



***This report was issued by TGS Buenos Aires, with inputs from Joseph & Alejandro. It covers the period from 1925 to 1983***

## **I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES**

- **Jorge Rafael Videla was an Argentine Army General who headed the military Junta between 1976 and 1981.**
- **In 1976 a military coup lead by Videla ousted Isabela Peron and started his own own military regime with General Ramón Agosti and Admirante Eduardo Emilio Massera.**
- **The Disappeared were opposition or supposed opposition of the military junta who were abducted, detained, often tortured and executed in the name of National Reorganization Process.**

## **II. Situation Overview**

Thirty-six years ago, a triumvirate led by **Jorge Rafael Videla**, **Ramon Agosti**, and **Emilio Massera** overthrew **Isabela Peron** from the Argentine government and started a military régime. With very extremist political points of view, an essential part of their plan was to abolish all supporters of Peron and accomplish political stability according to their opinion.

During Videla's long lasting government, the junta launched the "**Process of National Reorganization.**" This strategy consisted on **reestablishing** the main powers in Argentina, while having the junta of commanders as the highest power. The implementation of this process also included the elimination of provincial governments and legislations; and the replacement of the Supreme Court of Justice by a group of selected lawyers. Two main supporting ideas of this practice were that **Videla's plan was a process**, therefore it didn't have a due date and that there had to be an **extreme shift** on the nation's culture, politics, economy, and labour relationships.

A direct effect of the execution of the "Process of National Reorganization" was the **Dirty War or Guerra Sucia**. This so-called war was one of the utmost unreasonable, violent disputes in Argentine history. The military coup involved a campaign against any and every person that did not support the military dictatorship's ideals. Immediately, during those years around **10,000 to 30,000** people from the military, opposition, and average population went missing. These men were the **disappeared**.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### Section I: Who was Jorge Rafael Videla?

**Jorge Rafael Videla** was an Argentine Army General who headed the military Junta between 1976 and 1981. Born in 1925, in Mercedes, Argentina, Jorge Rafael Videla grew up in a **military family**. Videla graduated from the National Military College and over the next 30 years he would rise through the ranks to become **Lieutenant General** of the Argentine Army. In **1976** Videla, as the Head of the Army, overthrew Isabel Perón and put in place a military junta along with the Heads of the Air force and the Navy, Videla took position of **President till 1981**. During this time the Junta was responsible for many **atrocities against the people**.

After Democracy was reinstated in 1983, Jorge Videla, along with other Military Officers, was **charged with Human Rights abuses** and in 1985 he was **sentenced to life in prison**. However in 1990, **Jorge Videla was pardoned** under an amnesty. President Menem stated, "I have signed the decrees so we may begin to rebuild the country in peace, in liberty and in justice" In 1998 he was briefly re-imprisoned before being transferred to **house arrest** after a suspected stroke. In 2008 Menem's pardon was revoked; Videla was then transferred to a military prison. Since 2008 Videla has been **convicted of further crimes** committed during his rule as president and still serves his life sentence.

#### Section II: When and how did his military dictatorship begin?

In 1976 a **military coup** led by Videla ousted Isabel Peron and started his own own military regime. In March 24 1976 Jorge Rafael Videla headed the coup, together with **General Ramón Agosti** and **Admirante Eduardo Emilio Massera** ousted **President Isabel Perón** and Videla took the place as president. Videla stated that they needed to **eradicate the instabilities and threats** within the nation by following the **National Reorganization Process**. By using force, they aimed to purge from society the **idea of subversion**, along with the ideologies and political traditions that the junta saw as posing a possible threat or opposition. In doing so the Military Junta started the military's infamous "Dirty War" in which some **30,000 citizens were tortured and murdered** in the name of political stability between 1976 and 1983.

