

International



Carmen Lapaco, one of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, was one of the relatively few of the disappeared who was able to return home after being detained. While the Mothers maintain 30,000 people are still missing, the Argentinian military claims less than 10,000 of those originally detained to remain unaccounted for.



The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have marched every Thursday afternoon since 1977 in front of the Casa Rosada. Part of the work they do includes finding information about the individuals who have not been recovered since the dictatorship. Often, this involves searching for and collecting newspaper clippings and memorials.



Alejandra Lapaco, Carmen's daughter, remains missing. There are many memorials and photos dedicated to the disappeared around Argentina, like this one in Memory Park. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo are far from giving up.

Argentinian mothers search for lost children

Genevieve D'Cruz
International Reporter

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA — Their children have been missing for more than 30 years, but the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have not stopped searching. Every Thursday afternoon since 1977, they march in the Plaza de Mayo, in front of the Casa Rosada, the Argentine executive branch and office of the president, armed with posters and photos of their missing children.

The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Founding Line, was established during the dictatorship in 1977. During the last military dictatorship, the government had a hand in "forced disappearances" of those who did not support the dictatorship. Up to 30,000 citizens "disappeared" under the rule of the dictator, Jorge Rafael Videla.

The organization is composed of women whose children disappeared during the dictatorship and who are working toward recovering their children's bodies. They do not recognize that their children are deceased, only that they have "disappeared," since records and bodies have yet to be found.

Carmen Lapaco, one of the mothers, has a unique story. She was missing and had been detained with her daughter, but she survived and was allowed to return home. She is the Mother that worked directly with CIEE-FLACSO students. Alejandra Lapaco Aguiar, Lapaco's daughter, remains missing.

The mothers continue to work to spread the information about disappearances.

"It was a time of living in fear," Lapaco said. "We lived with love. We overcame this fear."

D'Cruz volunteered with the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo fall semester.

MORE ONLINE

Read about Genevieve's experience as a volunteer and see more photos

<http://bit.ly/EPmpdm>

GENEVIEVE D'CRUZ
International Reporter

Correspondent's Corner

Tips for a successful term studying abroad

Talk to other students that went on the same program, see how much they spent and places they traveled to. Then force yourself to budget and plan ahead of time where you want to travel during the semester. Also tell your parents and friends from the United States that you will set aside specific times to call or Skype them throughout the week or month. But there should be limits.

-Amy Kenney
PARIS, FRANCE



Save lots of money, plan trips early and don't feel like you have to see every attraction in your city at once. You have plenty of time. Meet locals, too — don't limit yourself to just Americans.

-Kristen Olsen
DUBLIN, IRELAND

You can wear your clothes over and over again, especially in cold weather, but bring lots of underwear so you don't have to do laundry too often. If you prefer a certain food, like peanut butter or Hershey's, bring it with you, because chances are your country doesn't have it. If they do, it probably won't be the same. If you're an over packer, bring toiletries and snacks in your suitcases so you'll have more room for gifts and souvenirs on your way home.

If you're going to South America, get ready to throw your clock out the window, because everything is relative, especially when you are relying on public transportation for everything.

-Genevieve D'Cruz
BUENOS AIRES,
ARGENTINA

Memorize the basic exchange rate for your country's currency so you don't have to hesitate when buying things or overpay cab drivers! Also learn how to say "please" and "thank you" in the native language right away. You'll use these things the most. And smile as much as possible. When you're lost or confused, people will be much more willing to help you out.

-Millie Rosen
HAIFA, ISRAEL

