

CHILE  
INTERNAL (For AI members only)

AI Index: AMR 22/10/78  
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FROM: RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (Javier Zúñiga)

17 July 1978

CHILE : GENERAL BACKGROUND

SUMMARY

The attached documents were prepared in the Research Department to provide up-to-date background information on Chile. They are intended to be used as background for case work and for campaigns,

1. Arbitrary arrests, torture and disappearances continued in Chile during 1977 and are continuing in 1978 (AMR 22/11/78).
2. Disappeared prisoners in Chile (AMR 22/12/78).
3. CNI-DINA: The creation of the Central Nacional de Informaciones (National Centre of Information) to replace the Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional (National Directorate of Intelligence) (AMR 22/13/78).
4. The campaign against the Vicaría de la Solidaridad (AMR 22/14/78).
5. Trade Unions (AMR 22/15/78). (INTERNAL)
6. Extract of a letter from four major peasant labour organizations to the Chilean Bishops dated 22 August 1977 (AMR 22/16/78).
7. The Referendum of 4 January 1978 (AMR 22/17/78). (INTERNAL)
8. List of Government Authorities

DISTRIBUTION

These documents are being sent to National Sections, Latin America Coordination groups and Adoption Groups.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

During 1977 and 1978 AI has continued to receive information about arrests, torture and disappearances in Chile. In spite of the fact that an amnesty was declared on 19 April 1978, there are still many political prisoners in Chile and the fate of more than 1,500 disappeared prisoners is still not known.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

These documents are intended primarily for information purposes. They can be given to members and non-members who request information on Chile, or to those people who you feel would be of assistance to our actions on Chile. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH PAPERS AMR 22/15/78, AMR 22/16/78 and AMR 22/17/78 DO NOT COVER MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE WE ARE SENDING THEM FOR YOUR INTEREST AND INFORMATION.



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ARBITRARY ARRESTS, TORTURE AND DISAPPEARANCES CONTINUED IN CHILE DURING 1977  
AND ARE CONTINUING IN 1978

Throughout 1977 Amnesty International regularly received reports of arrests, torture of prisoners and the disappearance of people following their abduction by people presumed to be from government security forces. Given below are the names of fourteen people who are known to have disappeared during 1977. All available facts about them are also given.

Jorge Andrés TRONCOSO Aguirre: watchmaker and jeweller, arrested on 11 May 1977 in connection with the "Veloso" case. (This case involved the kidnapping of a young boy by the DINA (Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional; National Directorate of Intelligence) in an attempt to discredit the Vicaría de la Solidaridad (Vicariat of Solidarity). The detention of Jorge Troncoso was never recognised, but eye-witnesses have testified to seeing him in a torture centre. It is feared that he died shortly after arrest in the hands of government security agents who interrogated and tortured him using electric shocks. One testimony reads:

"A little while later, they placed me beside a person who was sitting down tied up and blindfolded, whom I recognised as Jorge Troncoso Aguirre. It seemed that Troncoso had only recently arrived since he showed no signs of having been punished ..... afterwards another person arrived who said that I had made a mistake, that the person I had identified as Jorge Troncoso was another person who had been arrested for not having identity papers. Then they took me once again to the room where they did the torturing, took off my blindfold, and I could see that they had ..... tied him to a kind of stretcher. At his side, in a similar condition, they had another person. This person was the same one that I had identified as Jorge Troncoso Aguirre. However, he made no movement, and I could not see him breathing."

Another eye-witness account runs as follows:

"Then they called me and took me into another room. I realised that they were preparing the "parilla" ("grill") and that they were ordering someone to get undressed. They began to apply electric shocks to him and by his voice I realised that the person to whom they were applying the current was Jorge Troncoso Aguirre. They instructed him to raise one finger when he wanted to say something. Then Troncoso said 'I don't know anything about what you are saying to me'. The interrogation was centred around Troncoso's activities on 2 May and his participation in the abduction of a child by the name of Veloso ..... I was aware that they were beginning to apply the current to Troncoso, and he was crying out. The "Chief" gave an order to

'gag him', they went on applying the current and one of them said 'Stop, massage him, I think he's died on us.' Then someone gave the command 'take the bastard outside'. I felt them take hold of me and quickly take me out of that room. They took me to the yard and sat me on a chair where I stayed for about an hour until I heard a Fiat 125 car arriving. I recognised it by the sound of its engine. Someone got out of this vehicle and said 'I've come to see the bastard on the stretcher who seems to be dead'."

