

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

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To: All Sections
Campaign coordinators
CHAN/Chile coordinators
Groups working on Chile

From: Americas Research Department
Campaign and Membership Department

Date: 30 September 1986

ORIGINAL

CAMPAIGN ON CHILE - 3 SEPTEMBER 1986 TO 31 DECEMBER 1986

UPDATES 1, 2, 3 and 4

SUMMARY

This circular contains 4 campaign updates which have already been sent to some sections by telex:

- update 1: "Imposition of State of Siege"
- update 2: "Reports on Killings, detentions and Torture since the Declaration of the State of Siege."
- update 3: "Crisis in Chile: Human Rights Defenders Attacked"
- update 4: "Recommended Actions"

Updates 1, 2, 3, and 4 are EXTERNAL. Update 4 is INTERNAL and contains recommendations which relate to all other updates and to the new situation in Chile.

DISTRIBUTION

As above.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Campaign coordinators should consider the recommendations in update 4 and discuss how they can use the external information contained in updates 1, 2, and 3. They should liaise with Chile/CHAN coordinators and bring this circular to the attention of press officers.

The external information can be used for immediate publicity and media approaches, home government approaches, action by public, AI groups and target sectors.

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EXTERNAL

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11 September 1986

CHILE: UPDATE ONE

IMPOSITION OF STATE OF SIEGE

Following an assassination attempt against President Pinochet on 7 September 1986, the Chilean government immediately imposed a state of siege. Two other sets of emergency laws (called "states of exception" in Chilean law) have already been in force for several years. Under the regulations of the state of siege, the government acquires sweeping powers of detention and censorship of all communications.

President Pinochet made statements indicating that the attack on his life -which left five of his bodyguards dead- was proof that the terrorist threat he had been denouncing for many years is very serious. On 8 September he said in a speech before military officers that "We will get tougher in the war against marxism. All those who are involved in human rights and such things will have to be expelled or put in prison". General Pinochet's statement increased fears that new measures announced as an effort to combat violence would in practice be used to suppress the peaceful opposition and to silence or even eliminate human rights groups. These fears were proved right when human rights activists, priests, and leaders of the democratic opposition were arrested in the days immediately following the declaration of the state of siege (see below for details).

There have been conflicting reports about the authors of the assassination attempt and some press reports have indicated that the left-wing armed group Frente Patriotico Manuel Rodriguez (FPMR, Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front) made telephone calls to the media admitting responsibility for the attack. Other reports state the FPMR have denied responsibility. The incident took place in the days leading to 11 September, the anniversary of the 1973 military coup, when widespread protests and demonstrations are traditionally held. Amnesty International does not comment on the various theories offered about the assassination attempt. Amnesty International notes that there have been a number of armed attacks by opposition groups in recent years, and it recognizes the legitimate function of states to take reasonable measures to enforce the law and prevent violence. Amnesty International is deeply concerned, however, that the additional emergency laws adopted will lead to a further deterioration in the human rights situation, and to an even greater absence of protection for detainees.

The main provisions of the state of siege likely to directly affect human rights are: additional restrictions on the right to amparo (habeas corpus), which make it very difficult for the courts to protect detainees, the power

to detain individuals without explanation in places which are not prisons for the duration of the state of siege (the last time the state of siege was in force detention camps were opened for this purpose in the remote military barracks at Conchi and Pisagua); and the extensive powers to censor the press and intercept private mail and telephone communications. The state of siege was last in force between November 1984 and June 1985, when the number of politically-motivated arrests and reports of torture increased significantly.

Furthermore, Amnesty International fears that the new powers, coupled with President Pinochet's repeated statements to the effect that its critics within the church, community organizations, human rights groups and the peaceful political opposition are "left-wing subversives", and that the Chilean military are engaged in a war between "marxism and democracy, or chaos and democracy", will create an atmosphere of increased state violence.

