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## Argentina orders 18 arrests for 'dirty war' abuses

**By Editor**

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BUENOS AIRES, March 11, 2008 (AFP) - A judge Tuesday issued arrest warrants for 18 people charged with human rights abuses during Argentina's 'dirty war,' under the former military regime 1976-1983, a court source said.

The suspects, mostly former sailors and police officers, are suspected of torturing and abusing prisoners at the notorious Navy Mechanics School in Buenos Aires, where some 5,000 people were interrogated, but only 100 survived.

Nearly two dozen people have been indicted and are awaiting trial in the navy school investigation, including former navy captain Alfredo 'Angel of Death' Astiz, who in 1990 was convicted in absentia by a Paris court for the disappearance of two French nuns.

Human rights groups estimate 30,000 people were killed or went missing during the former military junta's crackdown against political dissidents and left-wing groups.

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