

INTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

TO: All Sections  
Journalists Groups  
Chile/CHAN Coordinators

FROM: Americas Research Department

CHAN 05/97

DATE: 10 June 1987

#### CHILE ACTION NETWORK

#### IMPRISONMENT AND HARASSMENT OF JOURNALISTS

##### Summary

Attached is information about the recent imprisonment of two Chilean journalists, the sentencing to nighttime imprisonment of a third journalist and the harassment of others working in the same field. This information has already been telexed to CHAN coordinators in the following sections: France, USA, Norway, Canada A, Belgium Fr, Italy, FRG, France and Sweden.

Felipe Pozo and Gilberto Palacios are appealing against their charges and there may be developments in the near future. New information will be telexed to CHAN coordinators as soon as it is received.

##### Recommended Actions

The attached information is external and may be handed out in response to requests for information about human rights violations in Chile.

CHAN coordinators should ask their groups to organize a few telegrams calling for the immediate release of Felipe Pozo and Gilberto Palacios, and the revoking of the sentence of nighttime imprisonment against Juan Pablo Cardenas. Appeals should also urge that the government take measures to ensure that journalists are able to carry out their professional activities without harassment or fear of imprisonment.

Appeals should be sent to:

Sr Ricardo Garcia  
Ministro del Interior  
Palacio de La Moneda  
Santiago  
Chile

General Julio Jara Ducaud  
Intendente Region Metropolitana  
Moneda esq. Morandé  
Santiago, Chile

Copies of Appeals

As there are several addresses for copies of appeals, CHAN coordinators may divide the addresses up between groups.

For Felipe Pozo and Gilberto Palacios only: please try to send some of the copies by telegram marked clearly "For information":

Sr Fiscal  
1 Fiscalia Militar  
Zenteno 102  
Santiago, Chile  
Chile

Sr Luis Correa Bulo  
Presidente de la Corte Marcial  
Palacio de los Tribunales  
Santiago, Chile

Copies of appeals on all the journalists behalf should be sent to:

Sres Ministros de la Corte Suprema  
Palacio de los Tribunales  
Santiago,  
Chile

Revista Analisis  
Manuel Montt 425  
Santiago, Chile

Fortin Mapocho  
Agustinas 1849  
Santiago, Chile

Revista Hoy  
Monseñor Miller 74  
Santiago, Chile

Colegio de Periodistas  
Amunategui 31  
Santiago, Chile

Target Sector/Publicity

You may try to publicise these cases. Journalists should be approached to participate in appeals.

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## CHILE

### Imprisonment and Harassment of Journalists

In early May this year, the Colegio de Periodistas (Chilean Journalists Association) issued a statement condemning the increasing level of repression against the independent press in spite of the apparent absence of direct press censorship, and announced that it will be calling on the Interior Ministry to take all necessary measures to put a stop to acts of intimidation against journalists. The statement was prompted by a series of death threats and court summonses against independent journalists.

Among the latest victims are Felipe Pozo, director of the popular opposition newspaper Fortin Mapocho which in April became a daily newspaper, and one of the paper's editors Gilberto Palacios. Both were sent to prison by a military prosecutor (fiscal militar), Sr Pozo on 1 June and Sr Palacios on 29 May, charged with offending the Armed Forces. The charges relate to an article which appeared in Fortin Mapocho more than a year ago in April 1986 about the conditions of military service in Chile. Felipe Pozo described his detention as "a hasty and arbitrary measure" [una medida arbitraria y apresurada], and the newspaper subsequently offered the military authorities space in their newspaper to rectify any errors they considered the journalists to have made in their report. The offer was not taken up. Both men are being held in the Anexo Capuchinos prison in Santiago.

Also affected by judicial measures is Juan Pablo Cardenas, editor of Analisis magazine, who in May was presented with the Golden Pen of Freedom award at the 40th World Congress of Newspaper Publishers. At the time the award was announced last January, the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers said "Cardenas has paid and is continuing to pay dearly for his devotion to democracy and freedom of expression." While he was abroad receiving the prize last month, the Supreme Court revoked a lower court decision to acquit him of charges of insulting the President and confirmed a 541 day sentence of "reclusión nocturna" (night time imprisonment) for the contents of an editorial in his magazine considered offensive to the President. Sr. Cardenas is now believed to be on his way back to Chile after a tour of Europe.

Abraham Santibañez, and Alejandro Guillier, director and editor of Hoy magazine respectively have also recently appeared in court for alleged offences to the Armed Forces but so far have not been charged.

Other journalists have been the victims of death threats and other forms of intimidation such as surveillance by clandestine groups linked to the security forces. Journalist Monica Gonzalez, who recently published a



book investigating the role of the Chilean security forces in the murder of a Chilean General in Argentina in 1974, was threatened with death by an anonymous phonecaller a few weeks ago. In May, Francisco Herreros, director of Cauce magazine, submitted a request for amparo (similar to habeas corpus) to the courts alleging that he had been under surveillance by civilians in a car parked outside his house for fifteen days. Photographs of the occupants of the car taken by journalists were handed over to the courts.

The Chilean Journalists' Association, in a statement condemning the harassment of Sr Herreros, and of another Cauce journalist Pablo de Buen, whose home was raided, said: "How long de we have to put up with these wretched gangs protected by anonymity and in many cases by the authorities, and who persist in persecuting, watching, threatening and even assassinating journalists who, before the whole nation and in their own names, tell the truth about so much that has been happening in this country." [Hasta cuando soportaremos que bandas miserables amparadas en el anonimato y, muchas veces protegidas por el poder, insistan en perseguir, vigilar, amenazar y hasta asesinar a periodistas que, con su nombre y de frente al país, dicen la verdad y denuncian tanto que ha pasado en nuestra patria?"].

Journalists were among the main targets of the activities of clandestine groups in particular during the weeks following the imposition of a state of siege (since lifted) in September 1986. Only days after it had been declared Analisis journalist Pepe Carrasco was abducted and brutally murdered. Judicial investigations are continuing into his death but so far noone has been found responsible for the crime. In April 1987 he was posthumously awarded the Fritz Saenger prize for courageous journalism by the West German Social Democrat Party.

Amnesty International is concerned at the continued persecution of journalists while exercising their right to freedom of expression and is calling for the immediate release of Felipe Pozo and Gilberto Palacios, and the revoking of the sentence against Juan Pablo Cardenas. It believes further that steps should be taken to ensure that journalists are able to carry out their professional duties without fear of imprisonment or harassment.



Juan Pablo Cardenas



Felipe Pozo



Gilberto Palacios,  
arrested on a previous  
occasion



Pepe Carrasco

