

The Provincial Memory Archive

The place you are visiting was the Department of Information of the Cordoba Police (D2). During the seventies it functioned as a Clandestine Center of Detention, Torture and Extermination. Approximately 20,000 people passed through this place between the years 1971 – 1982, according to data analyzed in the documents produced by the security force.

Today it is a Site Museum that has redefined the space and its uses by way of testimonies marking its walls with stories that account for its function as a clandestine center; and by way of education that, through interventions and workshops, invites us to reflect on how the dictatorship swept across the entire society. It is an Archive where documents related to the actions of State terrorism and the fight in defense of Human Rights in the area of the province of Cordoba are preserved. It is also a Cultural Space open to the exhibition of different artistic manifestations linked to the theme.

The Provincial Memory Archive (PMA) was created by the Provincial Law of Memory 9286, unanimously approved by the Cordoba Legislature in March 2006. This Law establishes the formation of the Provincial Commission of Memory, the creation of the Archive and the operation of these institutions in the three colonial houses located between the Cathedral and the *Cabildo*. These buildings housed, since the beginning of the century, police units - including the "Department of Information D2", a central device in the establishment of State terrorism in the province of Cordoba - linked to persecution as well as social, political, cultural and guild repression.

THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE POLICE OF CÓRDOBA

D2, a special division within the Provincial Police, was created to prosecute and repress a special type of crime - different from the "common" crime - defined generically as "subversion." In Argentina, the ideological persecution by the State of political groups that were considered "dangerous" by the hegemonic power, has its most direct precedents in the "Law of Residence" which had been applied against anarchist and socialist immigrants since the early twentieth century. This also occurred in the fierce repression of strikes during the Red Week of 1909, the Tragic Week of 1919, Tragic Patagonia 1920-1921, and in many other massacres of organized workers by police and parapolice groups. In 1970, the former Information Division of the Cordoba Police obtained, through Organic Law 5192, the rank of Department. This meant that greater material and human resources were relegated to the task of espionage, organization and classification of "information" obtained, as well as for the detention or kidnapping, interrogation and torture of people considered highly "dangerous" to maintain a certain social order. In February 1974, after the brief electoral truce of '73, the Chief of Police Lt. Col. (RE) Domingo Navarro led a seditious revolt that culminated in both the dismissal of the elected Governor of Córdoba Ricardo Obregón Cano and federal intervention in the province. This fact known as "El Navarrazo" attests to the dimension of power in the Cordoba Police force, and the institutional role in connection with the political apparatus. During the periods of major repressive and criminal activity (1974 - 1979) the following people were in charge of the D2 Headquarters: Inspector Major Ernesto Julio Ledesma (1974 - 1975), Commissioner Inspector Pedro Raúl Telleldín (1975 - 1977) and Inspector General Juan Reinoso (1977-1979). In June 1979, by decree 6295, Department 2 of Information became the General Intelligence Directorate, to which Telleldín was reappointed, and who remained in charge until 1980, the year in which he retired. In 1977, D2 moved to the corner of Vélez Sarsfield and Achaval Rodríguez avenues and at the end of 1978, part of D2 was moved to 222 Mariano Moreno Street, the current operational base of ETER (a special police corps).

LAW 9286

On the 22 March of 2006, within the framework of commemorating 30 years since the beginning of the last civic-military dictatorship, the legislators of the Province of Córdoba unanimously approved Law 9286, called the Law of Memory (Regulatory Decree 873).

The takeover of this space by the Provincial Commission of Memory marked a historical event in the struggle by human rights organizations - the struggle for the construction of Memory, Historical Truth, Justice and Social Reparation in the face of serious violations of Human Rights.

THE PROVINCIAL MEMORY COMMISSION IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS:

- Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Cordoba affiliate.
- Relatives of the Disappeared and Detained for Political Reasons.
- H.I.J.O.S. Sons and Daughters for Identity and Justice against Oblivion and Silence.
- Association of Former Political Prisoners.
- Peace and Justice Service.
- National University of Cordoba.
- Executive power.
- Legislative power.
- Judicial power.

The Commission holds weekly meetings to decide and guarantee all activities aimed at executing, advising and ensuring compliance with the Law of Memory. Accompanying this Commission is the Honorary Commission of Notable Public Figures, composed of five outstanding individuals from different fields with extensive experience in the fight for the defense of Human Rights in the Province of Córdoba. Its members are: Carlos Alonso, Emilia Villares de D'Ambra (deceased), Guillermo "Quito" Mariani, Sonia Torres and Juan Villa.

THE PROVINCIAL MEMORY ARCHIVE "EMILIA VILLARES DE D'AMBRA" HAS AMONG ITS OBJECTIVES

The PMA is a space to rescue, preserve, house, systematize and disseminate the documents considered within the category created by UNESCO, such as Archives of Repression and other related collections. Through its actions, this institution aims to:

- Contribute to keeping alive the contemporary history of our province, its lessons and legacies to present and future generations.

