

**National Air Traffic Controllers Association**  
**AFL-CIO**



President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner  
Balcarce 50 Piso 1  
Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires (1064)  
Argentina

Dear President de Kirchner,

As President of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), representing more than 20,000 air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals in the United States of America, I wish to express my support for the new National Civil Aviation Administration (ANAC) of Argentina. It is my firm belief that a safe aviation system is possible only when air traffic controllers are permitted to do their jobs in a safe and professional environment. The transfer of authority from military to civil control represents a shift toward greater professionalism and a renewed emphasis on the safety of the flying public.

As you know, the air traffic controllers of Argentina are ably represented by the Asociacion de Controladores de Transito Aereo de Republica Argentina (ACTA). ACTA representatives have worked hard for their members to be treated with the dignity and respect befitting their profession. They have fought for better working conditions, excellence in training, a safe and professional work environment, and salaries commensurate with their professional service. We applaud the work of ACTA, and commend ANAC for their willingness to work cooperatively with them. Our experience in the US has shown that the aviation system functions most safely and efficiently when the Federal Aviation Administration is willing to work cooperatively with representatives of the air traffic controller workforce, and we are confident that the same will hold true in Argentina.

Unfortunately the oppressive legacy of the military administration is still being felt by ACTA's membership. More than a year ago the military administration terminated the air traffic control careers of several prominent ACTA members, including the president of ACTA. It is our understanding that these individuals were removed because of their involvement with ACTA and their outspoken defense of the air traffic control profession and the rights of their colleagues. Madam President, we ask that you consider the reinstatement of these individuals as air traffic controllers. It would be a great gesture of openness as well as a significant step to strengthen the relationship between ANAC and ACTA.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters. The safety of the flying public is dependent on an international network of safe and professional air traffic control systems. I am pleased to see the Argentine government taking positive steps toward insuring such a system in ANAC. I also look forward to welcoming representatives of ACTA to our headquarters in Washington DC later this year to celebrate the relationship between our two organizations; together we will work to address issues of concern to the international air traffic control community.

Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Patrick Forrey,  
President