
Argentina to Mark 40th Anniversary of Dictatorship with Protest

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Argentines will take to the street this Thursday in cities across the country to commemorate those killed, persecuted and tortured during the military dictatorship, which began March 24, 1976 and lasted until 1983.

Dubbed the Day of Memory, Truth and Justice, participants will mark the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the dictatorship with marches and other activities to raise awareness and honor the victims.

On Sunday a group of priests from Option for the Poor issued a statement condemning the March 24 coup d'état that overthrew the government of Isabel Peron, saying the country needs to "continue building foundations in search of memory, truth and justice."

The group reiterated the importance of fighting for justice for the crimes committed during the dictatorship under the leadership of Jorge Rafael Videla.

The almost 10 years of dictatorial rule saw many human rights abuses. Numbers are disputed, but Argentinian human rights groups say some 30,000 people were disappeared during this time, while Amnesty International puts the number closer to 15,000.

The main event Thursday is expected to take place at the Plaza de Mayo, the central square in the capital Buenos Aires.