The main opposition publications APSI, ANALISIS, CAUCE, HOY, LA BICICLETA and FORTIN MAPOCHO have been suspended and two foreign news agencies -the English Reuters and the Italian ANSA - have had their operations stopped.

EXTERNAL

12 September 1986

CHILE: UPDATE TWO

REPORTS ON KILLINGS, DETENTIONS AND TORTURE SINCE THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE

At least 60 individuals have been detained immediately following the declaration of the state of siege on 7 September. Most were taken from their homes and appear to have been selected from the main sectors critical of the government: the church, the political parties, community organizations, journalists and human rights activists. No official explanation has been given for these detentions, and no charges have been made so far against these detainees. Most of them are being held by the uniformed police (carabineros) and the investigations police (Investigaciones), and are believed to be in good physical condition. A few however are being held by the Central Nacional de Informaciones (CNI, the security police) and there are fears that they might be ill-treated. Some of those detained under the state of siege are: Ricardo LAGOS, leader of the centre-left coalition Alianza Democratica and a prominent political figure well known in Chile and abroad, German CORREA, president of the left-wing coalition Movimiento Democratico Popular (MDP, Popular Democratic Movement), a left-wing coalition which has shown considerable power of mass mobilization; Father Rafael MAROTO, a leader of the MDP and spokesman for the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), Pascual BARRAZA, member of the communist party and former minister of the socialist Allende government, Andrea PASCAL, a student leader who is said to be 5 months pregnant, Father Jorge ORELLANA GONZALEZ, a parish priest; Patricio HALES, leader of the MDP and member of a well-known family of political and human rights activists; Dr Pedro CASTILLO, president of the Chilean Commission Against Torture well known for his leadership of medical work against torture and denunciations of medical involvement in the practice; Rene TAPIA, Mario LOPEZ, Luis MENA, Carlos DIAZ SANTIAGO, all members of community or poblacion groups; Guillermo SHERPING, leader of the teachers' associatin; Carlos VENEGAS MUNOZ, Claudio VILLEGAS, and others.

Four student leaders were forcefully removed from Dutch Embassy cars on 8 September, after they had gone to the Embassy to voice their protest against the state of siege. They are now in detention. They are: Leonardo TAPIA BELLO, Luis FIGUEROA ROJAS, Jose Humberto FAUNDEZ, and Alberto CASTILLO YUNGUE. The Dutch government has made a formal complaint about the incident.

Five foreign priests, two American and three French, were also arrested. The American priests were released and expulsion orders issued against the French priests. Among those affected is Fr. Pierre DUBOIS, parish priest of the well-known La Victoria neighbourhood (poblacion), a militant area where human rights violations have been widespread and where Fr Dubois has been the main defender of the rights of the local people. The expulsion orders are currently being reconsidered by the Chilean authorities after the intervention of the Cardinal Archbishop of Santiago.

An unknown number of individuals were still in detention this week following mass arrests on 4 and 5 September, before the state of siege was declared. They included numerous students and representatives from

organizations in the poblaciones (poor neighbourhoods). At least six of them were being held incommunicado at CNI headquarters in Santiago and it is feared that they have been severely tortured. They are: Esteban Nelson DONATO GUZMAN, Amalia Ana VALDES LORCA, Andres Salvador PADILLA BALLESTEROS, Lindorfo RUIZ BARRIGA, Marisol VERA VERA, and Carlos Juan CARTAGENA POZO. At least one of these detainees was seen in very bad physical condition and a complaint of torture is being made. On Monday 8 September the appeals court hearing amparo petitions on behalf of some of the detainees ordered medical examinations by doctors from the Institute of Legal Medicine. However, the doctors were refused access to the prisoners. Other individuals currently being held at CNI include : Patricia PENA DIAZ, Rene Ferrando ESCOBAR ACUNA, Manuel RODRIGUEZ FUENTEALBA, Ana Maria LORCA and Guido CONTRERAS LOPEZ.

