9-14-1989

Argentina: Thousands March To Protest President Menem's Intent To Give Blanket Pardon To Human Rights Violators

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Argentina: Thousands March To Protest President Menem's Intent To Give Blanket Pardon To Human Rights Violators

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Thursday, September 14, 1989

On Sept. 8, thousands of people marched through downtown Buenos Aires to protest possible presidential pardons for military officers accused of torture and killings in the 1970s. According to the AP, the marchers numbered nearly 30,000. Notimex cited police as saying the demonstrators covered a four-kilometer stretch, totaling about 85,000. March organizers told reporters that participants totaled at least 200,000. The march was the first large demonstration since Carlos Menem took over the presidency in July. Menem is also considering pardons for imprisoned leftist guerrilla leaders. Some 190 political, human rights, trade union, student, professional and cultural organizations participated in the march. In Cordoba, Argentina's second-largest city, over 5,000 marched, and in Rosario, 25,000. In Neuquen, 1,200 km. southwest of Buenos Aires, the march was headed by Bishop Jaime de Nevaes, well-known human rights advocate. Hebe Bonafini, president of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, said: "The pardon Menem is promising the murderers is a way of showing that justice does not exist in this country." On Sept. 9, President Menem confirmed his decision to issue a pardon for the military officers. According to daily newspaper Pagina 12, he said, "There are those who are for pacification, and those who are against pacification. I assume the responsibility and I assume the costs..." Most newspapers in Buenos Aires described the demonstration as massive, and pointed out that in addition to organizations and their supporters, the march picked up hundreds of sympathizers during its course through the streets. (Basic data from Notimex, 09/08/89, 09/09/89; AP, 09/09/89)

-- End --