Jenny Barra Rosales: a student nurse at the Catholic University of Santiago, aged 23. She had previously been detained in 1974. On 17 October 1977, on her way home from a friend's house, she was abducted, and has not been seen since. In the writ of habeas corpus presented by Jenny Barra's mother, she states the following: "On arriving at her friend's house, they (Jenny and her friend) mentioned that they had been followed ..... some hours later she decided to return to our home - a few blocks away from the friend's house - she said goodbye to her friend and told her she would telephone her at nine o'clock that evening. She never arrived at our house nor did she telephone her friend."

The writ of habeas corpus was rejected by the Court of Appeals, and since the Ministry of the Interior stated that she was not under arrest, her mother denounced her abduction before the San Bernardo Court. In doing so she explained:

"I have been able to find out that on 16 October, before going to class, my daughter was at the house of Hernán Santos Pérez Alvarez, talking to his wife ..... Through his wife I found out that Señor Pérez Alvarez was violently abducted by armed, plainclothes men on 19 October, two days after the abduction of my daughter. I also know that on 19 October my daughter was seen in a car accompanied by several people, three to be exact, which was parked in front of the kindergarten C27 which is in the Población Teniente Merino (a shanty town), Los Montes No. 1216. A neighbour, ex-policeman, went up to the vehicle, puzzled by its long stay there, and asked the men to identify themselves and to explain why the young girl inside the vehicle was in tears. He was told that they were rounding up drug addicts and that the girl was an addict. All these things clearly indicate to me that my daughter remains abducted since 17 October."

Hernán Santos Pérez Alvarez (Mentioned in above testimony) was abducted on 19 October 1977. He had also been detained in 1974 for political reasons. According to witnesses Hernán Santos Pérez was wounded by a bullet while attempting to escape from his captors.

Sergio Hidalgo Orrego: Trade unionist and member of the Socialist Party, married with children aged one to eight years. Circumstances of the arrest: on 31 August 1977, several people arrived at his home in three vehicles. Claiming that he was needed at the factory where he worked, to carry out urgent repairs, they took him away. His whereabouts remain unknown.

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Israel Vicente Garcia Ramirez: a former political prisoner; his father is in exile in Mexico. On 29 April 1977, the day after his wedding, he was arrested with his wife and mother-in-law, who were subsequently released. He remains disappeared.

Other cases of disappearances during 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of arrest</u>	<u>Date</u>
Pedro Daniel CASTRO Sepúlveda	Chillán	29 April
Pedro MELIA Vergara	Arica	14 May
Sergio OVIEDO Sarria	Arica	14 May
Isidoro CASTRO Villanueva	Arica	31 May
Hernán SOTO Galvez	Santiago	7 June
Juan José PAILLALEF Paillalef	Arica	31 July
Sergio Hernán LEAL Díaz	Osorno	18 August
Luis Gerardo OTAROLA Veldes	Valparaiso	30 August
Raúl Iván CARCAMO Aravena	Valparaiso	1 September

Some cases of torture during 1977

The following account was received from a reliable source by Amnesty International. We are withholding the name of the person concerned for reasons of security.

