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National Prosecutor for Criminal and Correctional Matters No. 4
Dr. Carlos Stornelli

**Email:** **fiscrf4-nac@mpf.gov.ar**

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Dear Mr. Prosecutor,

**I am writing to express my deep concern about the criminalization of 33 people who peacefully demonstrated against the widely known «Ley de Bases» in Buenos Aires on 12 June**. Among those detained were university students, street vendors, and human rights defenders.

Evidence from public sources revealed that the operation included the unlawful use of «less lethal» weapons, such as chemical irritants and rubber bullets, resulting in many people being unnecessarily injured and needing medical care. Amnesty International also documented the cases of Santiago Adano, Juan Ignacio Spinetto and Camila Juárez Oliva, all of whom were detained after, or even before, taking part in the demonstrations, which could constitute arbitrary detention. Despite 28 people being released, I am alarmed that criminalization continues for the whole group.

Violent actions by some protesters do not deprive others of their right of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. I respectfully remind you of your obligation to conduct your proceedings according to international human rights law and standards to avoid the unlawful use of the criminal code as a reprisal for dissent.

I also fear the chilling effect that these cases can have on the freedom of expression of Argentinian society in a context where critics and divergence of opinion have been publicly targeted by the highest authorities in the country.

**Given the international and national obligations of the Argentine State to respect, protect, and guarantee the right to freedom of expression and the right of public assembly of all persons, I request that you urgently drop the charges against the 33 detained for protesting on 12 June and that those still in prison are released immediately.**

Best regards,

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**Copie**

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