

URGENT ACTION

amnesty international

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons, whether or not they have used or advocated violence.
 (Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

Hunger strike 30 July 1980

CHILE: Prisoners on hunger strike in the *Penitenciaría*, Santiago

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AI has received reports that political prisoners in the *Penitenciaría* in Santiago began a hunger strike on about 21 July 1980 in protest against the decision of the authorities to no longer allow visits to prisoners held in *Calle 5*, the part of the prison where political prisoners are held, and also against deteriorating treatment of prisoners. According to reports, prisoners have been harrassed and searched and their belongings have been taken away. Four prisoners named as Carlos Cortés, Raúl Lóñez, Sebastian Baeza and Juan Durán were reportedly moved from their cells by hooded men and then placed in isolation cells and held incommunicado.

Women political prisoners are also on hunger strike. They are demanding to be treated as political prisoners and not, as they are at the moment, as common criminals.

AI has also received reports that 22 members of the families of political prisoners in the *Penitenciaría* and also four members of the families of disappeared prisoners have also begun a hunger strike. It is also reported that political prisoners in prisons in other parts of the country have also begun a hunger strike in support of the prisoners in the *Penitenciaría*.

AI is concerned that the treatment of prisoners in the *Penitenciaría* in Santiago does not conform to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and related recommendations:

- Discipline and punishment

- 27. Discipline and order shall be maintained with firmness, but with no more restriction than is necessary for safe custody and well-ordered community life.
- 31. Corporal punishment, punishment by placing in a dark cell, and all cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments shall be completely prohibited as punishments for disciplinary offences.

- Contact with the outside world

- 37. Prisoners shall be allowed under necessary supervision to communicate with their families and reputable friends at regular intervals, both by correspondence and by receiving visits.

(The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners were adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Geneva in 1955, and approved by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on 31 July 1957 (Resolution 663 (XXIV)).

AI has also received reports that relatives of two of the prisoners being held in the *Penitenciaría* were arrested on 25 July 1980; there is therefore concern that relatives on hunger strike may also be arrested.

Since the killing of the Director of the Military Intelligence School in Santiago, Lieutenant Colonel Roger Vergara Campos, on 15 July 1980 there have been very many arrests by security forces in Santiago. On 16 July 1980 the Minister of the Interior .../...

announced that the five days during which prisoners could be held incommunicado at his disposition had been extended to twenty days. On 19 July a military edict (*bando*) was announced by the Commander in Chief of the Santiago Military Zone in State of Emergency, General Humberto Gordon Rubio. Based on Decree Law 12.927 (Internal State Security) the edict "prohibits the divulgation of information about declarations, antecedents, identity or opinions of witnesses or of authorities in relation to terrorist actions or acts which affect the security of the country". According to General Humberto Gordon, the reason for passing the edict was to prevent investigations into the death of Lieutenant Colonel Roger Vergara being hindered. The prohibition came into force on the night of 18 July 1980, and those who do not comply with it will be punished according to the Law of Internal State Security.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express letters/letters expressing concern at reports of ill-treatment of political prisoners in the *Penitenciaría* in Santiago, in particular reports that some prisoners are being held in isolation, and urging that all prisoners be treated in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

APPEALS TO:

Sr Sergio Fernández Fernández Ministro del Interior Ministerio del Interior Edificio Diego Portales Santiago, Chile	Sr Alberto Herrera Feliú Alcaide, Penitenciaría Avenida Pedro Montt 1902 Santiago, Chile	General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte Presidente de la República Edificio Diego Portales Santiago, Chile
General César Mendoza Durán Miembro de la Junta de Gobierno Edificio Diego Portales Santiago, Chile	Admiral José Toribio Merino Miembro de la Junta de Gobierno Edificio Diego Portales Santiago, Chile	Gen. Fernando Mattei Aubel Miembro de la Junta de Gobierno Edificio Diego Portales Santiago, Chile

COPIES TO:

El Mercurio Compañía 1214 Santiago, Chile	Hoy Eliodoro Yañez 890 Santiago, Chile	Arzobispado de Santiago Vicaría de la Solidaridad Casilla 30D, Santiago, Chile
Comisión Chilena de Derechos Humanos Casa de los Derechos Humanos Av. Bernardo O'Higgins 1584, 2º Santiago, Chile	Radio Cooperativa Bandera 236 8º Santiago, Chile	

and to Chilean diplomatic representatives in your country.

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 27 August 1980

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action. <input type="checkbox"/> Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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". <input type="checkbox"/> The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals. <input type="checkbox"/> In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture". <input type="checkbox"/> Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case. |
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