

ORIGINAL

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

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Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
London WC2E 7HF
England

TO: National Sections
Chile coordination groups
Chile adoption groups
Medical groups

FROM: Americas Research Department

DATE: 27 July 1981

CHILE

GROUP LEVEL SPECIAL ACTION - SEPTEMBER 1981

CIRCULAR NO. 2 - TORTURE IN CHILE 1973-1981

SUMMARY

Attached is the first background paper to be sent out in connection with the Group Level Special Action to take place in September 1981, as described in AMR 22/44/81 (Chile Group Level Special Action Circular No.1).

DISTRIBUTION

This circular is being sent to national sections, Chile coordination groups, Chile adoption groups, and all medical groups.

AI CONCERN

AI is concerned at the continued and systematic use of torture by the Chilean security forces when dealing with political prisoners, thus indicating that its use is condoned by the Chilean Government.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Give as much publicity as possible to the testimonies of torture in Chile that are available, including ones sent to you in earlier circulars since 1973, particularly AMR 22/32/80. Given that since 1973 the Chilean security forces have consistently used torture when dealing with political prisoners, it does not matter if some of the testimonies are not very recent; on the contrary, using older ones as well as recent ones highlights the fact that torture continues to be systematically used and officially condoned when dealing with political dissidents.
2. It would be a good idea if you could find an ex-prisoner who was tortured while in detention in Chile and who would be willing to

publicly describe his/her experience. This would give extra weight to the written testimonies.

3. Write polite, carefully worded letters to the government authorities (see List of Government Authorities - AMR 22/05/81 and AMR 22/26/81), expressing concern at the continued allegations of torture and requesting information about any measures that have been taken to stop the practice.
4. Write to the Chilean Medical Association (for address, see AMR 22/05/81) expressing concern about allegations that medical doctors have been involved in the practice of torture. Try to get prominent doctors and/or medical associations in your country to do the same.
5. If a visit to the Chilean Embassy is arranged, the question of the continued use of torture should feature prominently in the discussion.
6. Letters to the authorities may be written both in the name of AI and in a personal capacity.
7. National sections and coordination groups are requested to translate this circular and with the help of adoption groups try to ensure as wide a distribution of the information as possible. The original Spanish version of the testimonies, as well as the English, is attached to facilitate the translation into your own language.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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July 1981

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
London WC2E 7HF
England

TORTURE IN CHILE 1973-1981

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since 11th September 1973, when the constitutional government of President Salvador Allende was overthrown by a military coup, AI has received testimonies and documentation about the systematic and widespread use of torture by the Chilean security forces.

An Amnesty International delegation visited Chile in November 1973. The AI delegates were able to support individual allegations of torture by examining the torture marks on prisoners still detained in the National Stadium of Santiago.

Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez issued a public statement in April 1974 condemning the "physical and moral pressure used during interrogation". His statement was reportedly based on a memorandum submitted to him by leading members of the Chilean Church, which gave detailed evidence of individual cases of torture. The document listed 17 different places where torture is known to have taken place and 27 different methods of torture and described over 100 cases of torture, including 16 cases where the prisoner died as a result of torture received.

In a testimony reported in Chile and included in the 1974 Amnesty International Report on Chile, the victim says, "they tied me on top of the table, powerful lights above me. They put cables on my nude body, dampened my skin, and began to apply the current to all parts of my body. . . then they put acid between my toes, they pricked pins in me. . . they threatened to kill us unless we signed what the interrogators wanted. . . we were no longer men, but shadows. . .".

From the numerous testimonies received by Amnesty International from 1973 until now, it appears that torture has consistently been an official policy of the Chilean government. Torture is used as a systematic method of interrogation and/or intimidation of real or alleged members of the opposition.

The security forces, SIFA (Air Force Intelligence), SIM (Military Intelligence), SICAR (Police Intelligence), SIA (Naval Intelligence), all of them coordinated between 1973 and 1977 by the DINA (Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional), were mentioned in the testimonies of the victims.

The locations where torture is known to have taken place during 1973/1974 indicate the extent of official government involvement during that time;

Los Angeles Military Regiment
Engineering Regiment of Tejas Verdes
Infantry Regiment of San Bernardo
School of Telecommunications
Naval Academy of War
Military Regiment of Guías
Tacna Military Regiment
Cerro Chena Military Barracks
Military Regiment of Buin
El Bosque Air Base

After 1974 and until at least 1978, Villa Grimaldi, the official headquarters of DINA, was frequently used as a torture centre and many of the estimated 1500 disappeared prisoners were seen there.

From 1978 until now torture has been carried out in secret detention centres, some of which have been nevertheless located as premises used by the CNI (Central Nacional de Informaciones), the security agency that replaced the DINA in August 1977.

TORTURE METHODS

Torture methods during the first years of the military government were characterised by their extreme savage brutality; many people were tortured to death. Bodies of prisoners were found, sometimes disfigured beyond recognition. Many instances reported involved burning with acid or cigarettes; one prisoner was found dead on 19th December 1973 with his testicles burned off: he had been subjected to intensive beating and electric shocks.

Many of the "disappeared" prisoners who were seen in detention centres and particularly in Villa Grimaldi were reportedly tortured to death.

After 1977 and following national and international outcry, "disappearances" ended and torture evolved generally to methods that leave almost no physical sequels: electric shocks, suffocation (dry or wet submarine), drugs and psychological torture.

In a presentation to the Supreme Court requesting the appointment of a special investigating judge at the end of 1980, a group of independent lawyers confirmed the use, during 1980, of the following torture methods on political prisoners based on 130 testimonies received between January and August 1980.

1) psychological torture: this consists of the use of threats to create an atmosphere of extreme insecurity in the person, with the aim of

convincing the person that the most important aspects of his/her life are effectively at stake, for instance: his/her right to live, physical integrity, honour; or that some members of his/her family are in danger. In order to create a convincingly threatening situation, the torturer uses all the necessary means. To show the victim for instance, that his/her relatives are exposed to similar treatment, the torturers mention details about members of his/her family while s/he is being tortured. Often they even pretend that the relatives are already being detained and held in the same place, so they let him/her hear voices and screams to show that they are being subjected to the same treatment. The usual psychological torture methods are:

- threats to the life and physical security of the prisoner, for instance to force the person to dig his/her own grave followed by simulated execution;
- threats regarding the fate of members of his/her family;
- threats to detain and torture members of his/her family; or s/he is told that this has happened already and will occur again if s/he does not give the required information;
- threats of sexual harrassment of the wife or daughters of the prisoner;
- threats to inject lethal pathogenic germs. This is simulated by actually injecting the person with other substances.

