

**Interview with the Buenos Aires City Chief of the Metropolitan Police**  
**Mr. Horacio Alberto Gimenez**  
**Interviewed by Sebastián Sal**

**Background:**

The Argentine Republic suffered many changes in its political map between 1930 and 1983, going from democratic governments to dictatorial ones. These kind of changes affected not only people's human rights, but also the scope of police activities.

The last dictatorial government - commonly known as "Junta Militar" - was in power from 1976 to 1983 when the government switched to a democratic one. The "Junta Militar" consisted of members of the Argentine Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Many civil rights were suppressed during that time in order to control the population. The Police forces were one of the most important national institutions which collaborated with the dictatorial government. No matter how many years of democratic governments Argentina has had since that time, people still associate police forces with military control and repression.

Sadly, even in times of democracy, many police agents have been involved in police brutality and corruption cases. Moreover, it is a common belief that drug dealers and "pimps" are protected by police officers; or worse, that the Police Chief is or was in charge of illicit acts. As a consequence, almost nobody today really trusts, likes or relies on the police. Nevertheless, feelings and attitudes change when people are in need of protection from crime. Obviously, in these cases people look for police help and really appreciate and are thankful when police officers perform their duties. There is then a kind of schizophrenic relationship with the police for on the one hand people do not want to be controlled by them, on the other hand, they often ask for more protection and control of crime on the streets and in public areas.

Argentina is a Federal State. That means that each province has its own Police Department. In addition it has a Federal Police, which is commanded by the National Administration, i.e., it works at national level.

The City of Buenos Aires is a Federal Territory and it was protected by the Federal Police until 1996, when the City became an "Autonomous City" with similar rights to the provinces. Due to that, the City of Buenos Aires was, after some time, allowed to have its own police department: the "Metropolitan Police". It was created in 2009 by the current Mayor of the City of Buenos Aires, Mr. Mauricio Macri. Currently, Mayor Macri is the leader of a Political Party, which is part of the "opposition" to the National Administration. It is because of this situation, among others, that there are certain tensions between the Metropolitan Police and the Federal Police.

At the beginning, the staff of the Metropolitan Police was recruited from the Federal Police. Officers decided to become part of the Metropolitan force because it offered better salaries and better opportunities. Nowadays, the city of Buenos Aires is protected by two different forces: the Metropolitan Police and the Federal Police. Outside the City - in the suburban area - there is another jurisdiction, with yet another Police Department (The Buenos Aires Province Police). That means that in a small territory there are three different police forces, that sometimes work together with the same objectives and sometimes they do not - for different reasons.

The current Chief of the Metropolitan Police is Mr. Alberto Horacio Gimenez. He started his career at the Federal Police Department in 1972, resigning in 2011 and beginning to work for the Metropolitan Police that same year. His first assignment in this force was as a Liaison between the Ministry of Security of the City of Buenos Aires and the Judiciary Power of the City. During his almost forty years of service at the Federal Police he had worked at several police Areas: the Infantry Corps; the Department of Vehicles Control; as Chief of Bodyguards of the Senate President; as Advisor on security matters at the Ministry of Internal Affairs; as Chief of the Security Department of National Institutions; as General Director of Internal Security Office (from 2005 to 2007); and as Superintendent of the Complex Crimes Office (from 2008 to 2010). He was appointed Chief of the Metropolitan Police on December 2011.

### **The Interview:**

The interview was scheduled on May 20, 2013 at 9.00 a.m. at the Headquarters of the Metropolitan Police. The Metropolitan Police headquarters are located in the southern part of the City (close to the Boca Juniors Stadium)

The interview took place in the Chief's office located on the first floor.

### **Career**

**S.S.** – *Why did you choose to be a police officer? What was your motivation when you were a teenager for being a cop?*

**H.G.** – There were many things. To start with, it is important to take into account that it was a family thing, because my father was a Police Officer, too. He worked as Chief Inspector for the Federal Police. For me, it was something common to be surrounded by police stuff. Besides, I looked up on him.

**S.S.** - *That is a good reason for choosing your career...*

**H.G.** – Yes, but it was not the only one. When I was a teenager I watched many TV shows in which police officers were heroes. Being a police officer could be a life of adventures. It seemed to me that to be a police officer would be spectacular and that you could always be solving problems and catching criminals. You know, the good people always defeat the bad guys. For this reason I wanted to be policeman; and I still do. I am proud of that.

