

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
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12th October 1973

URGENT ACTION CAMPAIGN: CHILE

We are now receiving information about people in several different **categories** who have been detained in Chile since the violent coup of 11th September 1973. In addition, we have also received lists of those for the arrest of whom warrants have been issued and whose lives may be in grave danger. The information falls into three major categories:

- A - Chileans who have been detained and who are now awaiting trial by court martial. As is now widely known, these court-martials take place extremely rapidly, and some heavy sentences have already been passed after arbitrary trials. As can be seen from the article in El Mercurio (3.10.73) List 4, many of the prisoners are now being transferred from the National Stadium to common prisons so that 'proceedings can be begun against them'. In many cases, there is a serious danger that the death penalty will be passed.
  
- B - Foreign refugees (mainly Bolivians, Brazilians and Uruguayans, though there are also several hundred refugees from other Latin American countries) who have been detained. There is now overwhelming evidence that many of these foreign nationals have been tortured during interrogation (conceivably by intelligence services from their own countries). The lives of these foreign refugees are also in grave danger.
  
- C - Chileans and foreign nationals for whose arrest warrants have been issued. Although, in the fanatical xenophobic atmosphere that has existed since the coup, Chileans have been asked to denounce all foreigners to their nearest police station as probable extremists who have 'come to kill Chileans', there are some people who are in particular danger. The names of some of these have been published in the Chilean press (as in the enclosed articles from Mercurio). We have received information about others (information from Santiago and elsewhere) stressing that there are no guarantees for many of these.

ACTION

National sections are asked to work on all of these categories. We are now sending names out to those sections who have asked for material and are asking all sections to form groups to work on the Chilean urgent action campaign who could take immediate action on behalf of people from all of these categories. We remind you that it is URGENT that protest letters should come principally from outside of Amnesty. Massive international protest is needed from professional, student, trade union, journalist,



political and other organisations. At the moment, it is rarely possible to classify the names of prisoners into specific groups (i.e. according to profession), nevertheless, we give indication of profession wherever possible.

Sections are URGENTLY requested to form groups to work on this Chilean urgent action and who will be responsible for making contact with organisations in their own country that are able to take action on these names. Please inform us as soon as possible of the name and address to which we should send further urgent action material (we will also inform the different co-ordination groups working on Latin American countries of this campaign and suggest that they contact you if they can offer help).

Once such a group is formed you should ask it to take the following action:

(1) stencil (and translate?) the listed articles from the American Convention of Human Rights, which we enclose, and that they send this out together with the lists of prisoners received now and in the future;

(2) Stencil (and translate?) the list of Chilean authorities and send it out as widely as possible with your lists.

(3) Lists -

. with names from category A, (detained Chileans), letters and telegrams should be sent stressing that the detention of Chilean citizens on charges of actions committed during the Allende regime are a direct contravention of Article 9 of the American Convention of Human Rights (that no-one can be convicted for an act that was not an offence at the time it was committed). Letters should stress the international concern at the rapidity of the court martials so far, and at the arbitrary executions that have often followed these court martials. All letters should urge for the release of the prisoner (or prisoners) concerned.

. with names from category B, (detained foreigners), letters should urge that the refugee be released immediately, and given the opportunity to go to the country of his own choice. Again, letters should express concern at the number of foreigners who have already died, and concern at the hostility towards foreigners that has been adopted by the new Chilean junta. You should urge that all foreigners be given the full status of political refugees and treated as such.

. with names from category C, (wanted Chileans and/or foreigners), letters should be addressed to the relevant authorities asking the exact reasons for the arrest warrants. It is clear that many of the people for whom warrants have been issued have committed no offence, but have been leading figures during the Allende government. You should stress that world opinion cannot accept the guilt of such people unless provided with adequate proof that they have committed criminal acts.

Sections and Chile action groups should focus most attention on the cases allocated to their own section (these will be appropriately marked), although they can of course use all the names and information for publicity purposes. Regular lists will be sent out from now onwards and we look forward to hearing from you about developments in the campaign.



AMR 22

NS 25

Amnesty International

International Secretariat

To: All National Sections  
From: International Secretariat (Latin America Department/Zbynek Zeman)  
Re: Temporary Restriction on Chile Emergency Action  
Date: October 26, 1973

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IMPORTANT

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Reference: Urgent action on Chile N.S. 16, 17 and (for some sections) 22.

In view of the impending Amnesty mission to Chile, we have to ask you to stop immediately all petitions for the release of prisoners in the name of Amnesty International. For the maximum benefit of the prisoners, it is essential that the talks will take place in the most favourable conditions.

Actions in the name of other organisations and private persons should continue and be encouraged by our members and sections.

This restriction which will last until further notice, concerns prisoners only, not refugees.

Zbynek Zeman