The accounts of these forms of psychological pressures are numerous. They create realistic situations that subject people to indescribable fear.

Apart from these psychological methods other techniques are used which the torturers call 'softening up the prisoner', involving a combination of psychological and physical torture.

These are:

- keeping the prisoner for long periods in absolute silence, making him/her lose the notion of time;
- keeping the prisoner in one position tied to a chair or standing against a wall;
- forcing him/her to listen to, or be present when torture is being applied to other prisoners;
- beating with fists and kicks to different parts of the body without even trying to interrogate;
- keeping the prisoner constantly blindfolded and alone;
- abusive treatment, shouting insults and obscenities, particularly with women.

Meanwhile the prisoner is kept standing for endless periods, or in absolute silence, blindfolded, etc. This causes the person to lose control of his/her body, surroundings, it upsets him/her physically, causes intense stomach pains, headache and cramp, exhaustion and tension. After this treatment the prisoner is subjected to exhaustive interrogations and if the desired results are not forthcoming, s/he is

subjected again to the same treatment or to other more intensive treatment such as various forms of physical torture.

Testimonies indicate that the intensity with which physical torture is used is such that in many cases the torturers clearly foresee the possibility that their victim may die, but accept that risk and continue to torture. In other instances the object of the exercise is to cause the greatest possible pain, but trying to avoid the risk of death.

The physical pressures consist of:

- hitting and jumping on the prisoner on the floor for hours on end;
- the use of what the torturers call "the telephone", which consists of blows with the open palms of the hand on the ears. This causes acute headache and loss of balance;
- the application of electric current to the most sensitive parts of the body, which the torturers call 'grilling' (parrillar). It consists of strapping the person to a bed of metal springs with their hands and feet tied to it. The electric current is applied to the temples, toes, wrists and genitals. The current runs through the whole body, causing the strongest shock in a particular point. As the intensity of the voltage is increased, more noise is made, usually with a radio. This can be explained because there is apparently a relationship between the reflex to pain, the noise of the radio and the voltage used;
- the use of simulated noises which temporarily disorientate the prisoner;
- application of the Brazilian torture method called 'pau de arara' which consists of dangling the person, with his/her feet and hands tied together behind his/her knees. A stick is passed through and s/he is suspended in that position for long periods of time while electricity is applied to the anus and other sensitive parts of the body;
- squirting water at high pressure into sensitive parts of the body, the mouth and nose until the person suffocates;
- hanging the person from a pole, tied by the wrists, naked and beating him/her with wet clothes so as to leave no bruises;
- burning the most sensitive parts of the body with cigarettes;
- raping women and other forms of sexual abuse;
- the use of what the torturers call 'the drip', which consists of keeping the prisoner tied to a chair with very little chance to move, while a drop of water falls constantly and regularly onto the same part of his/her head. This produces a piercing headache, resonance in the ears and general despair.

LEGAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST TORTURE

There are three kinds of legal provisions aimed at protecting the detainee. First of all, specific articles of the Penal Code and the Code of Military Justice provide for the punishment of those who ill-treat detainees. The relevant articles are Article 150 of the Penal Code and Article 330 of the Code of Military Justice.

Secondly, there are decrees such as Decree No 1009 and Supreme Decree No 187 which make the medical examination of detainees obligatory both before and after the period during which they are held by the Security Forces.

Thirdly, the illtreatment of prisoners is forbidden by Constitutional Act No 3 of 1976 as well as by both the 1925 and the 1981 constitution.

In addition, Chile ratified the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on 10 February 1972. Article 7 of the International Covenant states "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment."

Article 150 of the Penal Code

Art 150 of the Penal Code, in force since 1874, punishes with imprisonment:

"1. those who decree or prolong unduly the period that a prisoner is held, subject him to torture or use unnecessary force with him. If, as a result of the use of torture or unnecessary force, the patient is injured or dies, the penalties established for these crimes will be applied in the first degree.

2. those who arbitrarily arrest or detain people in places other than those designated under the law."

Article 330 of the Code of Military Justice

If military personnel are involved in the illtreatment of the detainee, then article 330 of the code of Military Justice applies:

"Any soldier who, by carrying out an order from above or in the exercise of his military duties, uses or orders to be used, without reasonable cause, unnecessary violence in the execution of the actions that he has to carry out will be punished with terms of imprisonment according to the gravity of the injuries caused. If the violence used against detainees was carried out with the aim of obtaining information, reports, documents or goods related to the investigation of a criminal act, the penalties will be increased by one grade."

These provisions remained dead letter during 1973 and 1974 partly because under the state of siege in force in Chile between 1973 to 1978 the Military Junta had discretionary powers to arrest, banish or to expel people from the country. The Supreme Court declared its incompetence when asked to take decisions on the thousands of writs of Habeas Corpus submitted to it during that period.

Decree 1009

Decree 1009 of May 1975 established that the family of a detainee should be notified of the arrest within 48 hours. In any case the detention should not last more than 5 days. Within that period the detainee should be released or brought before a court or the Minister of Interior. 'La aplicación de apremios ilegítimos a los detenidos' will be punished according to Art.150 of the Penal Code or Art.330 of the Code of Military Justice.

Nevertheless, apart from the repressive measures contained in it, this Decree continued to be ignored by the Security Forces.

Supreme Decree 187

Supreme Decree 187 of January 1976 contains more specific provisions for the protection of detainees. The decree provides in Art.1 that those arrested by the security forces must be medically examined before being taken to an interrogation or detention centre and again before being transferred to another place or released. The doctors are to be designated by the medical legal services and the National Health Service and they are to send reports to the Minister of Justice.

