

**ASSESSMENT ON THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION AGAINST  
TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR  
PUNISHMENT  
ARGENTINA  
60th session (17 April-12 May 2017)**

Dear Committee Experts,

We are contacting you on behalf of the Ombudsman of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, with regard to the periodic report submitted by the Argentine State on the validity of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

This submission intends to make available the alternative report prepared by this Ombudsman Office's Observatory on Gender Violence (*Observatorio de Violencia de Género, OVG*), which accounts for the Argentine State's improvements, setbacks, weaknesses and omissions concerning its duty to respect, ensure and enforce the rights included in the Convention.

The report is arranged following the focal points defined by the Committee in its List of Issues and Questions, and it includes questions and recommendations suggested as regards each of the issues addressed, in order to be taken into account by the Committee, both at the assessment hearing scheduled for April 26th, 2017, and at the moment of providing its Concluding Observations on Argentina.

The information provided may be organized in the following major areas:

- 1.- Imprisoned women in the province of Buenos Aires
- 2.- Violence, persecution and harassment by State officials against transgender people and travestites
3. Rights violation and violence against transgender people and travestites held in police stations, wards and penitentiary units
- 4.- Violence against women



We remain at your disposal for any further information. Yours faithfully,

GUIDO LORENZINO

Defensor del Pueblo de la provincia de Buenos Aires

## 1.-IMPRISONED WOMEN IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES<sup>1</sup>. (Article 2. Article 16)

Confinement has a differential effect in the case of women, and the Argentine State does not take into account the specific needs of this group. This differential effect is especially detrimental because of the impact that a woman's detention has on her family networks, particularly on her children's situation.

**Increase in the Number of Women Held in Detention Centers.** In recent years, an increase of the female population in prisons is observed, as a result of the impact exerted by the legislation on narcotics. Criminal policy has focused on the persecution of the most vulnerable links in the drug trafficking chain. This definition has contributed to the criminalization of women and to the increase of the incarceration rates all over the country.

In Argentina, there are at least 3,125 women deprived of their liberty. It is the largest number in the entire Argentine history. The province of Buenos Aires holds 1,223 women of that total. During the last 15 years, the number of imprisoned women increased in 32%. Of them, 61% are in pretrial detention. Besides, 90% of the imprisoned women are mothers, 56 of whom live with their children in the prisons of the province of Buenos Aires<sup>2</sup>.

It should be noted that there are no units nor prisons where defendant women may be housed separately from convicted women.

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<sup>1</sup> This section has been prepared based on the information surveyed by this OVG and included in the report "*De traslado. Violencia de género y poder carcelario*" ("For Transfer. Gender Violence and Power in Prisons"). A study on the mechanism applied to transfer imprisoned women in penitentiaries located in the province of Buenos Aires (2015)." [www.defensorba.org.ar](http://www.defensorba.org.ar)

<sup>2</sup> Data provided by the Ministry of Justice of the province of Buenos Aires to the OVG, February, 2017

**Constant and Arbitrary Transfers, and the Difficulties in Accessing Justice by Women Prisoners.** Access to justice by imprisoned women in the penitentiaries of the province of Buenos Aires depends almost exclusively on the possibility of accessing to a transfer in order to attend the bodies administering justice. In the case of subpoenas, it is repeatedly observed that women may not meet their public defender or Judges because there are no vehicles available or because time limits are not observed.

In spite of the increase in the female prison population, to date, the provincial government has neither made available vehicles especially prepared for women's transfers, nor for pregnant women living with their children in prison.

Constant and arbitrary transfers of women affect the ties with their children and family, and, in many cases, provoke an interruption of the mother-child contact, generating processes of institutionalization for these children.

**Celeste.** On May 3, 2016, at Detention Unit No. 3, located in San Nicolas de los Arroyos, province of Buenos Aires, Mrs. Celeste was separated from her 2-month-old infant daughter, Geraldine Rodríguez, upon the request of the Penitentiary Service in order to allegedly protect the girl's safety. The intervening Child Rights Protection Agencies of the Municipality of San Nicolas ruled to make effective a measure of protective rights, which included separating mother from daughter, and institutionalizing the girl at that city's "*El amanecer*" Home. The Penitentiary Service transferred Celeste to the Melchor Romero Detention Unit No. 45, in the city of La Plata, which is a unit devoted to people with mental disorders, as the inmate was going through a "crisis". After recovering from it, she was held in different detention units. This situation has continued over time, mother and daughter being still kept apart at present.

