



FAQs Trelew Massacre

- Why was a complaint filed?
 - The families of the victims of the Trelew Massacre have been seeking justice for the brutal killings of their loved ones for decades. The atrocities that took place during the early 1970s in Argentina, including this massacre, paved the way for the Argentine government's terrorism against its own citizens during the Dirty War (1976-1983). Roberto Guillermo Bravo, a former Argentine naval officer involved in the shootings, has so far escaped accountability by hiding out in the United States, even as other perpetrators of this crime have been tried and convicted in Argentina. CJA and its partners bring this case to ensure that Bravo is held accountable.
- Where was the complaint filed?
 - The complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.
- Who are the plaintiffs?
 - Raquel Camps, Eduardo Cappello, Alicia Krueger, and Marcela Santucho are family member of four of the victims of the Trelew Massacre. In the years following the massacre, the plaintiffs and their families have searched for answers and justice for the extrajudicial killings, attempted extrajudicial killing, and torture of their loved ones.
- Who is the defendant?
 - In 1972, Roberto Guillermo Bravo was an Ensign in the Argentine Navy stationed at the Almirante Zar Naval Base near Trelew, Argentina. Along with three other officers, Bravo participated in the shooting of 19 political prisoners – young men and women – held at the base. Three of the prisoners were seriously injured but survived. Soon after the Trelew Massacre, Bravo moved to the United States as a military attaché to the Argentine Embassy. Bravo has since become a U.S. citizen, worked as a salesman, manager, and CEO of multiple companies, and owns multiple properties and a yacht. The Argentine government has twice attempted to extradite Bravo, once in 2010 and again in 2019. The 2019 extradition request is currently pending in U.S. federal court.
- Do the U.S. federal courts have jurisdiction over the defendant?
 - Yes, Bravo is a U.S. citizen currently residing in the city of North Miami, Florida—the federal jurisdiction where the lawsuit was filed.
- What are the issues raised in the complaint?
 - The complaint alleges that Bravo was involved in the extrajudicial killing, attempted extrajudicial killing and torture of political prisoners in 1972.
- What laws are referenced/what is the legal framework for the complaint?
 - The case brings civil claims under the Torture Victims Protection Act.
- Where in the legal process is the case?
 - This case was recently filed in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Florida and is awaiting an answer from the defendant.

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- What proceedings, if any, have been brought in Argentina?
 - No charges were brought in Argentina in connection with the Trelew Massacre until 2005. In 2008, Bravo and other former military officers were charged, and Argentina requested Bravo's extradition from the United States. In 2010, a federal court declined to certify his extradition. As a result, Bravo never returned to Argentina, though Argentine prosecutors are still seeking his prosecution. Three other individuals directly involved in the massacre were prosecuted and convicted in 2012. Bravo remains the only officer who has escaped accountability thus far. Argentina has renewed its extradition request based on additional information obtained during the trials of the other three officers.
- Why was the Argentine government's previous extradition request denied?
 - The 2010 extradition request was denied by a U.S. federal judge who found insufficient evidence in the extradition request to find probable cause for surrender. The judge also accepted an argument advanced by Bravo that his crimes could not be prosecuted in Argentina because they were subject to an Argentine amnesty law.
- What is the status of the 2019 extradition request?
 - In 2019, Bravo was arrested pursuant to the Argentine government's second extradition request. The current extradition request comes after criminal proceedings against the other perpetrators of the Trelew Massacre, is supported by additional evidence and clear findings by Argentine courts that no amnesty applies to the Trelew Massacre. He was freed on bail after posting a \$4 million personal surety and a \$1 million bond. The case is now pending certification in the Southern District of Florida.
- Will this case interfere with Argentina's request that the U.S. government extradite the defendant?
 - No, the two proceedings will move forward independently.
- Who is CJA?
 - The Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) is a San Francisco-based human rights legal organization dedicated to deterring torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious human rights abuses around the world through innovative litigation and transitional justice strategies. CJA partners with impacted communities in pursuit of truth, justice, and redress, and has successfully brought cases against defendants such as the Minister of Defense of Somalia's Siad Barre regime, the military officer responsible for the assassination of Chilean activist and singer Victor Jara, and Syria's Assad regime for its targeted killing of war correspondent Marie Colvin. Visit www.cja.org.