

## The Avellaneda Two: Diego and Leandro (Argentina)



Leandro and Diego were kidnapped by the State on January 23rd 2006, as part of a joint operation between Avellaneda and Buenos Aires police forces. A third comrade who until then had been organising the ABC in Buenos Aires managed to avoid the raids and still is in hiding. The operation followed an accusation made by a person who was then close to one of the comrades. This person stated that all 3 comrades were connected to an attack against the TV production company *Ideas del Sur* that took place in December 2005. The company's owner is Marcelo Tinelli, a popular TV host, media producer and businessman whose hobbies include evicting Mapuche families from their own land to build massive tourist complexes.

Diego and Leandro were tried in October 2006. In spite of Diego immediately admitting his involvement and always stating that Leandro had nothing to do with the attack, and in spite of the complete lack of evidence against Leandro, they both got sentenced to prison: 11 years for Leandro and 10 for Diego. Leandro was sentenced according to the *Blumberg* law of presumption of guilt, as he only had 2 months left to finish his conditional discharge from another sentence.

When it came to the trial, the sole accuser couldn't be "found" and so didn't appear as witness in court. In practice, her written statement was the only evidence that Leandro had taken part in the attack. The fact that this was acceptable to the court means that in future trials this can be used against any of us as a precedent – anyone can be tried because of a written statement made by someone who won't be "found" to give witness in court.

Diego and Leandro were both involved with an anarchist social centre in Buenos Aires, the *Ateneo Anarquista "Angela Fortunato"*, which was evicted and shut down on the same day of their arrests. The operation was therefore not isolated but the culmination of a repressive campaign against the social centre and the anarchist movement in Buenos Aires that had started months before.

Diego and Leandro were in the same high security prison until 2009, when Diego was transferred. Diego in particular has connections with other anarchist prisoners abroad and has often taken part in international hunger strikes, including the latest one between December 2009 and January 2010.

### TO WRITE TO DIEGO AND LEANDRO:

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Con. Circunvalación N3, Acceso Zabala  
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This article has been translated using the sources below (both in Spanish):

<http://aiferricorti.entodaspertes.net/presxs/presos-de-avellaneda/>

and <http://www.acratas.com.ar/2009/03/trasladado-el-companero-anarquista.html>

(from here you can download a booklet on the whole story and other events in Argentina)

Some comrades have also made a couple of videos in solidarity (again, in Spanish only):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI4w9Xv8Hag>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g\\_fXKnml28w&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_fXKnml28w&feature=related)