**Male Staff Presence** This OVG is also highly concerned with the presence of male staff during women's transfers and security-related functions at the units where women are held. This leads to multiple situations of verbal, sexual and physical violence against women. The presence of male staff is also materialized during transfers.

**Violent Requisitions, Male Security Staff and Arbitrary Transfers at Los Hornos Women's No. 8 Detention Unit.**

During the daybreak of November 24, 2016, there were violent and collective searches at Los Hornos No. 8 Detention Unit, where 223 women are held. After those procedures, sanctions were imposed on the women in detention, through mechanisms as transfers to

other detention units and detentions in solitary confinement cells without submitting the respective disciplinary reports. In the interview carried out by this OVG, some of the women prisoners informed us that: *“The night of November 24 more than 200 men appeared with dogs and entered the units, smashing and breaking everything, and taking away the team leaders from the transfer detention unit (...) That since the change of authorities, there are searches in the cells where everything is smashed. That the security staff searches them every time they leave their cells, every time they return from the yard, the infirmary, the school (...) That the day of the end-of-year ceremony, the teachers came in with a cake, which was searched with the tip of a knife”.*

*“Prison staff wears gloves because they introduce their hand in the prisoners' vagina to see if they hide cell phones. They do so when they go downstairs, and they do so again when they go upstairs.”*

**Confinement.** In the prisons of the province of Buenos Aires, confinement is used as a form of punishment to control, modulate or cut communication flows among the people detained, as well as with their family networks. Women remain housed in solitary confinement cells for several weeks. This OVG has verified the existence of women punished in solitary confinement cells without duly submitting any disciplinary report.

**Deficiencies in Health Care, and the Access to Health Services of Women Prisoners.** In the province of Buenos Aires, the administration of health services for women prisoners is in charge of the prison health care section of the Penitentiary Service of the province of Buenos Aires (hereafter, SPB), instead of the Ministry of Health. In practice, the lack of coordination between these institutions segregates women's access to health campaigns, and to the national and provincial policies promoting women's sexual and reproductive rights.

**Obstetric Violence in Prisons.** Based on an SPB regulatory provision, during labor, women prisoners may not remain accompanied by any relative or other person they may choose. They can only be accompanied by prison staff. The OVG has confirmed that during their stay in public hospitals, women are left in shackles, even when breast-feeding. There have been recurrent formal complaints as both male and female prison officers prevent women prisoners from having any contact with their newly born babies: most of them are transferred to the prisons, while their babies remain in hospital.

**Barriers in the Access to Justice of Women Prisoners. Alternative Measures to Prison.** At the same time an increase in female prison population was observed, rules were issued granting home detention for pregnant women and mothers of children below five (5) years of age<sup>3</sup>. Both rules meant a significant legislative step-forward as regards the visibility of the particular situation undergone by women prisoners. However, there are still barriers to the effective compliance with this legislation.

It is a matter of concern the lack of coordination between competent bodies (the Judiciary and the penitentiary field), in order to establish actions favoring the access of women to alternative measures to prison. Undoubtedly, the non-existence of State actions for the promotion of policies related to accompanying and strengthening women prisoners' family networks hinder even more judicial officers' possibility of granting alternative measures to prison.

**Record of Cases of Torture on Women Prisoners in the Province of Buenos Aires (Article 12 and 13)** Official records do not disaggregate data by the sex-gender variable. This hinders the possibility of assessing data in order to examine the length of pre-trial detention, the categories of the crimes that have increased their rate of prisonization, etc.

It should be noted that up to January, 2016, there was no public information available as regards cases of torture on women during their imprisonment or at the moment of detention. Human rights organizations and public agencies in charge of monitoring the prison situation have serious difficulties in producing information from a gender perspective. Thus, the National Registry of Cases of Torture and/or Ill-Treatment (*Registro Nacional de Casos de Tortura y/o Malos Tratos*, RNCT)<sup>4</sup> reports the number of acts of torture and victims but does not include the classification by the sex-gender variable according to the type of tortures. It is reported that in 2015, a total number of 596 victims of torture

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<sup>3</sup> In December, 2008, the category of pregnant women and women with children below five years of age was incorporated to the Code of Criminal Procedure of the province of Buenos Aires, which includes them among those people who may access alternative instances to pretrial detention (Article 159, text according to Law No.13,943). The same formula is used in National Law 12,256, which in Art. 19 includes home detention for pregnant women and mothers of children below five (5) years of age or for women having a dependant disabled person, as a specific way of serving the sentence imposed.