Supreme Decree 187 also provides in Art.3 that a copy of the arrest warrant, signed by the head of the arresting organization and naming the place of detention, is to be given within 48 hours to a member of the family designated by the detainee. The arrest warrant must indicate

- name of the detainee
- name of the arresting officer
- place to which the detainee will be taken
- date, hour and place of the detention
- name, post and signature of the authority ordering the arrest
- official stamp

Constitutional Act No.3

Constitutional Act No 3 of September 1976 reaffirms the right to life and to physical integrity, it forbids the use of apremio ilegítimo ie torture.

Article 19 of the 1981 Constitution

Article 19 of the new Constitution which came into force on 11 March 1981 expressly forbids the use of torture.

Article 317 of the Code of Penal Procedure

Art.317 of the Code of Penal Procedure establishes that when a court is notified of the retention of somebody in an illegal place, a judge should immediately go to the place of detention and order the release of the detainee and/or investigate the basis for the detention.

No judge is known to have visited any of the many secret detention centres that have functioned in Chile since 1973.

Decree Law 3451

From July 1980 the practice of torture was facilitated by decree law 3451 which was subsequently incorporated into the 1981 Constitution. The decree extended from 5 to 20 days the length of time suspects could be held incommunicado without charge by the security forces. It is during this period that torture takes place.

Involvement of medical doctors in torture

Since 1973, Amnesty International has received many testimonies in which members of the medical profession have been implicated in the torture of political prisoners. The most serious claim is that doctors have been present at torture sessions in order to give advice about the physical condition of the person under interrogation. Furthermore, it is alleged that political prisoners are given drugs in order to facilitate their interrogation and that in the case of persons who have died under torture, no reference is made to torture in the death certificates provided to the families. One of the testimonies reproduced below refers to the involvement of members of the medical profession in torture.

TESTIMONIES

Detailed testimonies and complaints have been filed in the Chilean courts over the years. In August 1980 complaints against the CNI for ill-treatment were filed by: Ricardo Guillermo GARCIA Contreras, Bernardo Antonio REYNALDOS Quinteros, Hernán ABURTO Uriz, Roberto Fernando AHUMADA González, Norma Angélica ORELLANA Riffo, Justo Eduardo ARAYA Moreno, Ramón Antonio CASANELLAS Leiva, and Mario ARANEDA Espinoza. In September 1980: Nolvía Ternuter DOMINGUEZ Díaz, Berta Eliana JOBET Monet, Isabel PIZARRO Cifuentes, Virginia VILLALON Fuentes. In October 1980: Claire Francis WILSON Bronfman, Liliana del Carmen CONTRERAS Rebolledo, Mario Eduardo MUÑOZ Espinoza, José Miguel BENADO Medvinsky.

None of these or previous complaints have been seriously investigated by the authorities.

The Chilean Government has persistently denied the use of torture against political prisoners. In a letter dated 23 November 1979, the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations wrote, "the only accusation of torture of which the courts of justice have been seized is one submitted by the government itself" (the case of teacher Federico Alvarez Santibañez, who died under torture in August 1979). This assertion is incorrect in several respects. Firstly, dozens of recursos de amparo (writs of habeas corpus) in the hands of the courts provide prima facie evidence of the extent of torture.

Furthermore, Heraldo Avendaño (detained on 13 June 1979), Enrique Belmar (30 April 1979), Marco Antonio Muñoz (1 May 1979), Marco Antonio Guzmán Yáñez (1 May 1979), Carlos Cortéz Mazzalín (23 April 1979), Ana Luisa Peñalillo Parra (4 August 1979), María Briones Mardones and Luis Pierrola had initiated legal proceedings for "apremios ilegítimos" (torture).

In January 1981 the Supreme Court refused to appoint a special judge to investigate torture allegedly committed by members of the CNI. The petition had been submitted by a group of independent lawyers in 1980.

It therefore seems that the systematic practice of torture is not so much due to a lack of legal provisions as to a definite official policy pursued by the highest authorities in Chile and implemented by the security forces, especially the CNI.

From the detailed reports received during 1980, a consistent pattern emerges: agents of the CNI or other security forces belonging to the army or navy seize people, in their homes or on the street, and take them blindfolded on the floors of vans or cars to torture centres in military barracks or secret locations. There, interrogation is accompanied by torture for days at a time: the parrilla, a metal grid to which the victim is tied while electric shocks are administered, is a common practice. Severe beatings, threats and humiliation are also reported. The victims include trade unionists, members of church organizations, political opponents and the poor.

The following testimonies were received recently by Amnesty International. The names of the victims are withheld for reasons of security.

TESTIMONY No 1

Declaration to the 3rd Criminal Court in Santiago: person detained by the CNI in November 1980, held in secret prisons belonging to the CNI (to protect the person, details of identity are omitted).

"On the question which the Court put, regarding the psychological pressures I suffered in the CNI they were as follows:

It started from the moment they came to the house, because they burst in violently, broke the locks on the back door - they didn't do anything to the front door which we had opened. They jumped over the wall, then sat down in the living room and said that I was a terrorist who had planted bombs during the black-out that took place recently, and that I had burned cars in Avda Pajaritos. Then they took me outside and blindfolded me - that was when I got into the car, a Peugeot 404 taxi, containing 4 people. They put me in the middle seat in the back, and stuck my eyes with sellotape and put glasses on me. They took me to an unknown place; that was about 23.30 on Thursday 13 November. The main threat they made was that they were going to kill me, as the person who would die was A and not B because I held a false identity card. They identified me by that card and as certainly the real person would not turn up, nobody would think about me. They also said I would be attacked by dogs or somebody - they said the name, but I can't remember it now: - and they said that everybody would know that sodomy acts had taken place. Later, with the first electric shocks on Friday, they said that they would give me urine because my lips were dry and I was thirsty. They said then that I had only experienced 2 of the 28 methods they used to make people confess and also said that they would put my head in a bucket full of petroleum. They said I was useless to them and that they would shoot me or I would die in a confrontation with them - then I asked why they didn't better kill me right away. One of them asked me if I knew Russian Roulette and I said no, and they said that as I wanted to die anyhow, they would play that game. They loaded a fire arm - I don't know what kind as I was blindfolded. They told me the firearm had only one bullet and that they had turned the chamber round and then they put the nozzle to my left temple and pulled the trigger, but it didn't go off. Then they put it to my mouth, pulled the trigger again, but no bullet. Then they put the gun to my heart and again there wasn't a shot, then in my back and pulled the trigger but no bullet. By then he said that I was very lucky, as the bullet hadn't come out. They also said that I would be accused of a crime against a policeman and that I was also to be blamed for an assault on a supermarket and fire attacks on shops and that I was a terrorist who had to be liquidated. After every session on the electric grill (parrilla) and when I slept, they woke me up to ask if I wanted more of it. Then they said that if I didn't talk, they would do the same to my wife and my children and friends and also said that they would throw me under a car.

