

Mr José Luis Cipolletti,
Head prosecutor, UFI n°1,
Departmental Necochea Public Prosecutor's Office of the Province of Buenos Aires
Avenida 75, 371, Necochea, PBA, CP: 7630
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Dear Head Prosecutor Jose Luis Cipolletti,

I am concerned over the prosecution of **Pierina Nochetti** for allegedly painting graffiti on a public wall with the question “Where is Tehuel?”. This question has been a wide call of a collective claim for justice in the disappearance of a 21-year-old trans man when he was on his way to a job interview in 2021.

Pierina is an artist, educator, mother, the main provider for her family, and an employee of the local government, where she had already faced administrative reprisals for her activism during the 2022 Pride Parade, including salary reduction. I fear she is targeted for her activism on LGBTI+ rights, as well as for her gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Pierina is at greater risk of discrimination due to her identity.

I call on you to drop the charge of “aggravated damage” against Pierina Nochetti as it appears to be an unnecessary and disproportionate restriction on the right to freedom of expression. Imposing such charges on human rights defenders for freely expressing themselves sends a chilling message that could further curtail the right to protest peacefully.

Yours sincerely,

CC: Embassy of Argentina in the United States
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