<sup>4</sup> Created in 2010 by the Interinstitutional Agreement between the Buenos Aires Provincial Commission for Memory, the National Prison Procurement and the Study Group on the Penal System and Human Rights (School of Social Sciences-UBA)

and/or ill-treatment was recorded, most of them (561) male, though a total of **35 women (5.9)** was also interviewed.

Recently, the *Registry of Cases of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatments*, which reports to the Criminal Appellate Court's Public Defender of the Attorney General's Office of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Province of Buenos Aires submitted a first report<sup>5</sup> where it discloses **15 cases** between January 1 and April 30, 2016, in which the victims of tortures or ill-treatment were women. Six of them were committed by provincial police staff, while the aggressors of the other nine recorded cases could have been officers of the Penitentiary Service of the Province of Buenos Aires.

At the Ombudsman Office of the province of Buenos Aires, in 2016, a **total of 155 formal claims on institutional violence against** women occurred in detention units and wards of the province of Buenos Aires

## QUESTIONS

*What are the difficulties faced by States in reporting disaggregate data concerning the number of women prisoners and the acts of torture they suffered from the security and penitentiary forces? What is the number of pregnant women and/or women with under-aged children that have been granted home detention?*

*What social security services and benefits do pregnant women and/or women with children under five years of age receive?*

*As regards the situation of women deprived of liberty for drug-related crimes:*

*Has the State taken any steps in addressing the major growth of women prisoners occurred during the last fifteen years, considering that most of them are connected to non-violent, drug-related minor offences?*

*Is there any information concerning the type of convictions received by the women deprived of liberty for drug-related crimes? Has any policy involving alternative measures to prison for these cases been implemented?*

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<sup>5</sup> First Periodic Report 2016 - - January 1 / April 30 -

<http://www.defensapublica.org.ar/BancodeDatos/2016/1erInfPer2016.pdf>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To incorporate gender identity to the records of the penitentiary system in order to disaggregate all data according to both variables and not only totals.

To review current legislation and crime policies that have had an impact on the increase of women prisoners during the last 10 years, in order to consider legislative amendments, which may provide for other types of punishment or clearer alternatives to prison. To give priority to the use of magnetic bracelets as an alternative measure to prison for women who are mothers.

To ensure the design and implementation of public policies in prisons housing women, and to incorporate the gender perspective for definitions concerning work, access to healthcare, and the exercise of motherhood inside and outside prison.

To review the role of male staff in female detention units, as they usually make use of force, especially when intervening in conflict situations.

It is a high priority that the Executive may promote social policies to accompany women's lives, under home detention modalities, e.g. by means of an employment program, of economic aid for women and their dependant children.

## 2.-VIOLENCE, PERSECUTION, AND HARASSMENT BY STATE OFFICIALS AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND TRAVESTITES

We have recorded acts involving violence, persecution and harassment during police operations carried out by the Police of the province of Buenos Aires against transgender people and travestites.

Transgender people and travestites have been detained for misdemeanors and/or minor offences; temporarily held based on categories included in the Police Organization Act as detention for background checks, or the alleged commission of offences related to drug possession for trading purposes.

**Forceful Searches and Nudity.** Police searches were performed by male staff, in a degrading way, and using the coercive method of forceful nudity, both on the street and at the police station, without any express prior judicial authorization or grounds accounting for them.

According to the remarks made by the transgender people and travestites interviewed, police searches were carried out by male staff under the 'suspicion' of having committed a criminal offence, related to the Narcotics Law.

The terms in which this practice has been surveyed by this OVG shows a degrading and discriminatory treatment exerted by the security forces.

The nudity of the accused should be considered cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment just as it is established by the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the United Nations General Assembly.

Concerning police behavior, it calls the attention the arbitrariness applied in the development of police procedures when performing searches through the belongings of the different people on the street, without a judicial authorization, basing their intervention on grounds of urgency, justified by calls made to the 911 system.

**Harassment.** This OVG has been informed of police harassment and aggression practices against women, transgender people and travestites who prostitute themselves on the streets.