Regarding physical torture, on Friday 14 November they put me on the grill. I was blindfolded but I could feel that it was a sort of bedstead. I was naked and they put me down on that bedframe and

stretched my arms to the side of the bed and also opened my legs and tied them to the other end. Somebody had a cloth and put it on my mouth, then they started questioning and said that I should lift up a finger when I wanted to talk. But they seemed unhappy with the answers I gave and gave me electric shocks first on my toes and then via the legs upwards. They sent shocks through my testicles, arms and jaws. The pain was really unbearable, and they took quite a long time because one tries to say things between shocks. Moreover, they started with small shocks and increased the intensity. You feel your skin burn and it makes you feel as though you are going to blow up, your heart beats quicker and the pulse quickens. That torture session took hours, I don't know how many. After that they took me off the grill and laid me down but minutes later they came and got me up again. They said I had lied and that I had hidden things about my work, and in view of that they were going to hang me. They took me again to the same room, I think, undressed me again and put a stick behind my knees, doubled me up and tied my hands and feet to the stick. I was completely doubled up and they lifted the stick up in the air. Then they applied electric shocks to the anus, testicles, penis and scrotum area and under the prostate, as by then I was wetting myself. This lasted a while and then they let me sleep. I think from what they said the first session lasted until 4 in the morning and the second one until 6 am. Then they continued their interrogation with a lot of threats and beatings. After that I felt ill with heart trouble. On Friday afternoon they took me again to the grill but the shocks were less and they only applied the current to my right leg - that lasted only a short time. On Saturday morning I was interrogated. On Sunday I was left to recuperate from the previous days. On Monday afternoon they took me to another room and several of them beat and kicked my whole body and hit me with a heavy object, I don't know what it was, but it felt like rubber. They hit me in the face, chest, head, stomach, testicles and kicked me again in the shins, and then, as they still weren't satisfied they took me again to the grill. They stripped me naked and applied the current to my ears, face, chest and hands. Then they let me lay down, then made me get up again and interrogated me but only gave the odd kick. Tuesday was nothing more than threats and short electric shocks. On Wednesday morning I realised what time it was because they gave me meals. On Wednesday about half an hour after I had gone to bed, they came and forced me to get up in a very rough manner and said that now they would really finish me off and that this was the last opportunity and they insisted that I should clear up some doubts they had, in spite of the fact that I had given in writing all my political and union activities. They didn't agree and said I should strip naked and that they would hang me. Finally I think they put me on a bunk bed, as it was higher up and they tied me with arms and legs spreadeagled like the first day and gave me electric shocks, but not as roughly as I was very weak. I stayed like that for some two hours. I declare that afterwards they continued to interrogate me using psychological threats and they kicked me a few times. The longest session was the one on Friday and the one on the Wednesday following my detention. That last one was quite something, as I thought I was going to die I was seen four times by the CNI doctor, in fact I think there were four different doctors because

the voice was different each time; when one doctor examined me he found that my condition was quite serious and they injected me with a tranquillizer, but they didn't say what was the matter with me, then he spoke to my interrogators and whispered to them that if they went on like that, I would die. Another doctor prescribed tranquillizers and gave me dipirona . . ."

TESTIMONY No 2

(Arrested September 1980 - released after 9 days due to lack of evidence)

Torture received

". . . . There they first noted down my personal details and took my fingerprints and then I was taken to a place where they made me strip naked. They tied me by the hands and feet and suspended me upside down. Then they put electrodes on my penis and anus and drenched me with a hose. They gave me electric shocks for about 20 minutes, and then they put me down and beat me in the stomach. I was then suspended again and given the same treatment as before. After that I was taken to the place where the others were. There you could hear the screams of those they were still torturing. . . ."

TESTIMONY No 3

(Arrested September 1980 - released after 9 days due to lack of evidence)

". . . . All day long, on the 18th, we were waiting in turn to be tortured - my turn came at about 4 in the afternoon. First they stripped me naked and they hosed me down and then they tied my feet together and they hung me up by the hands, one on each side. They put electrodes on me, one on my anus and another on my penis and started to give me electric shocks. My head was about a metre from the ground, and that lasted about 20 minutes. Then they took me down and kicked me and beat me with their fists while I was on the floor. They then threw water on me again and dressed me and took us to the town centre to a house near a railway line. . . ."

TESTIMONY No 4

(Arrested September 1980 - still in detention as at April 1981)

". . . they threw me on the floor, tied my feet together (by the ankles), but first wrapped pieces of cardboard or plastic around them so that there would be no marks. They hung me upside down. For this they used a sort of pulley, I think, because I could hear the sound of chains. Then they put cardboard or pieces of plastic around my wrists and tied me up with thin ropes pulling me from both sides. The position you end up in is with arms and legs stretched open very wide, which doesn't allow any movement of the body, and upside down. Subsequently, they put a piece of wire on my penis and another in my anus and ran electric current of varying intensity through them for short or longer periods.

To stop me screaming they put a cushion to my mouth. This the agents called the grill ("parrilla") or electric prod ("picana") or hanging ("colgar"), it is the same thing, that is "hanging" on the grill, and that happened several times, sometimes more intense and for a longer period than others. At the same time they punched me. On one occasion the agents took great care not to drag me across the floor, because it consisted of gravel. That made me think that they had two grills because the first had earth, soft sand, On one occasion when I was hung up, they aimed water in my nose, mouth and anus with a hose. Another time they had me suspended while a security agent pulled out the hair on my legs and testicles. . ."