**S.S.** - *No matter that real life is not like movies?*

**H.G.** – Real life is harder and good people do not always win, but it is great to be there when it happens.

**S.S.** - *As far as I know, you started to work for the Metropolitan Police on May 2011, and in December 2011 you were appointed Chief of the Metropolitan Police*

**H.G.** - That is right. December 14, 2011.

**S.S.** - *the Metropolitan Police is still quite a small Police Department isn't it?*

**H.G.** – We started with 500 agents in 2009, and nowadays we are 3,800 police officers and six hundred 600 civilians.

### **Changes Experienced**

**S.S.** - *What do you think have been the most important changes that have occurred in the Metropolitan Police since you were appointed Chief?*

**H.G.** - Well, in my opinion it is that the citizens of the City are starting to realize that the Metropolitan Police are on the streets, that they can be seen. At the beginning, in 2009, we had very few officers for a population of more than two million people. Most of them came from other forces, such as the Federal Police, the “Prefectura”<sup>i</sup> or “Gendarmería”,<sup>ii</sup> but nowadays we have our ‘own-made’ police officers, who have received a degree from our Metropolitan Police School (Instituto de Formación de la Policía). At the beginning, we focused our duties on just one neighborhood, but little by little we are spreading our range. We started to work in the City center, but our objective is to be close to all the citizens in order to get their trust and confidence.

**S.S.** –*Do you think that people trust the Metropolitan Police more than on the Federal Police?*

**H.G.** –Yes, because we are a different and a new police force. We had a fresh start. Besides, to get the trust of the common citizen is one of our most important aims. We are working on that, investing time and resources, and emphasizing this to our new officers. Trust and confidence are a round trip and should be earned. It is not a one way thing. That is why we are focusing our duties on community work, on helping the citizens in their everyday issues. We are trying to gain back the confidence and respect of the people. The main idea for doing that is that citizens should know and trust their “corner police officer” as it was many years ago. When I was a child, everybody knew the police officer who was in charge of the block, by his name. That makes a police officer not just a person in uniform that controls and helps you, but a person, or better, a friend. And a person is close to the people, because he or she is one of them. Police officers are ordinary people who live, breathe and eat as everybody else in the city. We have to listen to the people.

### **Personal policing philosophy**

**S.S.-** *What do you think is/should be the role and functions of the police?*

**H.G.-** In my opinion, the mission of any police force is to prevent crimes, to protect people and property. Besides in our role we are auxiliaries of the judicial system, in my case, of the city of Buenos Aires. Moreover we have to be close to the people in order to hear them for knowing their needs.

**S.S.-** *What should be done about un-policed areas?*

**H.G.-** In the Buenos Aires City Areas there are no un-policed areas. The city is divided in areas that are in control of the Metropolitan Police or the Federal Police. In the areas in which our force is in charge, we count with the help of the residents who are involved in security forums. We are currently working in different neighborhoods as Saavedra, Villa Pueyrredon, Coghlan, Villa Urquiza, Agronomy, Paternal, Parque Chas, Chacarita, Villa Ortuzar, Villa Crespo, Pompeii, Parque Patricios, Barracas, La Boca and in the Bank Area, commonly known as “the City” or “downtown”.

**S.S.-** *What facilitates/hinders good relations with the community, with government, with other criminal justice organizations, with non-state security providers such as community groups, customary and commercial enterprises?*

**H.G.-** We work with the Judiciary Power of the City of Buenos Aires helping in any procedure and in full cooperation. To facilitate the investigations our department is divided in different offices or areas depending on the type of crime. We have security cameras in the district and offices to care for victims of gender violence. We bring full access to prosecutors to these areas. Besides we have an auditorium with capacity for a hundred people, available for the use of

residents of the district. In each of the Police Station we have a receiver “panic button system” device to help victims of domestic violence as soon as it is required. We are also aware of the social problems that some people face. In this way, we have done social work helping with the "Cold Program" which provided food and shelter to the homeless during wintertime. This was done by working together with other government agencies such as the Ministry of Public Space and the Social Development and Health Department. For business protection we have regular meetings with the members of the Chamber of Commerce of the City in order to listen their ideas and suggestions for improvements in safety.