The OTRANS organization has submitted to the Ombudsman Office of the province of Buenos Aires a claim concerning police actions. They say they have been ill-treated by an officer of the Police of the province of Buenos Aires, serving at Police Station No. 9 of the city of La Plata, and also state that they tried to file the complaint at the corresponding Prosecutor's Office, having this body refused to receive the individual claim of each of the transgender people who had been harassed. In their claim, they state that a policeman of that police station, whom they recognize for his body structure with uniform, and without any personal ID, in a police vehicle, a double-cabin pick-up, license plate LBJ871, being 02:30 A.M. on Sunday, March 3, 2016, he gets out of the vehicle and sprays pepper gas over Fernanda and Bianca, who was also kicked about, on Street 4 and 65. Identical situation took place on Friday, March 4, 2016, at 01:00 A.M., when Bridgitte was beaten; she was unable to appear as a result of the inflicted injuries, on Street 4 and 64. The same person has also beaten Katalina, on Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 01:00 A.M., on Street 3 and 65 . This situation is constantly repeated under the same modus operandi, when a man gets out of a police vehicle and ill-treats the deponents using different elements, from bats to electric prods<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> File No. 141,949



**Third-Party Violence with Police Cover Up.** This OVG has received cases in which police officers not only exert violence, but also incite other people to attack transgender people and travestites, or remain indifferent while witnessing violent acts perpetrated against them by third parties.

**Diana Sacayán** was insulted and attacked at a bar in 2013; in view of this situation, she asked for help from two gendarmerie officers who were nearby. According to what was alleged, the officers talked to the aggressor, allowed him to leave, and then told her "You better start running", and that afterwards, they beat her with a stick. When she arrived to the local police station to file the complaint, the police chief present refused to receive the complaint and took her to a nearby hospital, where it was verified that she suffered nose and cheek fractures. There was no record of her presence at the police station.

**Soledad Iturre**<sup>7</sup>, a transgender woman who lives in the city of Moreno, province of Buenos Aires, was found on the street by the police, beaten and completely unconscious. She was cared for by police staff, who arrived at the scene after being alerted by neighbors and passers-by. The police called the ambulance and she was taken to the provincial public hospital by the police staff, where she had to undergo a neurosurgery. Almost a month after the event, no police officer nor public health official had filed any complaint in order to investigate the extremely violent acts suffered by Soledad. After receiving the advice of this OVG, Soledad Iturre went to the General prosecutor's Office in the city of Moreno to file a complaint concerning the events that had never before been received by the Judiciary. At that judiciary office, they refused to receive the claim putting forward excuses to postpone the possibility of having justice to take notice of the events and start looking for the culprits.

**Zambrano.** On September 4, at dawn, around 25 Peruvian and Ecuadorean transgender women and travestites were temporarily arrested during a police raid, disseminated as an operation against travestite drug dealers. Of that group, nine were taken to Police station NO. 9; four were left in jail for more than a week, although only one of them had less than 1 gr of narcotics in her underwear. On September 12, the Appeals and Safeguards Chamber nullified the police procedure as it considered it highly degrading based on a claim filed by the OTRANS organization. The Zambrano court decision, historical for the community, recognizes basic rights not granted to migrant women, transgender people and travestites neither by the police nor by the Judiciary.

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<sup>7</sup> Complaint 127,188

At the OVG, it has been surveyed that, in some cases, transgender people and travestites file claims on these events through their public defenders or the human rights organizations assisting them. However, there is only one case surveyed in which the judiciary procedures were nullified, as they were overtly performed against the essential rights and safeguards of the judicial process.

**Records.** During all police interventions, the police staff and judicial officers named and treated transgender people and travestites as males, showing no respect for their self-perceived identity.

### 3. RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND TRAVESTITES HELD IN POLICE STATIONS, WARDS AND DETENTION UNITS. (Article 16)

In spite of the recent legislative improvements concerning the extension of civil rights for transgender, transsexual and travestite people in Argentina, this OVG points out that the SPB has not yet implemented any actions aimed at regulating those recognitions with regard to the trans and travestite population held in the prisons of the province of Buenos Aires. Trans people and travestites continue to be considered and treated with no respect for their gender identity by penitentiary staff, omitting and infringing their rights. This lack of adaptation is even observed in the filing systems, which is the reason why it is so difficult to know the number of trans people currently held in the detention units of the province of Buenos Aires.

