



Amnesty International
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C H I L EFIFTEEN PEOPLE BANISHED

On 29 March 1984, fifteen people, mostly thought to be shanty town leaders, were banished on the orders of the Ministry of the Interior for three months. The measure was taken in accordance with interim provision 24 of the Chilean Constitution which gives special powers to the government to order the detention for up to twenty days without charge, banish for three months or expel political suspects without access to any legal safeguards.

They had been arrested in their homes or places of work on 24|25 March, within twenty-four hours of the government's announcement that it was declaring a state of emergency for ninety days. The men were detained on premises run by the plainclothes police (Investigaciones) until their banishment on 29 March. Reports indicate that they were not tortured while in incommunicado detention.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned that they have been arbitrarily banished for three months without charge or trial or the right of appeal to an independent legal body. It believes that the men have not used or advocated violence and that they were detained solely as a preventive measure before a National Day of Protest was due to take place on 27 March. The Day of Protest had been called by the Comando Nacional de Trabajadores, made up of a number of trade union federations, and supported by the main opposition groups. Church human rights organizations in Chile described the banishment of the fifteen men as "highly unjust".

For nine of the men, it is the second period of banishment in seven months. They were among forty people banished for three months at the beginning of October 1983 whom the government held responsible for "acts of violence" during the Days of Protest which had taken place between May and September that year. No charges were brought against them however or evidence brought forward to substantiate the accusations. They returned home at Christmas. (See AMR 22|87|83).

The fifteen men have all been sent to villages in the northern desert region of the country, more than twenty hours journey away from Santiago where they all come from.

The fifteen are:

Mauricio Arriagada Figueroa, banished to Toconao

Mauricio Candia Yañez, 21 year old worker and student, banished to Sierra Gorda. Previously banished to Puerto Cisnes, October 1983.

Pablo Candia Yañez, brother of Mauricio, 20-year-old worker and student banished to Baquedano. Previously banished to Coyhaique, October 1983.

Pedro Ahumada Pizarro, banished to Toconao

Benedicto Altamirano Flores, banished to Peine.

Alejo Catril Lincaqueo, banished to Quillagua.

Dimas Galaz Segovia, 67 years old, suffering from a heart condition, banished to Quillagua

Luis Humberto Gática Hernández, 22-year-old worker, banished to Ollague. Previously banished to Quillagua, October 1983.

Maximiliano Gutiérrez Ponce, 24-year-old telephone engineer, banished to Ollague. Previously banished to Mamiña, October 1983.

Pedro Gutiérrez Reyes, 48-year-old unemployed construction worker, banished to Tal Tal. Previously banished to Baquedano, October 1983.

José Marcelino Rivera Carrión, banished to Tal Tal. He had been undergoing medical treatment for gastric problems before his arrest.

Javier Rodríguez Trabuco, 21 years old, unemployed, banished to Tal Tal. Previously banished to Huara, October 1983.

Gustavo Meneses Seguel, 28-year-old mechanic, banished to Tal Tal. Previously banished to Puerto Porvenir, October 1983.

José Rodríguez Vidal, 57-year-old gasfitter, banished to San Pedro de Atacama. Previously banished to Pozo Almonte, October 83.

Javier Zuñiga Seguel, 44-year-old tradesman, banished to San Pedro de Atacama. Previously banished to Pisagua, October 1983.

Amnesty International is appealing to the Chilean Government to immediately lift the banishment orders and to allow the men to return home to their families in Santiago.