**S.S.-** *What should be the priorities of the police service?*

**H.G.-** Right now our priority is to be present in the streets in order to prevent crimes and to do special services such as ambulance escorts, tourist assistance, and control of the public transport as the new Metrobus<sup>iii</sup> and underground lines.

### **Problems and successes experienced**

**S.S. -** *What are the problems that people most often complain about? Which are the most common crimes in the city?*

**H.G. -** The huge problem nowadays is violence, the violence that takes place after crimes. Twenty years ago the situation was very different. You could be robbed, but the thieves only got, for example, your sneakers, and then they fled. You were not afraid of suffering any physical damage. Nowadays, that has changed. Thieves not only rob you, after doing that they may shoot you. Many times these thieves or burglars are acting under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Crimes are much more violent.

**S.S. –***Is it very difficult to keep criminals in jail during the judicial process?*

**H.G. -** This is part of the problem. When we arrest people the Judiciary Power releases the criminals almost the same day, no matter what kind of proofs we have. In our understanding we have provided the Judiciary Power with enough proofs for keeping criminals in jail, but this is not a simple issue. I mean, it is not a fault of Judges or Prosecutors. Maybe some laws should be changed. Anyway, and as a consequence, criminals do not take the possibility of being in jail seriously. They do not care about it because they consider this as something almost impossible. The judicial system allows them to think that way. It seems that the only punishment that they receive is the criminal (judicial) process itself. Nothing else. That means no punishment at all. It is difficult for us to work without the help of the Judges. It seems that we cannot do anything about that, but this is not an accurate diagnosis. We have worked hard in order to help the Judiciary Power. Prosecutors’ offices are located in the same building that as the “Comunas”<sup>iv</sup>. The idea is to speed up the prosecution process working together in order to achieve our goals. In my opinion, the judiciary system needs new tools for reforming many situations that hinder the process. It is known that punitive rules are passed after new crimes have emerged. That is why criminal organizations change their *modus operandi* with incredible speed.

**S.S.–** *What about public places?*

**H.G. -** Another common issue for people is security in public places. We suffer from it every day in the City. The “okupas”<sup>v</sup> is a serious problem, too. Everybody knows and has seen what happened at the San Martin Theater. The “okupas” kicked, insulted, hurled rocks at the police and tried to put the theater on fire. They destroyed many expensive and unique art sculptures. Some policemen were hurt. But police officers were not allowed to react to this entire situation,

because if the police reacted, using force, some media organizations would start to say that the police were using repressive power without any reason or cause. But if we do not do anything, the same press would say that we are useless.

**S.S.**-*Is it difficult to win the support of the public when it appears that criminals have more rights than ordinary people and that they are not being punished.*

**H.G.** - Yes, sometimes it is difficult, but anyway, we are trying our best no matter what the politicians or media say. Besides through our own press department and social networks we are trying to keep the people informed, showing them the full story, not a fragmented and partial version of the situation.

**S.S.** - *What personal achievement are most proud of?*

**H.G.** - I am especially proud of the way we handle gender crimes. We have developed a very good policy and response as regards gender violence crimes. Currently, we have under our control about five hundred cases of women that have suffered these kinds of crimes. We have provided them with some “panic buttons” that are similar to a small cell phone. They should carry it in their purses or their pockets and, if something happens, they just need to press a button. We are able to track the “panic devices” with a GPS. We recognize every device by its own number, and we can be at the place in which the victim is in a very short time. Besides, the victim can talk using the device, explaining to us what is happening, and if she cannot speak or is not able to do it, we are able to hear what is going on. When the victim presses the button, a microphone on the device is activated and we can listen to what is going on. That allows us to assess how urgent our intervention should be.

**S.S.** - *How can you decide on the allocation of the “panic button device”?*

**H.G.** – It is not our decision. The decision is made at the Prosecutor’s office. The Prosecutor studies the case and if he considers it convenient to provide a panic button to someone for protection, he contacts us in order to inform us about the case and gives us the instructions to deliver the device and to do the surveillance.

**S.S.** - *The City has many surveillance cameras in the street. Do the Metropolitan Police control all of them?*

**H.G.** - Almost all the street cameras belong to the Metropolitan Police, and I am very proud of that. It is a huge achievement for us to have two thousand surveillance cameras around the city. We have a very good system that allows us to detect any suspicious situation.