X was arrested in August 1977 at his place of work by two civilians who identified themselves as coming from Investigaciones (Investigations). They took him to a blue and white van, blindfolded him and hooded him with a sack. Once inside the vehicle, he was beaten about the head, apparently with a machine gun. He lost consciousness. He regained it later on when he found himself sitting in a room, still blindfolded. Then they asked him where he kept the Roneo machine, at the same time hitting him with their fists and the butts of guns. He also felt as though a trigger was being pulled against his head. From the time of his arrest at 11 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, he was kept in this place. At one point he was taken out of the room and taken to another place where he was hung from his feet and repeatedly plunged into a drum of water. This happened several times until he lost consciousness. When he woke up he was on the floor of a cell. Throughout the torture he was kept hooded and handcuffed. When he recovered consciousness, he was taken from the cell to another room where he was tied to a chair and electric shocks were applied to his head and genitals while he was asked the same questions. During this period of interrogation, he lost consciousness again. He woke up in his cell and does not know how long he was there. The day after his arrest, at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, his blindfold was taken off, he was further interrogated, and was forced to sign a prepared written declaration. From this place, which he identified as the Cuartel Quinto Normal (Quinto Normal Barracks), he was taken, without the blindfold, to another barracks in General Mackenna Street, where his finger prints were taken. From there, he was sent to the Cárcel Pública (Public Prison), and one hour later to the Fiscalía Militar (Military Prosecutor's Office). There, he was interrogated by a clerk of the court, and then held incommunicado for 8 days. After 8 days, he was taken once more

to make a statement at the Fiscalía and freed bajo fianza (on conditional liberty). He is still going through the trial process and is constantly watched at his place of work.

Jorge Rene PALMA Pacheco: leader of the Agrupación de Familiares de los Presos Desaparecidos (Committee of the Relatives of the Disappeared Prisoners), was arrested in September 1977, and his testimony follows:

"I was arrested by the CNI at 2.30 in the morning of 8 September at my home. At the entrance I was brutally beaten and as I was crying out, this was witnessed by many people. I was put into a yellow Klaim mini-bus (there were three surrounding my house), handcuffed, blindfolded and taken to a secret place (underground). More than 12 men carried out the arrest. In this underground place I was tortured without interruption for 20 hours (electricity, blows with iron bars all over my body, attempts to fracture my vertebral column and knee joints). They applied a wire tourniquet around my head (a treatment which is more or less new, which consists of placing a wire around the head which is then tightened by turning a piece of wood). (Results: multiple bruising, crushed shoulder blades ..... ) They also repeatedly threatened to rape my wife and take reprisals against my children."

Doctor Haydée del Carmen PALMA Donoso: Single, 32 years old, was detained on 16 January 1978. She was accused of being a member of the Central Committee of the MIR (Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria; Movement of the Revolutionary Left). From 16 to 22 January, she was tortured without interruption; the maximum period she was given to rest and recover from the tortures was from one to three hours. On 16 January she was shown Germán Cortés so that she could see how he had been tortured. The CNI later declared that he had been detained on 18 January, the day on which he was killed by CNI agents. The tortures which Dr. Haydée Palma suffered were of such severity that the six CNI doctors who examined her recommended that torture against her should be suspended because her life was in danger. In spite of the doctors' advice, she continued to be tortured until 22 January, as a result of which she bled from her anus and vagina for 21 days. On 13 and 14 February, she was given two electric shocks which resulted in partial amnesia. On 16 February she was driven in a Peugeot 504 to the city of Arica, near the frontier with Perú. There CNI agents arranged for her to enter Perú with false documents in the name of Cecilia Azócar Veloso and she was put on a bus for Tacna, Perú. She was informed that agents of the CNI would also be on the bus.

On arriving in Tacna, she went to ask for help from the Bishop of that city, who recommended that she go to the police and also inform the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) about her case. She remained in the custody of the PIP (Peruvian Investigation Police), where she received help and medical attention, first in Tacna and then in Lima. On 14 March, she went to Cuba - the country which had granted her a visa.

The Chilean authorities have completely denied the detention of Dr. Haydée Palma although there are witnesses who have made declarations before a notary that they had seen the detained in the Villa Grimaldi. It is probable that Dr. Haydée Palma is alive today only because the military government was confronted with a period of major weakness with the development of the investigation of the assassination of Orlando Letelier.