On 11 September news from Santiago indicated that a list of 300 individuals wanted by the police would be issued by the government. Several cases are already known of individuals who have escaped arrest because they were not at home when agents saying they were police went to their homes. They include German MOLINA, a leading member of the Chilean Commission on Human Rights, Felipe POZO, an opposition journalist ; student leaders Humberto BUROTTO, Gonzalo ROVIRA, Ricardo HERRERA, Enrique PARIS , Alan RAMIRES and Cristian BERRIOS; Omar ROSALES, a worker with the Chilean Commission of Human Rights, and others.

Several kidnappings were reported three of which led to the dramatic finding of the bullet-riddled bodies of the victims. The victims of execution were Jose CARRASCO TAPIA, a leading journalist and foreign editor with ANALISIS magazine, Felipe Segundo RIVERA GAJARDO, an electrician; and Gaston VIDAURRAZAGA MANRIQUEZ, brother of a political prisoner serving a sentence for armed offences. All three were kidnapped on 8 September, in one case by hooded men, and the others by men in civilian clothes who said they were police, and their bodies were found later in different places around Santiago.

The burial of Jose CARRASCO TAPIA on 10 September was interrupted by police with tear gas and water cannons.

Amnesty International is urging governments and institutions throughout the world to put pressure on the Chilean Government to release those detained against whom there are no criminal charges, and to stop the killings.

15 September 1986

CHILE: UPDATE 3

CRISIS IN CHILE: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ATTACKED

Human rights activists have become the target of persistent attack by clandestine and official branches of the security forces, and the attacks have intensified since the declaration of the state of siege on 7 September 1986.

On 12 September Luis Toro -lawyer with the Vicariat of Solidarity, the human rights agency sponsored by the Catholic Church- received telephone death threats. Such threats have been received by many human rights activists in the past few months. The anonymous telephone caller told a relative of Mr Toro that he would be executed by a new commando (a clandestine squad) calling itself "11 September". The group has claimed responsibility for four executions in the past week. The same night-at 2 pm on 13 September- masked men tried to break into Mr Toro's house. However, neighbours had been alerted to the threat and raised the alarm, causing the attackers to flee. Mr Toro is one of the lawyers working on the case of Rodrigo Rojas, the youth burnt to death by troops during anti-government protests on 2 July 86. The other lawyer on the case, Hector Salazar, had been accused of "offending the armed forces" and had been threatened with arrest in the first week of September. The case of Rodrigo Rojas became a particularly delicate issue for the military after overwhelming evidence emerged that -despite official denials- troops had been responsible for the brutal attack. In other cases in the past, investigations into killings and torture had been effectively blocked and attempts by some sectors of the judiciary to uncover excesses and to put some of those responsible to trial had been thwarted.

Although the state of siege was declared in response to an assassination attempt on President Pinochet on 7 September by an armed left-wing group, the clampdown on the opposition is clearly targetted at all forms of dissent. Noone vaguely associated with the human rights, church, political, trade union or student movements, or living in neighbourhoods active in anti-government protests, can feel safe.

The 11 September squad has announced that it intends to carry out more killings, and that at least one of the targets will be a member of the Vicariat of Solidarity --the organization that has battled incessantly in the courts of justice to defend prisoners of conscience and to protect detainees from torture, and thus earned the open hostility of the security forces.

Attacks on human rights activists are not new in Chile -- but since the declaration of the state of siege there appears to be a government-inspired campaign to dismantle the human rights network. On 8 September President Augusto Pinochet said in a public speech to military personnel that "The government will get tougher in its war against marxism..All those who are involved in human rights and such things will have to be expelled from the country or put in prison" (El gobierno se pondra aun mas duro en su guerra contra el marxismo..a todos esos que andan con los derechos humanos y otras cosas, hay que expulsarlos del pais o encerrarlos..) The President's comments indicated the government's equation of human rights activism with

its traditional enemies in the political left.

In his speech the President also directly attacked opposition politicians. He said that the government was fighting a war "between democracy and chaos", a chaos promoted by "that mob of degenerate politicians". In further statements on 11 September, he accused the non-Marxist opposition of "political corruption" for allying with left-wing parties.