TESTIMONY No 5

(Arrested September 1980 - still in detention as at April 1981)

". . . Soon after, they dragged me violently from the room and took me to the courtyard. There they made me undress completely, put a rope around each foot - in a rather clever way so it wouldn't leave marks - and let my body hang in the air, upside down. They started immediately to spurt water in my face for a long time so I began to choke and suffocate. Immediately they began to apply what they call in torture terms 'the electric prod', which basically means applying electric current to the most sensitive parts of the body and preventing you from screaming by putting a towel over your mouth. And finally there is the constant psychological pressure from the interrogators. All this happens at the same time trying to satisfy their evil, disgusting intentions. They did all that five more times throughout the morning and part of the afternoon of the 18th September.

Then, when it started to get dark they forced me again to undress completely and this time tied my hands and feet together to a stick, which is passed under the knees, in a way that when they suspended me in the air my body hung in a position which the torturers call "palomita" (the dove). They applied very strong electric current to my forehead and ears. When you can't move at all this upsets the nervous system in an awful way, it upsets the muscles of the body, and some internal organs like the kidneys. Luckily when my physical strength reached its limits of resistance, one of the ropes which kept me in place broke and because it caused wounds in both my hands and feet, the torturers themselves stopped keeping me in that same position and just went on applying the electric prod instead. . .

On my second day in that place I was again submitted to physical abuse with kicks and beatings during the morning. In the afternoon I experienced what you could call a simulated hanging. They actually put the rope around my neck, made me climb on a box and forced me twice to jump, but while they pushed me on both occasions, they cut the rope, so that I fell straight to the ground quite painfully.

Later that night when we were just going to sleep, they started putting the pressure again and harassed us by introducing a novelty in the treatment of us prisoners. They tried to ridicule us as persons to the point of pretending that we in fact justified the torture and the

harmful treatment they had used against our physical and moral integrity during the first few days...."

TESTIMONY NO.6

(Arrested September 1980 - still in detention as of April 1981)

"... In this room they played very loud music and outside you could hear heartrending screams. Later on they took my handcuffs off and made me go down a small staircase to a room where X was held. They interrogated me about statements he had made while they beat me and slapped me. Then they took me out to a courtyard where they made me take all my clothes off and suspended me naked upside down. They hosed me down and pushed a metal object into my anus and tied my penis with wire. They accompanied their questions with electric shocks up to a point where they increased the voltage and the length of the shocks while covering my mouth with a wet cloth and supporting my head with a pillow. When I wanted to speak I had to lift my hand. They then stopped the shocks and I could speak and they beat and kicked me when my answers did not satisfy them or they beat my penis with a rod which made it more sensitive to the electric shocks. That lasted more than an hour. Every time they gave me shocks, they threw water over me. Then they took me down without letting me drag along the floor, as the floor was really rough and I could have hurt myself, because I was exhausted and my whole body was shaking and my legs could hardly carry me..."

TESTIMONY NO.7

(Arrested September 1980 - still in detention as of April 1981)

"...I was kicked and beaten with slippers and with my clothes soaked, obviously in order not to leave marks. Subsequently I was stripped naked and put on a sort of iron bed where they tied me up with ropes around my arms and legs and then they attached electric wires to my arms, legs, nipples, stomach and arms. I felt indescribable pain which caused me to suffer uncontrollable spasms. These tortures lasted for eight days..."

TESTIMONY NO.8

(Arrested September 1980 - released without charge after 5 days)

"...during the days when I was held prisoner, they interrogated me many times: they beat me a lot, in my face, on my ears - once they hit me so hard on one ear that I fainted. They made me walk around with a bandage over my eyes, so that I crashed against the furniture and the walls.

I was harassed and tortured systematically: I was taken twice to the 'chapuzón', which meant that I had to undress and was put under the shower (once with my clothes still on). The first time a security agent called Rosa shouted that I should open the door of the shower, which I did, and some 20 men came in. They began to say obscenities to me, to touch me in a rude way, they touched and slapped my breasts, they mocked me and threatened to rape me. When they took me out of there and one began to interrogate me, he tried to strangle me against the wall, because I couldn't remember the name of the girlfriend of X. They put me in a bath and kept my head under water until I almost drowned..."

TESTIMONY NO.9

(Detained for 2 days in September 1980)

This person was arrested on 9th September in his home by a group of four civilians who searched everything. They took him to his mother's house, which was surrounded by a group of some 15 security agents. From there, they took him, hooded, to a secret prison where they tortured him. The victim himself says in the application for protection (recurso de amparo) presented to the Appeals Court in Santiago:

"....They forced me to lean against a wall supporting myself with only my wrists. They began to interrogate me and beat me with wet sandbags over my whole body, especially the chest. Then they took me to a corner and attached some metal things to me and gave me two electric shocks. They put wires to my feet and questioned me about X. When they weren't satisfied with the answers, they gave me four electric shocks, which increased every time in voltage.

I was forced under torture to state that X was a member of the Resistance...

They took me to another room where a man took my statements down on a typewriter, taking down what I had been forced to say during the interrogation with electricity. Then they took me to a room and made me undress completely. They put me on the floor, put blankets under my arms and legs (to support me) and put wires to my genitals, head, temples, fingers and toes. They gave me some 15 shocks and in between beat and kicked me. They threatened to kill me and said that it would appear that I had died in a 'confrontation with the security forces' as an extremist. After lunch, they forced me to make a declaration which included things I hadn't said, like for instance, that 'I had organized extremist groups to bring down the dictatorship and organize a marxist-type socialist government', that a neighbour of mine called X had given me pamphlets of the Christian Democrats and that I had collaborated with that political movement. All that time, they went on beating me. They gave me a medical test, they threatened to take me to the Southern Panamerican Highway and kill me there..."

ORIGINAL SPANISH VERSION OF TESTIMONIES

1. Denuncia presentada ante el Tercer Juzgado del Crimen de Santiago: persona detenida por C.N.I. en Noviembre de 1980 y recluida en las cárceles secretas de ese organismo (por razones de resguardo del declarante, se omiten los datos de identificación).