Undoubtedly, both in provincial prisons and police facilities the trans and travestite population is enduring the highest levels of sexual violence.

**Housing.** In the province of Buenos Aires, trans people and travestites with female identity are held in male prisons, wards and police stations.

At detention centers, they are named and registered as males and live in "*units for homosexuals*" or units housing "*people who are not heterosexual*"<sup>9</sup>. There, trans

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<sup>8</sup> This legislation should be examined together with the provisions of Law 26,743, on Gender Identity. Arts. 12 and 13

<sup>9</sup> Interviews conducted with the penitentiary staff of those detention units during 2001 and 2012.

people as well as people identified by the SPB as homosexuals are housed. They even live together with individuals charged or convicted for offences or crimes against sexual integrity.

Trans people with male self-perceived gender identity are held in women detention units.

This classification made by the penitentiary staff reveals the inexistence of definitions concerning the adaptation of the provincial penitentiary policies to current regulations.

Place of Accommodation	Number of trans people detained	Percentages
Olmos No. 1 Detention Unit	2	4%
Sierra Chica No. 2 Detention Unit	8 (all Argentineans)	15%
Florencio Varela No. 32 Detention Unit	27	52%
Batan No. 44 Detention Unit	14	27%
Mar del Plata No. 50 Unit	1	2%

Information provided by the Penitentiary Service of the Province of Buenos Aires to the Ombudsman Office's Observatory on Gender Violence of the province of Buenos Aires Date: August, 2016

**NATIONALITY:** most imprisoned transgender people and travestites are non-nationals.

Nationality	Number	Percentages
Peru	30	58%
Argentina	16	31%
Ecuador	4	8%
Colombia	1	2%
Paraguay	1	2%

Information provided by the Penitentiary Service of the Province of Buenos Aires to the Ombudsman Office's Observatory on Gender Violence of the province of Buenos Aires. Date: August, 2016.

**PROCEDURAL STATUS.** 81% of the imprisoned transgender people and travestites are under a pre-trial detention regime. The provincial State has not informed the crimes they are charged for; however, based on the complaints

received by the OVG, we may state that there is an increase in the number of detentions for offenses and crimes related to narcotic trading on the streets.

**TRANSFERS.** As regards transfers of detained trans people, the SPB officers do not respect the assumed and self-perceived gender identity. Therefore, trans people and travestites are held in male detention units, transferred together with men and in custody of male security staff. Trans people and travestites express that, during transfers and searches, they are subjected to insults, sexual violence and every type of degrading treatment, which impact on their self-esteem and health.

**Access to Healthcare.** The access to healthcare of transgender people held in detention units of the province of Buenos Aires show serious limitations. All the trans people and travestites interviewed by the OVG have pointed out that detention meant the interruption of the hormone replacement therapy they had when outside, something that seriously affects their physical and psychological health.

**Regulatory Prohibitions.** Another relevant aspect of prison policy are the regulatory prohibitions to enter a number of elements into the prisons; these elements allow them to express their gender identity based on their physical appearance, ranging from their outfit to the use of cosmetics. The current SPB regulation bans entering those elements into male prisons.

**Searches.** Individual searches to trans people and travestites with self-perceived female identity are performed by male staff, many times in presence of many of them.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To include in the government and judicial areas at all State levels a respectful record of gender identities in order to enable the production of statistics and get to know the situation of trans people's and travestites' human rights, and to formulate relevant policies in order to comply with their international duties in this regard.

To ensure the right to non-discrimination of the trans people and travestites detained in detention units based on the definition of a prison policy and a respectful adaptation of the internal regulations of the rights enshrined in terms of gender identity.

To define a security policy which may be respectful of the rights enshrined in terms of gender identity, and to make political and commanding decisions on how to deal with urban conflicts where transgender and travestite people may be involved. To impose penalties on the members of the security forces who infringe the trans people's and travestite's rights and safeguards during police procedures.

### 3.-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (Article 14)

#### **Legal Frameworks.**

The passing of Law 26,485 on the comprehensive protection against any form of violence against women in their interpersonal relations, in 2009, marked a paradigm shift. In the following years, some provinces adopted local regulations in order to adhere to the text of the Comprehensive Law Against Violence, sometimes adapting it to the local context characteristics. However, in many provinces, such as the Province of Buenos Aires, legislation like the Law 12,569 on family violence adopted in the year 2000 is still in force, which addresses violence against women exclusively equating it to other forms of violence that may occur within the family group, and reducing it to the family or domestic context only, without including other forms of violence laid down in the national law<sup>10</sup>.

