

# amnesty international

CHILE

ORIGINAL

## FIVE "DISAPPEARANCES" IN SEPTEMBER 1987 FURTHER INFORMATION

APRIL 1988

AI INDEX: AMR 22/26/88

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The fate of José Julián Peña Maltés, Alejandro Pinochet Arenas, Julio Muñoz Otárola, Gonzalo Fuenzalida Navarrete and Manuel Sepúlveda Sánchez remains unknown, six months after their "disappearance". During the last few months, hundreds of people have been participating in hunger strikes and demonstrations in an attempt to break through the wall of silence surrounding the "disappearances" and to ask that the men's whereabouts be clarified. The authorities, however, continue to maintain that the men have probably gone into voluntary hiding and the courts have refused requests to appoint a special investigating judge (ministro en visita).

Amnesty International believes that circumstances strongly suggest that the men were the victims of abduction by clandestine squads linked to the security forces. In February 1988, anonymous letters in the name of the clandestine group, ACHA (Acción Chilena Anticomunista Chilean Action against Communism) were sent to Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez and to the Communist Party. The message in both letters read "You will never see them again as you once did". "ACHA does not forgive". "For a free Chile". ("Ya no los verán como los vieran". "El ACHA no perdona". "Por un Chile libre".) Accompanying the text were the photographs of Manuel Sepúlveda, Alejandro Pinochet and José Peña together with the photo of another man who has not been identified. The names of the five men also appeared in a death threat directed towards 78 actors, writers and directors in November 1987. Referring to the five men, the "Comando 135 Cultural Section 'Trizano' Action for Peace Movement (Acción Pacificadora "Trizano") threatened, "They are the proof that we who watch over the homeland do not command in vain" ("Son pruebas que los custodias de la patria no ordenamos en vano").

The latest letters were delivered shortly after a statement by the Church urging the clarification of the men's whereabouts. In his address, the Archbishop of Santiago, Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno affirmed that "given their links to extreme left-wing parties or groups, the method used and its consequences and the time at which the events that affect them took place\* there are reasons to think that we are talking about a repressive abuse we thought was a thing of the past in our country."

\* It is widely believed that the men were abducted in retaliation for the kidnapping a few days earlier of a member of the armed forces, Colonel Carreño. He was later released.

("por tratarse de personas vinculadas con partidos o grupos de extrema Izquierda, por la metodología empleada y sus consecuencias y por el momento en que ocurrieron los hechos que los afectan, hay fundamentos para pensar que se trata de un tipo de abuso represivo que parecía ya superado en nuestro país.")

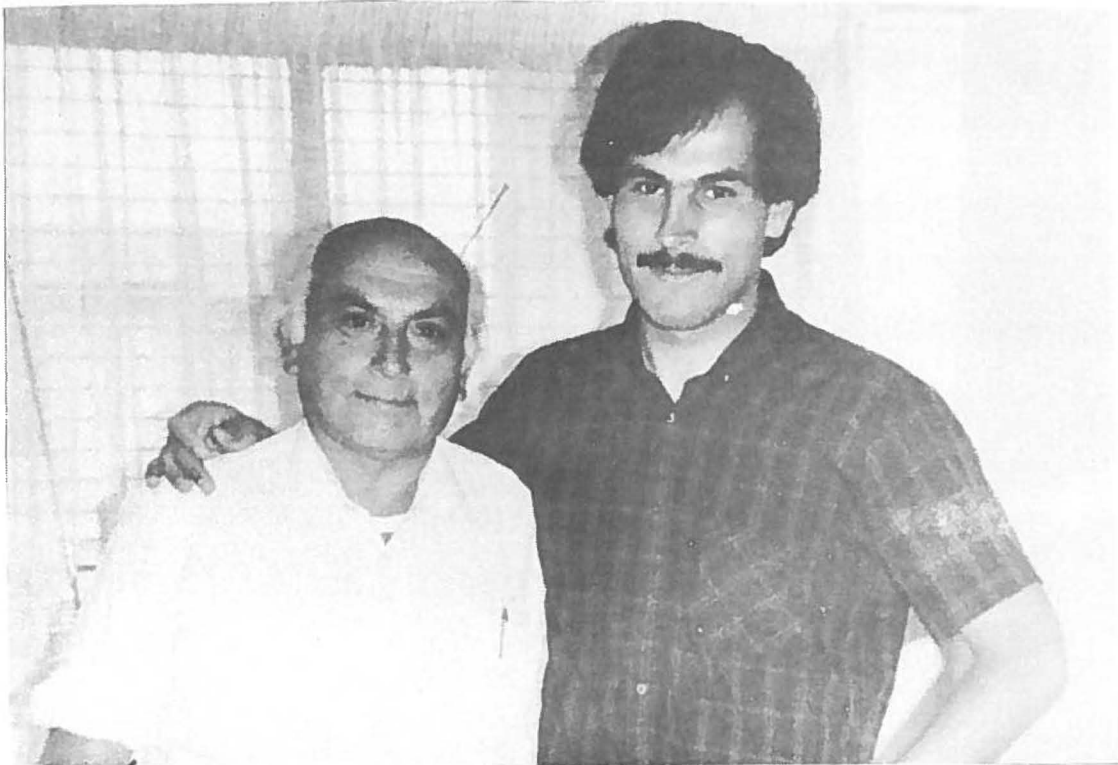
The Church has lent its support to the hundreds of people in poblaciones (poor neighbourhoods) up and down the country who have been participating in hunger strikes and demonstrations. On 10 January 1988, people in the Parish of San Mateo in Santiago began the first in a chain of hunger strikes. They fasted for 100 hours before handing over to the next group of people. Since then numerous sectors of society have joined in, including students and political prisoners. Some of the hunger strikers have themselves received death threats.

