police means

that “one must eliminate the blind and stupid obedience there has been within the police corps.”

### **The real criminal is the IMF**

The 1991 implementation of the so-called Convertibility Plan, a version of the British colonial doctrine of a currency board, has devastated Argentina’s productive apparatus, and resulted in an 18% unemployment rate, and subsequent increase in crime, nationwide. All national authorities deny the unemployment-crime symbiosis, and, instead of improving living conditions, have opted to increase the number of police on the streets, while reducing security for public buildings.

It was at this time that the would-be reformers began to promote the “privatization” of security in Buenos Aires, arguing that security forces were needed to protect public buildings. In an interview with the daily *La Nación* on Dec. 26, 1997, Arslanián stated that the “big changes in the Buenos Aires police mean that private security funds would be brought in, allowing the two [private and public police] to work together.” Arslanián has said that this responsibility would be given to the Chamber of Security Agencies.

Private security is a specialty of the British Empire. It has firms such as Crown Agents, Defence Systems Ltd., and Executive Outcomes, which operate in Colombia, Sierra Leone, Congo/Zaire, Uganda, and other nations, looting natural resources for London’s benefit (see *EIR*, Aug. 22, 1997, “Britain’s ‘Invisible’ Empire Unleashes the Dogs of War”).

On Jan. 4, Argentine President Carlos Menem not only endorsed the “reinvention” of the Buenos Aires police, but stated that “if this reform works out well, we will need a [similar] reform throughout the Argentine Republic.”

## **Moreno Ocampo and TI**

The main agent of “reinventing” the police in Argentina is former federal prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, the president for Latin America and the Caribbean of Transparency International (TI). As *EIR* documented in its July 25, 1997 issue, TI is one of several instruments employed by London to force governments to yield to its anti-nation-state policies. TI was founded in May 1993, in a meeting at the Villa Borsig, in Berlin, Germany. Among those attending was Robert McNamara, former president of the World Bank. But behind the public discussions was Prince Philip, husband of England’s Queen Elizabeth, who, beginning in 1984, organized a series of meetings which established the “moral-theological” foundation for TI. TI worked together with the World Bank from its inception; its director, Peter Eigen, is a former World Bank official.

Moreno Ocampo offers his “transparency services”

through both his law firm and his NGO, Citizens’ Power Foundation, and has been known to resort to the use of hidden cameras of the sort used by military intelligence and in industrial espionage. His first legal work was with the firm which Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni shared with his brothers. Reliable sources indicate that it was in this office that the new constitution of the City of Buenos Aires was drafted, which legalized drug addiction, prostitution, homosexuality, and abortion.

Included on the administrative board of TI is Peter Berry, managing director of London’s Crown Agents, an institution which since its founding in 1833 under the name Crown Agency for the Colonies, is one of the oldest organizations charged with providing logistical and security support to the entire British Empire. In 1996, it was “privatized,” and its name was changed to Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administration Ltd. Crown Agents has played a major role in the destruction of the nations of former Zaire, Rwanda, and Burundi, in Central Africa.