#### **Statistical Data on Violence against Women (Article 14)**

The production of information on violence against women is still fragmented, varied, and sporadic. In the province of Buenos Aires, the Judiciary has a registry (Registry for Domestic Violence), which does not share information with the registry created by the Public Prosecutor's Office (Registry for Domestic and Gender-Based Violence). The operators working with the information from one Registry do not have access to the information from the other, and viceversa; this leads to serious disconnects in the addressing of cases. The Executive Branch does not have specific computer records regarding violence against women either.

As regards **femicides**, it should be noted the disparity of criteria used to generate information from the National State and the provincial governments. Evidence of this is the information produced by the Public Prosecutor's Office in the province

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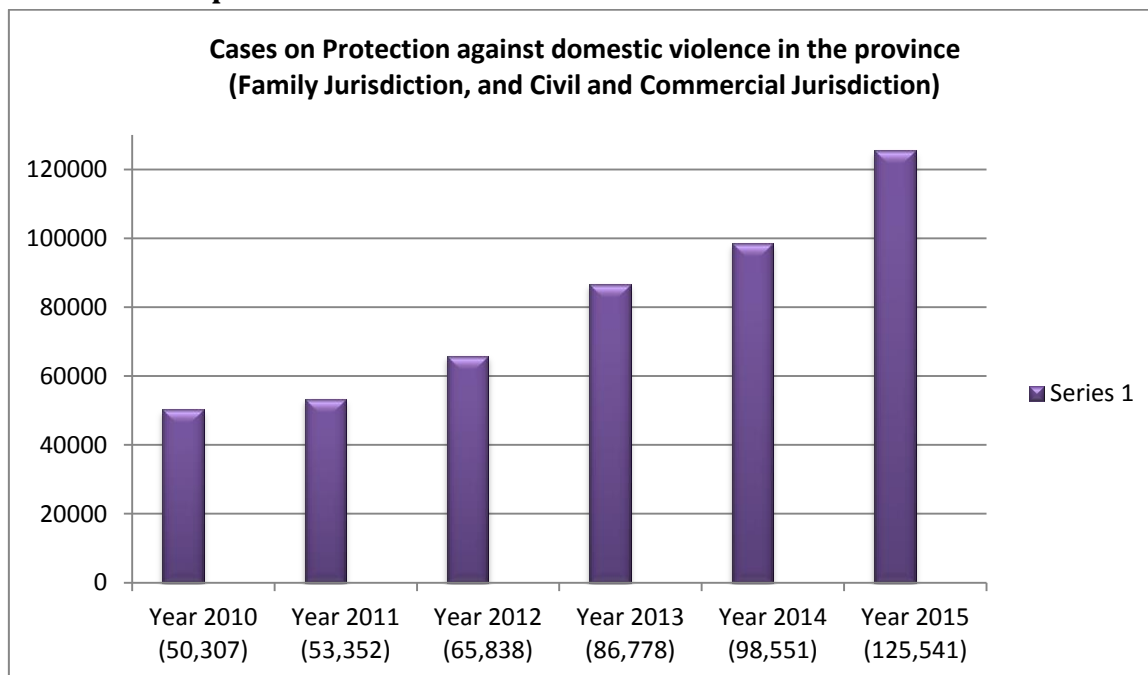
<sup>10</sup> Regulated under Law 12,569 and its regulatory decree, and under Law 14,509

