

(Concepcion)

Asesinato

IV, 25

MURDERS IN CONCEPCION: PROSECUTOR'S DECREE REJECTED

In the case of several popular leaders who were executed in Concepcion on the 22nd of October, El Mercurio of 10/20/73 noted that the government prosecutor asked that they be sentenced to five year's imprisonment. On Monday the 22nd, the same newspaper reported that the prosecutor had asked for fifteen year sentences against them. And on the next day, the newspaper reported that all had been shot during the previous night. The men were Danilo Gonzales (42) and Vladimir Arana (30), both professors, Barnabe Cabrera (30) and Isidoro Carrillo (43), miners. Two of the men had been mayors and had received very large number of votes. One of them, Isidoro Carrillo, left 11 children, of whom the youngest is a year and a half old, and the oldest, a nineteen year old, has been imprisoned.

The newspapers of Santiago published the charges that were invented against these men: as part of the fantastic plan Z, they were supposed to have planned to murder all of the members of the opposition (some 57% of the population) of the region; next, they were going to bury another group of people alive, in a mine, with nothing to eat, for having mistreated workers. These poor victims, not even members of the opposition, were going to be fed human excrement twice a day, according to the absurd stories published by La Tercera, La Segunda and other mouthpieces of the Junta. In view of the obvious absurdity of the charges leveled against these men, it is understandable that the government prosecutor asked for light sentences. He recommended five years. They forced him to elevate his request to fifteen years. But the preceding, in its entirety, was a farce: the Junta had already decided to murder them, and in any case they were shot.

El Mercurio of 10/10/73, page 1, ran a picture of a group of prisoners held on Quiriquina island. The caption notes the presence, in the center of the photo, of Fernando Alvarez, ex-governor of the Province of Concepcion. His story: arrested on 11th September by the Carabineros, he was taken to Quiriquina island, to be returned to the mainland in the early days of November. He was tortured for two full days by the police, who notified his wife, on the eight of November, that he had been found dead that morning in his cell. When the body was claimed and an autopsy performed, it emerged that he had been tortured to death -practically electrocuted- by the application of electrical current to his hands, groin and genitals, all badly burned. It was not a case of sudden or chronic illness: all his internal organs were in good order, and he had simply been tortured to death.