

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

18 January 1985

CHILE: Jorge SAGREDO PIZARRO
Carlos TOPP COLLINS
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ORIGINAL

Amnesty International is seriously concerned that the two men above, who have been sentenced to death, may face a firing squad in Chile within the next few days.

On 17 January 1985 Chile's Supreme Court confirmed the death sentences imposed on 9 January 1983 by the Valparaíso Appeal Court on two former *carabineros* (uniformed police), Jorge Sagredo and Carlos Topp. They were convicted of multiple homicide, rapes and robberies which occurred in Viña del Mar in 1980 and 1981.

All legal appeals have been exhausted by the defence lawyers and all that remains now is the chance of Presidential clemency. Following its decision on 17 January, the Supreme Court passed its report to President Pinochet. The President is expected to make a decision quickly on whether to commute the death sentences. In the event of a negative decision, the two men could be executed at any time.

Chilean legislation provides the death penalty for certain crimes. The last judicial executions in Chile were carried out in October 1982. There are currently 14 other prisoners for whom the death penalty has been recommended and whose trials continue; they are political prisoners. Two of the 14 have received death sentences in the first instance.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/airmail letters urging the President to exercise his power of clemency and commute the death sentences imposed on Jorge Sagredo Pizarro and Carlos Topp Collins.

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☎ 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for all *political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*.

APPEALS TO:

General Augusto Pinochet
Presidente de la República
Palacio de La Moneda
Santiago, Chile

*Telegrams to: Presidente Pinochet,
Santiago, Chile*

COPIES TO: *any of the following:*

Sr. Rafael Retamal
Presidente de la Corte Suprema
Plaza Montt Varas
Santiago, Chile

(President of the Supreme Court)

General César Mendoza Durán
Miembro de la Junta de Gobierno
Edificio Diego Portales
Santiago, Chile

(Member of the Government Junta)

Comandancia de Carabineros de Chile
Viña del Mar
Chile

*(Regional headquarters of the
carabineros)*

Monseñor Francisco Valenzuela
Obispo de Valparaíso
Casilla 3306
Valparaíso, Chile

(Bishop of Valparaíso)

Vicaría de la Solidaridad
Arzobispado de Santiago
Casilla 30-D
Santiago, Chile

(church human rights organization)

La Estrella
Dr Sotero del Río 322
Casilla 57-V
Valparaíso, Chile

(evening newspaper)

and to diplomatic representatives of Chile in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 February 1985.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.