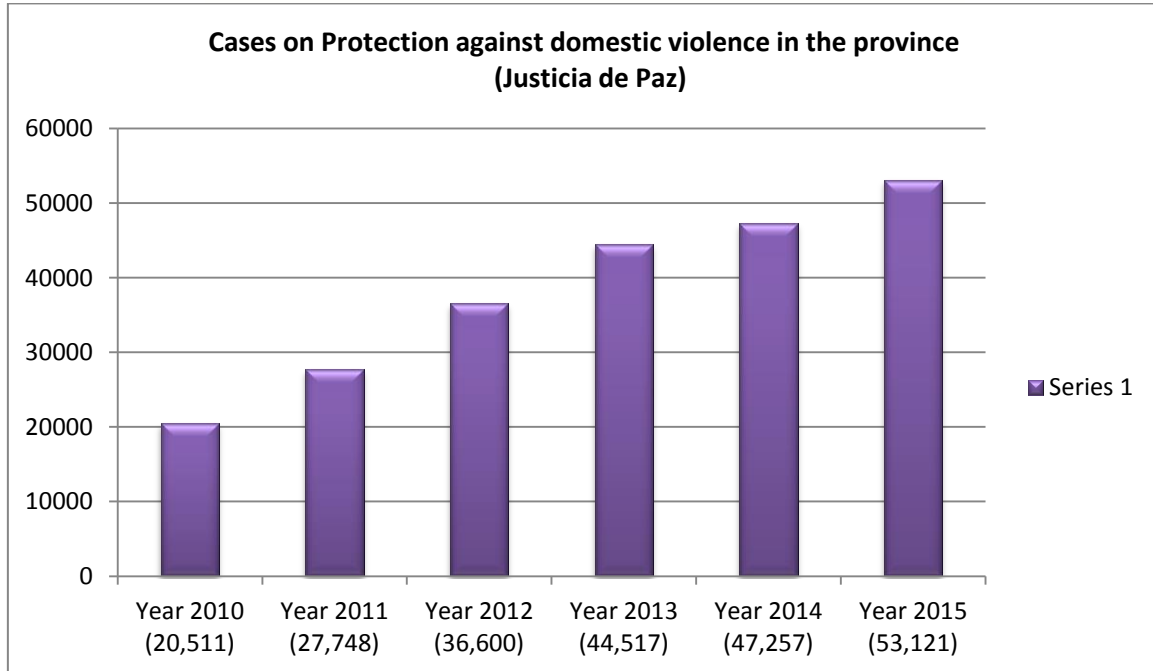
of Buenos Aires In their 2016 Report, it is clear that judicial officers do not entitle cases as femicides (Article 80, paragraph 11 of the Criminal Code).

Out of 90 cases of murdered women, only 31 court processes used the legal concept of femicide in their court proceedings.

According to the data provided by the Judiciary, cases concerning **protection against domestic violence** initiated in the family jurisdiction have tripled in the province of Buenos Aires from 2010 to 2015. The significant increase in cases concerning protection against domestic violence has also been noted in Justice of the Peace Courts in the province.

### Amount of cases regarding protection against domestic violence in the province of Buenos Aires between 2010 and 2015





Data provided to the OVG by the Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires in 2016

It is important to point out that, in the year 2016, 12,661 cases of domestic violence were closed; whereas the claim was dismissed in 1,172 cases, and protective measures were ordered in 26,943 cases<sup>11</sup>.

This increase in the amount of court proceedings has not been accompanied by an institutional restructuring in the jurisdiction, so as to be able to provide an adequate and effective response, not only in the acceptance of cases, but also in their adequate processing and follow-up.

Cases initiated at the **criminal jurisdiction** regarding crimes related to violence against women (injuries, threats, homicides, damages, disobedience) have also increased considerably. In 2016, they amount to 12.3% of overall criminal proceedings initiated throughout the province.

### **Criminal Proceedings Initiated as a Result of Crimes Related to Violence Against Women**

<sup>11</sup> The following information was provided to this OVG by the SCJBA in 2016.

Year 2015	Year 2016
<b>746,687</b>	<b>776,991</b>

Data provided by the Attorney General's Office of the Supreme Court of Justice of Buenos Aires (SCJBA) to the OVG, March 2017<sup>12</sup>.

**Amount of claims filed with the Commissioner's Offices for Women and Family at the Ministry of Security of the province of Buenos Aires.**

At the 124 existing *Commissioner's Offices for Women and Family* spread throughout the entire province, an overall amount of 162,204 claims were received, i.e., an average of 445 claims per day in the whole province in the year 2014. In 2015, 195,137 claims were received, i.e., an average of 535 claims per day, and during the first semester of 2016, 103,457 claims were received, an **average of 570 claims per day.**