Sobre la pregunta que formula el Tribunal sobre los apremios psicológicos de que fui víctima en el C.N.I. fueron los siguientes: estos principiaron desde el mismo momento en que llegaron a la casa, ya que cuando entraron lo hicieron en forma violenta, ya que descerrajaron las cerraduras de la puerta trasera, la de adelante no le hicieron nada, ya que la abrimos nosotros, además, que saltaron por la muralla, luego se sentaron en el living y empezaron a decirme que yo era un terrorista que había puesto las bombas en el apagón que hubo ahora último y que había quemado los autos en Avenida Pajaritos, luego me sacaron para afuera y me vendaron la vista, esto fue cuando entré al auto, que era un taxi marca Peugeot 404 en donde habían cuatro personas, a mí me sentaron en la parte trasera al medio, luego me taparon la vista con scotch y me pusieron unos anteojos y me llevaron a un lugar no identificado, esto fue alrededor de las 23.30 horas del jueves 13 de noviembre. Ahora la principal amenaza que me hacían era que me iban a matar, ya que el que moriría era . . . y no . . . ya que como tenía el carnet falso, me identificarían por ese carnet y como seguramente después aparecería el verdadero . . . nadie iba a pensar en mí. También me dijeron que iba a ser violado por perros o por una persona, me dijeron el nombre, pero no lo recuerdo en estos momentos y me dijeron que todo el mundo iba a saber que había tenido actos sodomitas; luego de la primera aplicación de corriente que fue el día viernes, me dijeron que me iban a dar pichí ya que tenía los labios secos y sed. Luego me dijeron que yo sólo había probado dos de los 28 métodos que tenían para hacer confesar a la gente, también me dijeron que me iban a meter la cabeza a un recipiente con petróleo. También me dijeron que yo no les servía para nada y que me iban a fusilar, o que iba a morir en un enfrentamiento con ellos, ahí les dije que por qué no me mataban mejor, y allí uno de ellos me preguntó que si conocía la ruleta rusa, yo le dije que no, y ya que quería morir iba a hacerme el juego, cargó un arma que no supe que era ya que estaba vendado, enseguida me dijo que el arma tenía una sola bala y que había hecho girar la nuez, acto seguido me puso el cañon en la sien derecha y gatilló y no salió el disparo, después me puso el cañon en la boca, gatilló y tampoco salió la bala, después me puso el arma en el corazón y tampoco salió el disparo, luego en la espalda y gatilló pero no salió la bala, y ahí me dijo que tenía mucha suerte, ya que no había salido la bala. También me dijeron que iba a ser acusado de un crimen en contra de un Carabinero y que iba a ser culpado además de un asalto a un supermercado e incendios a tiendas y que era un terrorista que tenía que ser liquidado. También después de cada sesión en la parrilla, y cuando estaba dormitando, me despertaban y me preguntaban si quería más. Luego me decían de que si no hablaba le iban a hacer lo mismo a mi actual señora y a mis niños y amigos míos, también me dijeron que me iban a tirar de un vehículo andando.

Ahora con respecto a las torturas físicas, el viernes 14 de noviembre, me

pusieron en la parrilla, yo estaba con la vista vendada, pero me di cuenta que esta era una especie de catre de campaña; yo estaba desnudo, me acostaron en esta especie de catre y me amarraron con las manos abiertas a unos extremos del catre y también me hicieron abrir las piernas y me las amarraron en el otro extremo, una persona estaba con un paño y me tapó la boca, luego me hicieron preguntas y me dijeron que parara un dedo cuando quería hablar, pero se mostraron insatisfechos con las respuestas que les daba y me aplicaron corriente primeramente en la punta de los dedos del pie y siguieron por las piernas hacia arriba, luego me aplicaron corriente en los testículos, ano y región inginal, el dolor que sentía era realmente insoportable, el tiempo de aplicación era bastante, ya que uno entre aplicación y aplicación contestaba palabras, además que principiaban despacio y luego aumentaban la intensidad, se siente una quemazón de la piel y da la impresión de que va a reventar, el corazón palpita aceleradamente, y se altera el pulso. Esta sesión de torturas duró horas, pero no sé cuanto. Después de eso, me sacaron y me llevaron a acostar, a los minutos después nuevamente me fueron a sacar de la cama, me dijeron que era un mentiroso y que les había ocultado todas las cosas en relación a mi trabajo, y en vista de eso me iban a colgar, me llevaron nuevamente a la misma sala, eso creo, me desnudaron nuevamente, me pusieron un madero por detrás de las rodillas y me doblaron y me ataron los pies y las manos al palo, quedando totalmente doblado y fueron levantando el palo, hasta quedar en el aire, luego de eso me empezaron a aplicar corriente eléctrica en el ano, testículos, pene y en la región del escroto y el ano, debajo de la próstata, ya que después me orinaba solo. Esto fue por un rato y luego me llevaron a dormir, creo que según por lo que dijeron ellos, la primera duró hasta como las 4 de la madrugada y la otra hasta como las 6 de la mañana. Luego siguieron los interrogatorios con muchas amenazas y golpes, después de eso quedé mal de salud, ya que quedé con ahogos al corazón. En la tarde del viernes, nuevamente me llevaron a la parrilla pero la aplicación fue menor y sólo me aplicaron la corriente en la pierna derecha; esto fue breve. El sábado en la mañana, fue interrogatorio; el día domingo fue para reponerme de los días anteriores. El día lunes en la tarde me llevaron a otra pieza, y entre varios me golpearon en todo el cuerpo, con pies y manos y un objeto contundente, pero no me di cuenta que era, pero parecía como goma, me pegaron en la cara, pecho, cabeza, estómago, testículos, alguna patadas en las canillas, luego como no quedaron conformes, me llevaron nuevamente a la parrilla. Me desnudaron y después me aplicaron corriente en las orejas, en el rostro, en el pecho, en las manos. Luego me llevaban a acostar y me levantaban e interrogaban y sólo me daban uno que otro golpe. El martes fue más que nada amenaza, y me aplicaron pinchazos de corriente en forma breve. En la madrugada del miércoles me daba cuenta de la hora, por las comidas que me daban. El miércoles como a la media hora que me había acostado, me fueron a buscar violentamente y me dijeron que ahora sí me iba a ir cortado y que me daban la última oportunidad e insistían que les aclarara algunas dudas que tenían, pese a que incluso yo redacté por escrito todas mis actividades de carácter político sindical, al no estar conformes me dijeron que me desnudara y que me iban a colgar, al final supongo que me subieron a un camarote, ya que era más alto y me amarraron de pies y manos como el primer día, con las extremidades abiertas, y me aplicaron corriente, pero en forma más suave, ya que estaba débil; ahí estuve como dos horas. Hago presente que después me siguieron interrogando bajo amenazas y psicológicamente, pero me dieron unos cuantos golpes. La sesión más dura que tuve fue el día viernes y la del miércoles siguiente a mi detención; esta última fue muy bien hecha ya que creí que me iba a morir. . .