**S.S.** - *Do the cameras allow you to prevent crime?*

**H.G.** - Well, the cameras have multiple purposes. First, they serve for prevention. When criminals realize that a camera is there, they avoid the place because they know that they are recorded. Second, they serve for protection. Cameras are live, that means that if we see a crime we can inform immediately the units that are close to where the crime is taking place. We share this kind of information with the Federal Police in order to ensure that there is always someone close to the place where the action is happening. Third, if we are late, and the crime was committed, the records of the cameras allow us to identify criminals and to provide evidence to the Prosecutors.

**S.S.** – *Many people also complain about Drugs and Illegal Prostitution. Are the Metropolitan Police doing something in these areas?*

**H.G.** – Yes. We have jurisdiction over all kinds of crimes that take place in the City of Buenos Aires. Regarding illegal prostitution, we have done a very good job in dismantling a net of pedophiles which operated using the internet. It was a national job, because the net has widely

spread across the entire country. Our cybercrime department is one of the best in the area. It is a small department with few agents, but highly specialized.

**S.S.** - *And drug crimes?*

**H.G.** – We have helped many Federal Courts in drug smuggling cases. Sometimes the cases start in the City but their branches extend all over the country and also abroad. We collaborate not only with our cybercrime department but also with our police officers in the field. Many Federal Courts are asking us for our help in doing search warrants on drug related crimes. It seems that they are recognizing our professionalism and expertise. I am happy about that.

**S.S.** - *Do you collaborate with many other police forces around the world?*

**H.G.** – I have been very lucky and I have attended many international seminars and worked with other Police forces. For example, on July 2006 I was appointed Chief of the “Operativo Comando Unificado” of the Mercosur. I worked as a Chief of Security at many international political summits in South America. Besides, in 2008 I worked as Liaison Officer between the Argentinean Ministry of Justice and the American Embassy related to the Anti- Terrorism Program. I have had the privilege of studying in Paris and Lyon, France, about the new systems for recognizing and identifying people through facial, fingerprint or tattoo recognizing methods - a new science called biometrics. I was also invited by the New York Police Department and the Washington Police to study systems for reading car plates in movement.

Besides, I attended the Senior Crisis Management Seminar at the American University in Washington D.C.

## **Theory and Practice**

**S.S.** - *Would you say that theory is an important part in your job?*

**H.G.** - Of course, not only important but also needed. I have learnt a lot from those seminars and exchanges. I expect that the people who are working at the Metropolitan Police to have the same opportunities, because theory helps decisions at the moment of the practice. They are complementary.

**S.S.** – *Do you consider that the police officers of the Metropolitan Police know enough theory?*

**H.G.** - At the Metropolitan Police School we give our students many lectures on both theory and practice. We have to provide them with the necessary tools for facing the current problems that affect society. Criminals evolve every day and crimes get more complex.

**S.S.** – *Do you evaluate your staff?*

**H.G.** – At the Metropolitan Police School we evaluate them not only about theory – law, human rights and psychology – but also regarding their physical and psychological health. We do so twice a year. Police officers need to be in good shape and with an adequate state of mind. They have to go through a physical and psychological test for being on duty. We have to train them for taking action in critical situations and staying ‘cool’.

**S.S.** - *It is pretty difficult to keep calm in some situations...*

**H.G.** - Yes, you can see how people react in the street. For instance, when two cars crash, the drivers usually get out of their vehicles and start to complain, to argue, and even sometimes, to fight. For sure, both drivers have their insurance policy that will cover the damages, then why are they mad? It is human nature. Police agents sometimes are under incredible pressure and they have to learn how to react.

## **Transnational and inter-agency relations**

**S.S.** - *When you were at the seminar or working with other police forces, you exchanged points of view with your international colleagues. What do you envy most about other police departments?*

**H.G.** - (Laughter). Many things... I think I envy most the technology. Some countries invest huge amounts of money on technology, and that investment is really important for providing internal and external security to and for a jurisdiction. Sometimes, I also envy how, in some countries, prosecutors and police officers work together in order to achieve a common goal. In Buenos Aires City we work closely with the Prosecutors but, in my opinion not as much as in others countries. We have to work in those fields a little more. Besides, we have to learn more about how to work with the police in different jurisdictions or countries. In the end, we all have the same purpose: to provide more security to the people, to prevent crimes and to arrest criminals.