#### Section III: Who were the Disappeared and what tactics were used to make people disappear and why did they do it?

The Disappeared were **opposition or supposed opposition** of the military junta who were **abducted, detained, often tortured and executed** in the name of National Reorganisation Process. During the Argentine military dictatorship the "Dirty War" took place. People from all quarters of Argentina were disappeared, kidnapped, and assassinated. Among the disappeared we can find all opposition of the military junta and every single person related to them. As well as **pregnant mothers** and the **kidnapping of innumerable children** throughout the nation.

Disappearances took action by many methods: *Death Flights* in which bodies were dropped into Rio de la Plata, **executing** and dumping the bodies or being detained and murdered in **clandestine detention centres**. All of these methods of "**cleaning**" the country held place in total mystery and until today the identity of thousands of "desaparecidos".

*The Think Global School Grade 10 class is in partnership with world cultures and students of the world. The mission of the TGSG10 is to provide an academic Situation Report to students for reference in future papers.*

After a well-built government that Peron led, Videla and his associates felt threatened in many ways. Movements against the military regime such as working class congregations, journalists, students and many other professionals were immediately **vanished by the Armed Forces**. **Terror** was spread throughout the country and **freedom of speech disappeared** the same way as it's supporters did, **Argentina was a country ruled by the power of fear**.

## IV. Contacts

Yapp, R. (2010, 12 22). *Telegraph*. Retrieved from <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/southamerica/argentina/8220713/Former-Argentine-dictator-Jorge-Videla-sentenced-to-life-in-prison.html>

News, B. (6 Ju). *Bbc news*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10521294>

BBC, News. "Argentina Former Leader Jorge Videla Jailed for Life." *BBC News*. BBC, 22 Dec. 2010. Web. 12 Nov. 2012. <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12064831>>.

BBC, N. (2010, December 22). *Argentina former leader jorge videla jailed for life*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12064831>

CNN , W. S. (2012, July 10). *Former dictators found guilty in argentine baby-stealing trial*. Retrieved from [http://edition.cnn.com/2012/07/05/world/americas/argentina-baby-theft-trial/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t1](http://edition.cnn.com/2012/07/05/world/americas/argentina-baby-theft-trial/index.html?hpt=hp_t1)

Reuters. (2007, April 25). *Argentine court overturns "dirty war" pardon*. Retrieved from <http://www.reuters.com/article/2007/04/25/us-argentina-dirtywar-idUSN2545319320070425>

BBC , N. (2004, December 17). *Argentine junta head has 'stroke'*. Retrieved from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4106075.stm>

*Todo argentina*. (2009). Retrieved from [http://www.todoargentina.net/biografias/Personajes/jorge\\_rafael\\_videla.htm](http://www.todoargentina.net/biografias/Personajes/jorge_rafael_videla.htm)

*Golpe de estado*. (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.me.gov.ar/efeme/24demarzo/dictadura.html>

*Yendor*. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.yendor.com/vanished/>

Gray, P. (1995, March 27). *Argentina: Waves from the past*. Retrieved from <http://www.yendor.com/vanished/junta/scilingo.html>

*Argentine military junta members, top officers, and ministers*. Retrieved from <http://www.yendor.com/vanished/junta.html>

*Pardon of argentine officers angers critics of the military*.(1989, 10 09). *New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/1989/10/09/world/pardon-of-argentine-officers-angers-critics-of-the-military.html>

*World: Americas 'Dirty war' arrest Bbc*. (1998). Retrieved from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/110016.stm>

*The Think Global School Grade 10 class is in partnership with world cultures and students of the world. The mission of the TGSG10 is to provide an academic Situation Report to students for reference in future papers.*

Lewis, D. K. (2001). *History of argentina*. Westport: Greenwood Press. Retrieved from <http://www.questiaschool.com/library/102131807/the-history-of-argentina>

Crenzel, E. (2011). *Journal of social history: Between the voices of the state and the human rights movement*. (4th ed., Vol. 4). Retrieved from <http://www.questiaschool.com/library/1G1-260583084/between-the-voices-of-the-state-and-the-human-rights>



*The Think Global School Grade 10 class is in partnership with world cultures and students of the world. The mission of the TGSG10 is to provide an academic Situation Report to students for reference in future papers.*