



# Presentation of the Stars4Media Initiative

## On the run from the past



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## Team's presentation

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## Initiative's summary

During the southern American dictatorships of the late 1900s, tens of thousands of people have lost their lives due to state sanctioned terrorism. To suppress internal opposition, the army had built hundreds of extermination camps, whose victims were kidnapped, tortured, killed and then vanished. When the regimes were toppled, many army members were put on trial. To run from the law, many of those people have fled to our continent thanks to their European heritage.

Even today, dozens of southern American butchers freely live with impunity in our continent. How many are they? Where do they live? What are their stories?

The Italian team investigated three people: Don Franco Reverberi, Carlos Luis Malatto and Jorge Nestor Troccoli; the Spanish team Emilio Hellín Moro and the French team Mario Sandoval.

# Initiative's results

## The five people

*Don Franco Reverberi* is a priest and he lives in Sorbolo, Italy. He is accused in Argentina by five witnesses to have attended to the tortures they have suffered.

*Jorge Nestor Troccoli* has been living in Battipaglia, Italy, for years now. The former Uruguayan torturer has earned the Italian citizenship thanks to an ancestor of his, and has been quietly living as a pensioner for twenty years.

*Carlos Luis Malatto*, former Argentinian torturer, on whose head there's a 100 thousand pesos worth of bounty, lives in Messina, Sicily. Having a Ligurian grandfather, he was able to earn the Italian citizenship and now spends most of his days relaxing on his boat.

*Emilio Hellín Moro*, torturer for the regime of Franco and Strossner, continues to live under an assumed name in Spain.

*Mario Sandoval*, 66, former Argentinian torturer, has lived in Paris for more than twenty years. After earning the French citizenship, he became an advisor to President Sarkozy and has taught at the Sorbonne university.

# Challenges

The greatest challenge was finding the fugitives, who are very proficient in covering their tracks and avoided talking to the media. We have managed to find them nonetheless, and we were able to talk with them so as to understand what kind of life they now lead in Europe, as well as being able to reconstruct the years they spent in Italy, Spain and France.

Conversing with the survivors and family members of the victims was very hard and it was even harder having to do it on Zoom, as carrying out this kind of interviews through video calls is anything but ideal.

# Lessons learnt

This experience allowed us to get to know in much more detail southern American in general, and in particular its dictatorships of the 70s, as well as gain experience as investigative journalists.

We also gained a lot of contacts within humanitarian associations in Europe and South America.

We have developed the first cross-border investigative report on this subject and learned how to coordinate and work together with teams from three different countries in order to create this journalist product.