. . . en cuatro ocasiones me vió el médico del C.N.I., pero creo que en las cuatro veces que me vieron estos eran diferentes, ya que su voz era distinta. . .

. . . cuando me examinó un doctor, constató cierta gravedad y me pusieron una inyección calmante, pero no me dijo que tenía, luego conversó en voz baja con los que me interrogaban y les dijo que si seguían así me podía ir. Otro médico me recetó pastillas calmantes y me dieron dipirona. . .

TESTIMONIO No 2

(Detenido en Septiembre de 1980 - quedó en libertad a los 9 días por falta de evidencia en su contra)

Apremios sufridos: "En ese lugar me tomaron primeramente datos personales, huellas dactilares, luego fui sacado a un lugar donde me hicieron desnudar y me amarraron pies y manos colgándome cabeza abajo, luego procedieron a ponerme electrodos en el pene y en el ano mojjándome luego con una manguera. Se me aplicaron descargas eléctricas durante unos veinte minutos aproximadamente, luego se me bajó y me golpearon en el estómago, después fui colgado nuevamente aplicándome el mismo trato anterior. Después fui llevado a donde estaban los demás, en ese lugar se escuchaban los gritos de los que seguían siendo torturados."

TESTIMONIO No 3

(Detenido en Septiembre de 1980 - quedó en libertad a los 9 días por falta de evidencia en su contra)

"Estuvimos todo el día 18 esperando por turnos las torturas, a mí me llegó el turno como a las cuatro de la tarde. Primero me sacaron toda la ropa y me mojaron, luego me amarraron de las piernas y me colgaron de ambas manos amarradas hacia los lados y procedieron a colocarme los electrodos uno en el ano y otro en el pene y procedieron a aplicarme golpes de corriente, la cabeza quedaba como a un metro del suelo; todo esto por veinte minutos aproximadamente. Después me bajaron y me pegaron puntapiés y puñetes en el suelo, después me echaron agua nuevamente y me vistieron y nos trajeron al centro de la ciudad a una casa donde pasaba el ferrocarril. . ."

TESTIMONIO No 4

(Detenido en Septiembre de 1980 - aun detenido en Abril de 1981)

". . . se me arrojó al suelo, me ataron los pies (por los tobillos), no sin antes colocar planchas de cartón o plástico en ellos, para no dejar marcas; se me subió quedando colgado de cabeza, para esto se utilizó una especie de voltana, cosas que supongo, por el ruido de cadenas, luego se me puso en las muñecas cartón o plástico y se me amarró con cordeles tirando de ambos lados, la posición final es brazos y piernas abiertos, muy tensos cosa de no permitir movimiento del cuerpo, y cabeza abajo.

A continuación se me puso un extremo de alambre en el pene y otro en el ano, a los cuales se aplicaba corriente con mayor o menor intensidad, en cortos y largos momentos; para tapar los gritos se me colocaba una almohadilla en la boca, esta la afirmaba un agente, con una mano sujetaba la cabeza y la otra la almohadilla en la boca. A esto los agentes lo llamaban la parrilla, picana o colgar, es la misma operación, es decir, "colgarse" en la parrilla, ocurrió en varias ocasiones, unas más intensas y largas que otras.

Esto lo acompañaban con golpes de puño; en una ocasión los agentes tuvieron gran cuidado de que no me arrastrara en el piso ya que este era de piedrecillas; esto me hizo entender que tenían dos parrillas, ya que el primero era suelo blando de arena. En una ocasión estando colgado se me introdujo agua en las narices, boca y ano con la manguera. En otra me dejaron colgado mientras un agente me arrancaba los vellos de las piernas y testículos. . ."

TESTIMONIO No 5

(Detenido en Septiembre de 1980 - aun detenido en Abril 1981)

". . . al poco rato me sacaron con violencia de la pieza conduciéndome al patio. Allí me obligaron a desnudarme; luego me ataron una cuerda a cada pie (de una manera más o menos sutil, de tal forma de no provocar heridas) procediendo a dejar mi cuerpo en el aire y en posición inversa. Inmediatamente y por un largo rato, me mojaron la cara, provocándome principio de ahogo y asfixia. Enseguida comenzaron a desarrollar lo que en tortura ellos denominaban "picana eléctrica", que se basaba fundamentalmente en aplicar corrientes eléctricas a los órganos más sensibles del cuerpo, impedir con una toalla en la boca que pudiese gritar y por último la constante presión psicológica de los interrogadores. Toda esta situación se desarrollaba sincronizadamente, en busca de lograr algún resultado a sus nefastas y denigrantes pretensiones y se repitió otras cinco veces más durante el transcurso de toda la mañana y parte de la tarde del día 18 de Septiembre. Después, cuando ya comenzaba a anochecer, nuevamente me obligaron a desnudar, amarrándome esta vez manos y pies, conjuntamente, unidos a un palo atravesado en la parte opuesta a la rodilla de tal forma que al suspenderme en el aire el cuerpo quedara en posición "palomita" (según lenguaje del torturadores), en esta ocasión se me aplicaron electrodos en la frente y en las orejas con gran intensidad, y que al no contar con ninguna movilidad provocan un desequilibrio bastante notorio en el aparato nervioso, en los músculos del cuerpo y en algunos órganos internos tales como los riñones. Afortunadamente, cuando mi capacidad física llegaba al límite de resistencia, una de las cuerdas que me sostenía se rompió y que al infringirme heridas en ambos brazos y pies, hizo que los mismos torturadores, desistieran de seguirme manteniendo en la misma posición para volver a implementar la "picana eléctrica". . .