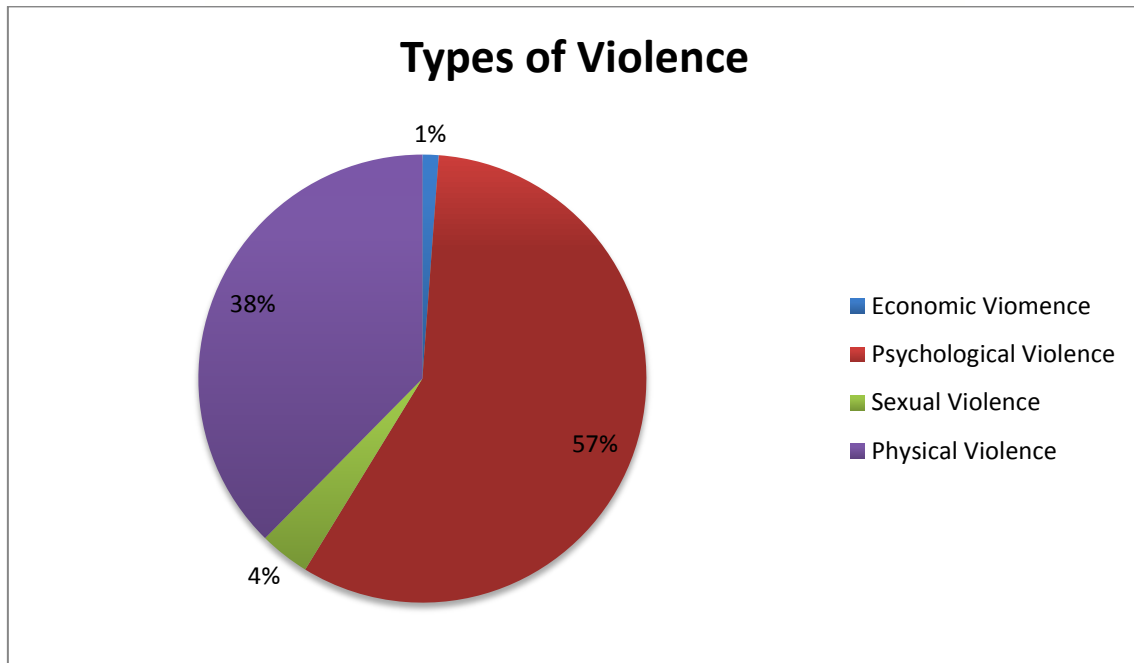
**Violence against Women and Security Forces.** According to the information submitted by the General Auditing Office of Internal Affairs of the Buenos Aires' Ministry of Security to the OVG, **1,138** administrative summary proceedings have been initiated to members of the security forces as a result of domestic and gender-based violence.

**Types of Violence Recorded in the Claims**

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<sup>12</sup> It is not possible to provide information from previous years, since the Registry for Domestic Violence of the Supreme Court of Justice of Buenos Aires' Attorney General's Office was established in the year 2014.





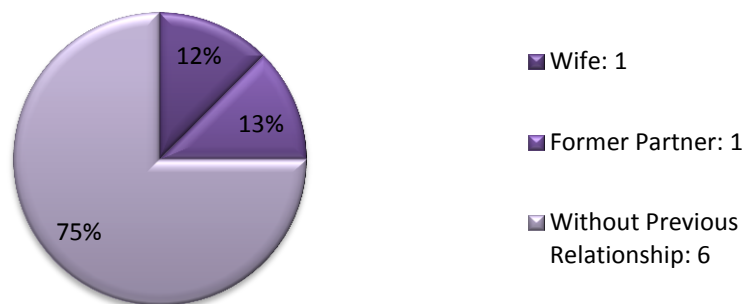
Use of service weapon. In 241 cases (13%), the service weapon was used as an element/instrument of threat, harassment or execution.

Within the universe of reported femicide cases, there are cases of women killed by police officers. In the mentioned years (2015-2016), **8 summary proceedings were initiated as a result of femicides committed by members of security forces. 4 police officers committed femicide while on duty**

**Victims of Femicide Committed by Law Enforcement Officers (2015-2016)**



**Kind of Relationship with the Officer who Committed the Femicide**



**Question**

*What are the difficulties faced to unify the existing registries among the different areas of State and to provide the security forces with computer systems so as to coordinate operational bases in order to articulate the measures taken regarding the prevention, prosecution and punishment of violence against women?*

**Recommendation**

To adapt in-force provincial and municipal regulations so as to form a harmonious whole with the standards set under the national and international law, urging the legislatures to enact the necessary laws for such adaptation.



To urge the corresponding bodies of the Judiciary, the Public Prosecution Service, and the Security Forces to create unified registries that facilitate the generation of statistical data and management methods, and act as prevention measures to combat violence against women.