In the meantime, the parents continue to search for their loved ones. In a recent interview, the father of José Peña Maltés, said "I shall not rest until I know what has happened to him. I will not abandon him. I ask anyone who may have seen him or who has some information about his arrest to help us. I ask this as a father." (No descansaré hasta saber lo que pasa con él. No lo abandonaré. Pido a cualquier persona que lo haya visto, o que tenga algún antecedente de su detención, que nos ayude. Lo pido como padre.")

Sr. Julián Peña, father of José Peña Maltés



Sra. Idilia Otárola, mother of Julio Muñoz Otárola recalled that her son had spoken to her about the Association of Relatives of Disappeared Prisoners (Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos). In the past, she had always assumed that the "disappeared" turned up "sooner or later in police stations or prisons" ("tarde o temprano en comisarías o cárceles")



Sr. Froilán Pinochet said about his son, Alejandro, "If my son were in hiding, he would have warned me ... the worst thing is this tremendous feeling of impotence. I don't know what else to do to make my son reappear alive." ("Si mi hijo estuviera en la clandestinidad, me habría avisado ... lo peor es esta tremenda impotencia. Ya no sé que hacer para que mi hijo aparezca con vida.")

Hunger strikes, vigils and demonstrations have been held to protest at the men's disappearance. In the photograph, participants in a six-hour vigil and fast in the cathedral in Santiago, place candles around the photographs of the five "disappeared".





INTERNAL (for AI members only)

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CHILE ACTION NETWORK

CHAN 01/88 UPDATE

COUNTRY: CHILE  
SUBJECT TITLE: FIVE "DISAPPEARANCES" IN SEPTEMBER  
1987 - FURTHER INFORMATION

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Please ensure that all relevant people in the section have received copies for their attention, and that the document is centrally filed for future reference. In addition please undertake as many of the following recommended actions as possible.

1. Sections and Chile/CHAN coordinators planning to feature the five cases in the Chile "Disappearances" Campaign beginning in May 1988 can use this information to update "Disappearances - Five New Cases" AI Index : AMR 22/01/88.

2. CHAN groups assigned to working on the cases should use the information for their publicity work and should continue sending appeals calling for a full investigation into their whereabouts.

3. CHAN groups who have not been allocated a case for long-term work but who undertook some work when the action was first initiated may also want to use this circular to send a further round of appeals and hand the information to local journalists, particularly if local newspapers printed articles on these cases.

4. CHAN groups can also involve our local church or religious groups in actions on behalf of the five.

DISTRIBUTION BY THE IS

This circular has been sent direct by the IS to: Sections, campaign coordinators, Chile/CHAN coordinators, groups with Chile "disappearance" cases.

Groups in France who approached journalists, managed to get articles about the "disappearances" into their local press

11 La Montagne  
le 26.2.88 -

SIX

**MONTLUÇON**

**SOLIDARITÉ**

**Un appel du Groupe montluçonnais  
un appel d'Amnesty International**

Le groupe de Montluçon d'Amnesty International se préoccupe de la recrudescence des violations des droits de l'homme au Chili. Et en particulier du retour à l'utilisation des « disparitions » à l'encontre des opposants politiques.

C'est ainsi qu'Alejandro Pinochet Arenas, Manuel Sepulveda Sanchez, José Julian Pena Maltes, Gonzalo Fuenzalida Navarrete et Julio Munos Otarda ont « disparu » entre le 8 et le 12 septembre à Santiago. Les autorités chiliennes affirment qu'ils sont passés dans la clandestinité mais de nombreux témoignages permettent de penser qu'ils ont été enlevés par un groupe clandestin en liaison avec les forces de sécurité.

**Des interventions  
efficaces**

Amnesty appelle toutes les personnes touchées par ces atteintes aux droits de l'homme à manifester leur inquiétude auprès des autorités chiliennes et à deman-

der l'ouverture d'une enquête indépendante pour retrouver ces « disparus ». Elles peuvent écrire à l'adresse suivante : Sr Sergio Fernandez Fernandez, Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago, Chili.

Amnesty est persuadé de l'efficacité de ces appels venus du monde entier, et nous savons qu'ils constituent un soutien pour les familles dans l'angoisse comme en témoigne cet extrait d'une lettre adressée par le frère d'un disparu : « La souffrance de milliers de victimes de « disparitions » et l'angoisse, le désespoir et la peur qu'éprouvent leurs familles qui ne savent plus que faire pour les retrouver ne peuvent laisser indifférent... Je vous prie de continuer à dénoncer le cas de mon frère ».

Pour tous renseignements on peut s'adresser au local de l'association, rue de la Fontaine, aux heures de permanence : mercredi et vendredi de 16 heures à 18 heures, samedi de 15 heures à 17 heures.

Edition LIVERDUN - 26/2/88

**Appel d'« Amnesty International »  
en faveur de disparus au Chili**

« Amnesty International est actuellement très préoccupée par l'enlèvement de cinq personnes au Chili et craint que le procédé des « disparitions » utilisé, entre 1973 et 1977, pour réduire l'opposition au silence soit de nouveau systématiquement appliqué.

Le groupe de Liverdun-Pompey d'« Amnesty International » a lancé un appel

aux autorités pour demander l'ouverture d'une enquête sur ces disparitions et l'arrestation des coupables de ces enlèvements.

Pour vous joindre au groupe et adhérer à Amnesty International, contacter M. Gérard Rossi, tél. 83.24.46.63 ; Mme Monique Klein, tél. 83.49.11.19, ou M. Roger Braun, tél. 83.49.05.40.