- Promote the study, investigation and dissemination of the fight against impunity and for the full implementation of Human Rights.
- Obtain, collect, classify, organize and archive all documentation related to Human Rights violations and the actions of State terrorism, within the scope of the Province of Córdoba.
- Develop appropriate methods for the re-compilation, handling, consultation, work and dissemination of materials.

The PMA falls within the general regulations instituted by the International Archives Council for documents stemming from repressive systems. These norms establish that the documents produced and accumulated by the organs of repression must be placed under the control of democratic authorities, preserved in archival institutions existing within public administration or in institutions specially created for this purpose; and must be placed within the category of protected cultural property.

Since October 2017, the PMA has been included in UNESCO's "Memory of the World Programme (MoW): Preservation of Documentary Heritage".

The current director of the PMA is María Eleonora Cristina (BA).

The work carried out by the Provincial Memory Archive is carried out by different areas and spaces:

RECEPTION AREA is responsible for guiding both those who wish to visit the Memory Site, as well as those requesting educational gatherings, information or procedures linked to the different areas of the Provincial Memory Archive.

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ARCHIVE AND CONSERVATION AREA deals with the rescue, search and classification of documentary collections related to violations of DD. HH. and the actions of State terrorism, which occurred within the scope of the Province of Córdoba. It catalogs and sorts the documentary material of the institution, as well as elaborates descriptive and managing instruments for the PMA repertory. It is responsible for providing the other Areas with the bibliography and documentation necessary for the research, dissemination and production of various teaching materials.

RESEARCH AREA works on the search, recovery, systematization, analysis and dissemination of the PMA documentary collections, linked to the military dictatorships of the sixties and seventies, the actions of State terrorism and the fight for the defense of Rights Humans in the province of Córdoba. This area collaborates and provides evidence and information to legal proceedings for crimes against humanity. It is also responsible for the search of data requested by individuals or organizations on the subject.

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DIGITALIZATION AND COMPUTER AREA digitizes archival documents linked to State terrorism that are in the PMA collections and those that can be accessed through agreements. It stores, organizes, processes and preserves the digitized documents in a Digital Archive that allows access to the different work areas as well as for public consultation. The Area provides support

and advice to the rest of the areas in tasks that can be resolved through the implementation of IT solutions.

This area releases documentation related to state terrorism with PRESENTES software (developed by H.I.J.O.S. Córdoba Region and subsequently donated to the PMA) where the information collected is organized and systematized.

AUDIOVISUAL AREA AND ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE collects, preserves and disseminates oral, photographic and audiovisual records providing diverse dimensions for the study of recent history. The Oral History Archive aims to prioritize the word of victims, family members, survivors and the protagonists of popular struggles to address the construction of memories from the recent past. Through the use of the interview and the audiovisual record, this work entails the recovery of testimonies, trajectories and experiences of those who were victims of state repression, as well as the memories of their relatives and of all those who fought against the dictatorship. Interviews and audiovisual records are available for public consultation.

This Area is responsible for registering the trials for crimes against humanity, as well as the activities and interventions that the PMA carries out throughout the year. It is also in charge of the production of audiovisual materials that are generated from the institution.

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EDUCATIONAL AREA FOR MEMORY is a collective space for training, discussion and reflection on authoritarianism, totalitarianism and violation of Human Rights. It offers diverse perspectives for work in classrooms and other areas of training through its teachers, educators, sociocultural animators, children and young people; it is in charge of the visits that schools or organized groups make to the Memory Site ex D2. The tour begins in Santa Catalina Passage, in front of the Memorial to the disappeared and murdered of Córdoba and adapts to the ages and previous knowledge of the groups.

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AREA OF NETWORKS tries to strengthen, systematize and articulate with the spaces and experiences that are carried out or have been carried out by Human Rights organizations, social organizations and the institutions in our environs. It seeks the construction of territorial social networks in relation to former clandestine detention centers such as La Perla, La Ribera, and D2, allowing appropriation of these spaces, not only by organizations but also by society as a whole. The Networks Area has produced a census of social organizations linked to memory and DD. HH. which is available for public consultation.

AREA OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE aims to make visible the processes and work of the institution that lead to reconstructing the past and its memories, generating spaces for communication that allow us to reflect on the discourses and meaning around what is remembered, as well as how and when. The Area develops integral communication strategies through the production of graphic, audiovisual and digital materials.

In addition, it is in charge of the cultural management of the Provincial Memory Archive, organizing cultural and artistic activities, art interventions, exhibitions and exhibitions.

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MEMORY SITES AREA

Investigates and reflects on the historical-constructive evolution of each clandestine detention center articulating testimonies, graphic background and existing edifices; establishing the relationship between functional changes and those manifested at the architectural level. It carries out field explorations, which allow for the analysis of the impact on and the relationship the former Clandestine Center had with its surroundings, in order for subsequent intervention and signaling - within the framework of the "marks to remember" project - or transformation into a memory site.

It produces maps and circuits of "memory sites" where all the buildings and symbolic places related to the political violence of the sixties and seventies are considered.