En este lugar durante el segundo día de detención fui nuevamente sometido a apremios físicos con golpes de pies y manos varias veces en el transcurso de la mañana. En la tarde experimenté lo que podría denominarse un simulacro de ahorcamiento; en efecto, me pusieron la soga al cuello, me subie-

TESTIMONIO No 8

(Detenida en Septiembre de 1980 - quedó en libertad a los 5 días por falta de evidencia en su contra)

"Durante los días que permanecí detenida me interrogaron muchas veces: me golpeaban mucho en la cara, en los oídos, incluso en una oportunidad me golpearon tan fuerte en un oído que me hicieron perder la conciencia. Me hacían caminar con la vista vendada y chocar con las paredes y los muebles. Fui vejada y torturada sistemáticamente: dos veces me llevaron al "chapuzón", esto consistía en que me debía desvertir y me metían a una ducha (una vez debí meterme a una ducha con ropa). La primera vez me obligó a hacerlo una agente de nombre Rosa; una vez dentro del baño Rosa comenzó a vociferar para que abriera la puerta del baño, y lo hice y entraron alrededor de 20 hombres, los cuales comenzaron a decirme obscenidades y a tocarme en forma brutal, me tocaban y golpeaban en los senos, se mofaban de mí, me amenazaban con violarme. Después de sacarme de allí y uno de los que me interrogaban intentó ahorcarme contra la pared porque yo no recordé el nombre de la polola de . . . Me metían dentro de una tina y me metían la cabeza bajo el agua hasta casi ahogarme."

TESTIMONIO No 9

(Detenido en Septiembre de 1980 - quedó en libertad a los 2 días por falta de evidencia en su contra)

Fué detenido el día 9 de septiembre en su hogar, por un grupo de cuatro civiles que efectuó un completo allanamiento. Los aprehensores lo llevaron a la casa de su madre, la que se encontraba rodeada de un grupo de alrededor de 15 agentes. De allí lo llevaron encapuchado a una cárcel secreta, donde lo sometieron a torturas; el propio afectado expone en el recurso de amparo interpuesto en su favor ante la Corte de Apelaciones de Santiago: "Me hicieron doblar las manos hacia adentro y afirmarme sólo con las muñecas de la muralla; comenzaron a interrogarme y a golpearme con bolsas de arena mojada en todo el cuerpo, especialmente en el pecho. . . enseguida me llevaron a un rincón y me hicieron tomar unos objetos de metal, recibiendo dos descargas eléctricas . . . colocaron alambres en los pies y comenzó a interrogarme sobre . . .; al no quedar conforme con mis respuestas me aplicó cuatro golpes de corriente, los cuales subían de intensidad uno a uno. Debí reconocer obligado por las torturas que . . . era miembro de la Resistencia. . . Me llevaron a otra pieza en que un individuo me tomó declaraciones a máquina, consignando lo que me ví obligado a decir en el interrogatorio con electricidad . . . Luego me pasaron a una pieza en que me hicieron desnudarme completamente, y me colocaron en el suelo, tapándome con frazadas los brazos y las piernas (para sujetarme), me colocaron alambres en los genitales, en la cabeza, en las sienes, y en los dedos de las manos y de los pies. . . Me aplicaron más o menos 15 golpes de corriente, entre los cuales me golpeaban con los pies y los puños . . . Me amenazaban que me matarían y que yo aparecería muerto en un 'enfrentamiento con fuerzas de seguridad' como extremista. . . Después de almuerzo me hicieron hacer una declaración en que aparecían cosas que yo no dije, como por ejemplo, que yo 'organizaba grupos extremistas para derrocar a la dictadura y

ron arriba de un cajón, obligándome a saltar dos veces al vacío; en ambas oportunidades, junto con empujarme, ellos cortaban la cuerda cayendo violentamente al suelo. Luego en la noche del mismo día cuando ya nos disponíamos a dormir, nuevamente comenzaron a presionarnos y hostigarnos inaugurando una nueva modalidad en el trato a los que estábamos detenidos. que fue de tratar de ridiculizarnos como personas hasta el de pretender que nosotros justificásemos la tortura y el trato altamente lesivo contra la integridad física y moral de los primeros días. . ."

TESTIMONIO No 6

(Detenido en Septiembre de 1980 - Aun detenido en Abril 1981)

". . . En esta pieza tocaban música comprometida muy fuerte, afuera se escuchaban gritos desgarradores. Posteriormente me sacaron las esposas y me hicieron bajar una pequeña escalera hasta una pieza donde estaba . . .; se me interrogó con respecto a declaraciones de él y golpeaban con puños y bofetadas, luego me sacaron de allí y me llevaron a un patio descubierto donde se me hizo desnudar violentamente y me colgaron ya desnudo de pies y manos con la cabeza hacia abajo, me arrojaron agua a presión con una manguera, se me introdujo un objeto metálico en el ano y me amarraron el pene con alambre. Las preguntas iban acompañadas de cortas descargas eléctricas hasta un punto en que se hacían más intensas y permanentes, me tapaban la boca con un trapo húmedo y me afirmaban la cabeza con una almohadilla.

Cuando quería hablar tenía que levantar una mano, al cesar las descargas eléctricas y yo hablar, me golpeaban con pies y puños cuando mi versión no les satisfacía, o bien me golpeaban el pene con una varilla lo que me sensibilizaba mucho más esa región para las descargas eléctricas. Esto duró cerca de una hora. Cada vez que me iban a aplicar alguna descarga me mojaban. Luego me bajaron sin dejar que me arrastrara, pues el piso era muy áspero y me podía herir al arrastrarme pues había quedado muy agotado y con temblores en todo el cuerpo, las piernas apenas me sostenían. . ."

TESTIMONIO No 7

(Detenido en Septiembre de 1980 - aun detenido en Abril de 1981)

"Fui golpeado con puños y pies con zapatillas, con mi ropa mojada para el obvio efecto de no dejar marcas. Posteriormente, fui desnudado y trasladado sobre una especie de camastro de fierro, donde me amarraron con correas acolchadas en los brazos y en las piernas; a continuación procedieron a colocarme electrodos en los brazos, piernas, tetillas, estómago y en la zona anal. Experimenté dolores inimaginables que me provocaron espasmos incontrolables. Las torturas referidas duraron un plazo de ocho días. . ."

organizar un gobierno socialista de tipo marxista', que una vecina mía de nombre . . . me había entregado panfletos de la Democracia Cristiana y que colaboraba con esa corriente política; durante todo ese tiempo me continuaban golpeando. . . Me hicieron un examen médico, me amenazaron que me llevarían al Paradero 5 de la Panamericana Sur y allí me matarían. . ."