**S.S.** - *What technological tools do you need most?*

**H.G.** - Sometimes simple things are needed. For example, we do not have a criminal record unified national database. We have access to the National Registry of Criminal Records<sup>vi</sup>, but sometimes the system does not provide the full information. The National Registry only informs about the criminal records that happened during the last ten years, and if more is needed a Judge's authorization is necessary.

**S.S.** - *What about communication with other Police Forces?*

**H.G.** - Well, we share the same radio frequency – in almost all the situations - with the Federal Police and the Police of the Province of Buenos Aires. This is really useful, because many crimes committed in the Buenos Aires City were performed by people who live in the suburban area, where we do not have jurisdiction. This system has allowed the Police of the Province of Buenos Aires to catch many criminal when they were running away from the city. Working well and together increases the confidence, trust and reliability among police forces.

**S.S.** - *What do you think that other Police Departments could envy the Metropolitan Police for?*

**H.G.** - (Laughter)...It is difficult to say...I think that, since we are a very new police force, we have the possibility to be very meticulous in choosing people for our Metropolitan Police School. We evaluate each application very carefully, and we prepare these students very well before giving them a degree and sending them onto the streets...

**S.S.** - *And what happens when they are in the streets?*

**H.G.** - When they are on the streets we continue controlling them, maybe even more closely. We are still a small Police Force. I know personally almost all the police agents of the Metropolitan Police. Besides, we are really interested in knowing every one of them in order to bring them any personal support that might be necessary.

**S.S.** - *Could you give me an example?*

**H.G.** - We are aware that many of our police officers live in the suburbs of the Buenos Aires City. We do not like that. We would prefer our police officers to live in the City for many reasons, but mainly because if they live here they will feel the City as their own home, creating in this way a deeper bound with their duties. If it is your home you will take more care about everything. To accomplish the moving of our police officers from the suburbs to the city, we have made some agreements with the Bank of the City of Buenos Aires in order to get cheap home loans for them.

## **Democratic Policing**

**S.S.** - *What do you see as the key elements of democratic policing?*

**H.G.** - I think that working with the community is the best way to democratize the police power. Dialogue is the key. Besides we have to work as mediators in some conflicts between neighbors. We realize that we have to impose our authority without showing weakness, but without being rude or violent. I emphasize the use of dialogue and mediation. A key element is to exert the minimum force necessary to halt the misconduct that was causing the commission of a crime or misdemeanor.

**S.S.** - *Is corruption or brutality an issue in the Metropolitan Police?*

**H.G.** - We have received different types of complaints involving Metropolitan Police officers, but fortunately very few ones. Some of them are related to alleged crimes, others with administrative issues. If one of our officers is accused of committing a crime, we seek immediate intervention by the Criminal Justice. We are not allowed to deal with it internally, and I think that this kind of procedure creates transparency in the force, sending a clear message to our officers and to the population. If the complaint is a serious one, we order a preventive suspension of duties for the officer involved until the situation is clarified. If the officer is considered guilty, we remove him from the Metropolitan Police. We spend a lot of time instructing our officers on Ethics and Human Rights in order to avoid this disgusting situation.

**S.S.** - *Do you have an internal accountability office?*

**H.G.** - We do not have an internal accountability office. We are controlled by an external accountability office that is managed by the City of Buenos Aires Ministry of Justice. If one of our officers commits an administrative fault, we have to inform this external office. The external accountability office is also controlled by an NGO. As you can see, we have many eyes over us. But I think it is better that way.

**S.S.** - *Are the mass media and politicians very critical of the Metropolitan police? Are they always looking for something that could stain your office?*

**H.G.** - I prefer not to mix political issues or what the media say with the Metropolitan Police. We pay attention to every opinion and different points of view that can help us to improve our work.

**S.S.** - *Some mass media and some politicians from political parties opposed to the current Mayor of the City say that the Metropolitan Police are the Mayor's police department (Macri's). Is there any truth in that?*

**H.G.** - Yes, I am aware of that charge. But we are the police of all the citizens of Buenos Aires, not the police of any political party, no matter who is or will be the Mayor of Buenos Aires. The purpose of the Metropolitan Police is to provide the population of the city with its own police department that is controlled by the same population by means of the City Courts and the Ministry of Justice of the City.