The area is in charge of the museology of the memory site and the curation of permanent and temporary exhibitions, as well as the design, production and construction of urban signage along with groups and families who propose to honor, remember and make visible the victims of state terrorism.

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"SANTIAGO D'AMBRA" LIBRARY

The Library has a bibliographic collection specialized in issues of Memory and Human Rights, with emphasis on Latin America and from a diversity of genres: history, art, literature, among others. It also has film material, magazines and catalogs. The library is open to the general public and receives inquiries from teachers and students in their subject area. It bears, as a tribute, the name of Santiago D'Ambra, who, for her selfless struggle in defense of Human Rights, was a member of the Honorary Committee of Notable Public Figures of the PMA.

SITE MUSEUM

Past and present. Mourning space? Who remembers? What memories are visible? What is the intangible heritage of these places? Who do they represent? The multiple questions and challenges that defy us in the collective construction of marks from a memory site gives us the possibility to re-signify the historical processes. The Memory Site ex "D2" has permanent and temporary spaces and rooms with exhibitions about repression and the processes involved in the fight for Memory, Truth and Justice.

LIBRARY OF PROHIBITED BOOKS

A permanent space that recovers censored books and authors during different political periods and systematically during the last military civic dictatorship, reconstructing the lists of censored works, searching for books, restoring their stories, collecting experiences of those who buried or burned their libraries, investigating the prohibition decrees. This library hopes to house all the books that are donated, brought, and lent to us. The library is a space for carrying out workshops, book presentations, as well as artistic, cultural, political and social activities.

"ESCRACHE" (Exposure protest)

The room exhibits the history of the Department of Information of the Cordoba Police Force "D2" and of the repressors who were part of the operative group that acted from this place.

The main objective is to reflect different operations of the repressive apparatus and of those who carried out state violence in Cordoba. The “escrache” is a practice that allows the public identification and social condemnation of the perpetrators of State terrorism, in addition to ordering their prosecution and punishment.

IDENTITY ROOM. PREGNANT YOUTH OF CORDOBA

This room, built by the Grandmothers of the *Plaza de Mayo* in Cordoba, shows the life stories of women who were pregnant at the time of their arrest-disappearance. Its main objective is to help in the struggle to locate and restore to their legitimate families all the girls who disappeared at the hands of the last Argentine dictatorship.

“UNDER THE ALIEN RAIN”

Recovers the experiences of exiles and insiles during the last civic-military dictatorship in Argentina. This room, through its album “Tales of exile. Photos, stories, memories”, gives a glimpse into the narrative strategies that the exiles have in order to write down their experiences and insert themselves into their own speeches, while at the same time building a “Cartography of memory.”

THE COURTYARD OF LIGHTS

The last courtyard of the building: the “Patio de los Legales”, as they called it in the jargon of the clandestine center because it was here where they took people who for some reason had passed to “legality”, in order to be transferred to other destinations such as jails. This space also housed detainees called “comuneros.”

In actuality, an intervention in Homage to the fight of the Grandmothers and their tireless search to identify their stolen grandchildren by the repressive apparatus, forms part of that courtyard. Thus, in front of each grandchild who finds his or her identity, a lamp is placed, illuminating more and more the patio that comes from being submerged in the shadows of the past. Thus, past and present are found again in the Courtyard of the Legal, or the Courtyard of Lights, as it has been re-defined at present.

TREES OF LIFE

The Lapacho tree that blooms in the Courtyard of Lights represents the disappeared and murdered of Cordoba. It was planted in March 2013, within the framework of the urban intervention “The Trees of Life”, which was intended to disseminate the trials for crimes against Humanity and to remember the victims of State terrorism in Cordoba through interventions in the public sphere.

Those disappeared are missing for all of us. This Lapacho tree creates a collective space of memory and mourning. It is a space for the restitution of affections and memory of our disappeared.

LIVES TO BE COUNTED

It is a permanent space for the reconstruction of the life stories of the disappeared, through the contribution of friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues. In this place there are albums with texts, photos, objects, music, which allow us to know and remember them.

We, at the Memory Archive, are at your disposal to accompany those who wish to tell the life of a victim during the last dictatorship through the use of these proposals, and the provision of materials and technical support for the preparation of the album.

We invite those who have testimonies and/or documents related to the subject (photos, writings, legal documents, objects, letters), and wish to donate a copy or original of them to approach the PMA.

The PMA is open to the public from Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Its headquarters are located in the heart of the city of Córdoba, between the *Cabildo* and the Plaza San Martín at 66 Santa Catalina Passage. Admission is free. We receive daily visits from hundreds of people who visit the site and participate in its activities, as well as scheduled and guided visits with primary, secondary and tertiary school pupils.

Request appointments by phone.

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Photographic headings:

Emilia Villares de D´Ambra was a historical militant of the *Family Organization* and also a member of the Commission of Notable Public Figures in the Provincial Commission of Memory of Cordoba.

We invite those of you who have testimonies and /or documents related to the subject (photos, writings, legal documents, objects, letters), and who wish to donate copies or originals thereof, to get in touch with us.