**S.S.** - *Do criticisms – made by citizens, politicians or mass media - affect the perception of the people about the police force?*

**H.G.** - It depends on the complaints, if they are true or false ones. If the bases of the complaints state are true, it helps us to improve the quality of our service. But if the complaints are false, or were made in “bad faith”, they can create confusion. We are doing our best. We can have some corruption cases, but they affect a minimum proportion of our officers. It is our duty to show the people that corrupt officers are only a small proportion of our police force. It is not our policy to hide officer misconduct. If we want to get back the confidence of the city population we have to be transparent.

**S.S.** - *Could you give me some examples of actions taken by the Metropolitan Police that people support?*

**H.G.** - As you know, a few months ago, the city suffered an incredible and rare flood because of an extraordinary storm. The climate is changing, no doubt about it. Our officers collaborated with “Defensa Civil”<sup>vii</sup> in order to help people to leave their houses for being safe from the flood and to save some of their properties. Besides, we transported many people to hospitals and shelters. We were there where the people needed us most, on the same side of the people.

**S.S.** - *What levels of public support does the police service have?*

**H.G.** - I think that we have support from the community. Besides we fortunately also have administrative and legislative support in order to carry our duties in the City of Buenos Aires.

**S.S.** - *And do the people show you their recognition?*

**H.G.** - Yes, that is the most rewarding thing. We are here to work for the people and we really like it when people show their appreciation. It is a good thing and sometimes needed. Besides, it helps us to improve our feedback to the people. Everybody likes to do things that could help people and be recognized by that. It is in our nature, and when it happens we reaffirm that we are doing a good job. I read an article that reported a recent survey which showed that the most rewarding jobs, the ones which most satisfaction provides for people are Firemen and Parish Priests. Firemen and Parish Priests feel a real gratification in doing their jobs, and I think it is because people recognize their work immediately. But the police field is different. Investigations usually take time and in many cases the success only shows in the long term.

**S.S.** - *How do you convey that to your police officers?*

**H.G.** - I try every day to instill in every officer of the Metropolitan Police that we have to do our best, and that in this way, professional and personal recognition in our work will come along. We are not looking for it, but it is gratifying when someone recognizes the work we are doing and the efforts that we are making. And it is starting to happen. We think that it will take time, but if we continue in this way, we will finally change the perception that most people have about the Police Forces. Police officers should be happy and proud for being police officers. We have a long road to walk ahead, but I consider that this is the only way to strengthen the police institution. We have to take care of our officers, stay close to them, and help them when they have any problems.

**S.S.** - *Positive perceptions about police officers will presumably increase application to the Metropolitan Police School. How many new police officers do you expect to have at the end of the year?*

**H.G.** - We expect 600 new officers to get their degrees from the Metropolitan School.

**S.S.** - *And will they be assigned to work in a street patrol?*

**H.G.** - Possibly. People need to see more police agents in the street. That helps to prevent crimes. Prevention is one of the most important things for getting a safer city. Citizens need to feel safe. We have to make Buenos Aires a safe city again. Some areas are pretty safe, but others are not. We have to be there, collaborating with the Federal Police and other police forces. Little by little we are getting more presence in the streets.

## **Looking ahead**

**S.S.** - *What are the most likely developments you see happening?*

**H.G.** - We will have new Police Stations in the new neighborhoods in which we will work in a near future. The total coverage of the City by the Metropolitan Police is something that will

happen for sure. Besides we would have to incorporate the Underground Police Department. Our Police Department will grow with new police agents, some of them “new ones”, from our Police Institute and some others that would come from other similar forces such as Federal Police, Gendarmerie, etc. The last ones will also have to receive specific training at our Police Institute, no matter how experienced they would be.

**S.S.** - What would you like to see happening?

**H.G.** - I would like to see a coordinated action, with no disputes, with the National Government – who rules the Federal Police - . Besides it is my desire that the Metropolitan Police could have finally enough police for covering all the areas of Buenos Aires City for making the city a very safe place as it once was.

**S.S.** - *Thank you for your time.*

**Final words:** I was surprised during the interview. I was accustomed to dealing with Chief police officers when I worked at a Criminal Court. That is why I expected to find a “hard cop”, but instead I found, not only a trained but an instructed man that seems more like the CEO of an International Corporation than a Police Chief. He knows how to express his ideas, and clearly he seems to be prepared for his job. He has experience in the streets and on theoretical issues, adding to that an international background. Besides, it seems that he understands politicians and has an accurate idea of what his role is. Maybe, finally, police forces are starting to change in Argentina.

### **Brief Biography of Mr. Horacio Alberto Gimenez**

Since the year 2011, Mr. Gimenez is the Head of the Metropolitan Police - the security forces of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

Before that, he worked during 39 years in the Federal Police, from which he retired as Commissioner General.

He served in different position throughout his career.

Among them, he was Superintendent of Homeland Security and Federal Crimes Warehouses; Director of Homeland Security and the Department of National Security; Custody Division Chief of the Vice Presidential Unit; Cabinet Advisor and Secretary of the State Secretary of Homeland Security.

Besides, he was responsible for the safety of several presidential summits and international meetings (UNASUR, MERCOSUR).

He is a police aircraft pilot; a commercial pilot as well as helicopter pilot squad.

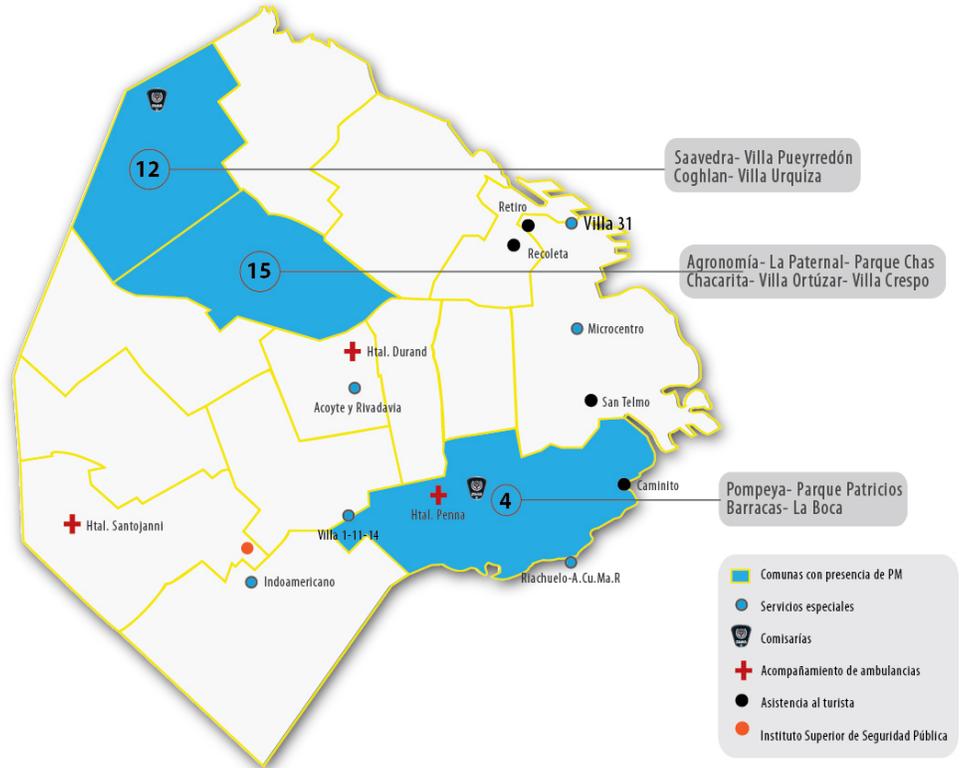
He is married and has two children.

# Map



**POLICIA  
METROPOLITANA**

## SERVICIOS





<sup>i</sup>- Prefectura is a Naval prefecture for controlling river and marine traffic. It is similar to the Coast Guard in the United States of America.

<sup>ii</sup>- Gendarmería is a kind of a National Border Police Department.

<sup>iii</sup> Metrobus: Is an exclusive express lane for Busses that cross the City from North to South.

<sup>iv</sup> “Comunas” are the Guildhall offices.

<sup>v</sup>- Okupas: people who occupy public places or abandoned places illegally.

<sup>vi</sup>- Registro Nacional de Reincidencia.

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<sup>vii</sup> - Defensa Civil: Is a Civil Institution that coordinates different forces; for example firemen, MDs, ambulances, etc., in emergency situations. It could be translated as an Emergency Squadron Civil Defense Brigade.