The attempted kidnapping of Luis Toro was one of a fresh spate of threats against staff and leaders of human rights organizations during the first week under the state of siege. The Chilean Commission for Human Rights -another leading local organization- issued an international appeal on behalf of its members and the people of Chile. It said that all its leadership was in danger. In addition to threats, the homes of two leading members, German MOLINA and Omar ROSALES CHAVES, have been raided. Dr Pedro CASTILLO, president of the Chilean Commission Against Torture, and a well-known figure in the international medical circles, was arrested without explanation immediately after the declaration of the state of siege, and was released only after protests from medical institutions throughout the world.

Workers at the Vicariat of Solidarity have been the victims of the most persistent and some of the most dramatic threats. Enrique Palet, the Executive Secretary, was sent a pig's head with a bullet between the eyes-symbolizing a threat of execution last July. Also blood was smeared over the outside walls of his house. Other incidents have involved attempts at discrediting the human rights groups by accusing them of co-operating with left-wing extremists. For example, in May 1986 two staff members of the Vicariat of Solidarity were sent to prison on charges of assisting a wounded man who had been involved in an armed confrontation with police. The two are now out on bail. In early September the Vicariat published a document with details of numerous attacks -many with firearms- against members of the Catholic Church concerned with human rights work. The document said that the attacks had increased in the last three months.

The attack on human rights organizations is taking place at the same time as the main political parties have been forced to retreat from widespread popular protests planned for this month, some of their leaders have been detained without charge under the state of siege, and the opposition press has been closed down. Simultaneously, the terror squads that had been active since 1983 have intensified their activities, which have included at least five killings during the first week of the state of siege.

The combined effect of the clampdown is to remove or weaken the few sources of restraint or defence that remained which might have afforded some protection against human rights abuses. In the La Victoria neighbourhood -one of the poor settlements in Santiago known for its anti-government feeling- the expulsion of parish priest Father Pierre DUBOIS and two other French priests has left the local dwellers more vulnerable than ever. Father Dubois, who had worked in Chile for 20 years, was expelled on 10 September without explanation. He had been an outspoken defender of human rights, often denouncing arbitrary arrests, torture and executions in La Victoria. On Friday 12th, a woman from this settlement, Cecilia Pena Arratia, was shot dead as she walked in the street - the latest of many people from these destitute neighbourhoods to be killed by a clandestine squad.

The civilian courts -which in recent months had begun to take more

determined measures to protect detainees -are finding it more difficult to intervene against abuses. In the week of 8 to 12 September courts in Santiago made repeated attempts to order the security police CNI (Central Nacional de Informaciones) to lift the illegal incommunicado detention of several tens of people held since before and after the declaration of the state of siege. However these orders, and orders to permit medical examinations, have been ignored. The only detainees held by CNI who have been seen by relatives were four students kidnapped from Dutch Embassy cars on 8 September, who were allowed visits on 12 September after formal complaints by the Dutch Government. They all showed signs of torture and reports indicate that one of them, Sr Victor Leonardo TAPIA BELLO, could hardly walk. In the city of Concepcion, the director of the local forensic institute -which normally carries out medical examinations on detainees ordered by the courts- was reportedly refused entry to the local CNI barracks where several people arrested on 11 September are being held.

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

16 September 1986

CHILE: CAMPAIGN UPDATE 4

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Since the imposition of the State of Siege in Chile on 7 September 1986, human rights violations have strongly increased including killings, imprisonment and torture. There have been widespread attacks on and threats to journalists and human rights activists. Further to our update 2 (dated 11 September 1986) the IS intends to react to the emergency in the following way:

2. We intend to send out UAs and short external background papers on developments, as necessary. Where possible these will be sent by telex.

3. Lobbying of home governments is very important. Sections can use the background information and UAs in this work. Further to suggestions on home government approaches given in circular 1 (AMR22/24/86) concerning bilateral approaches, the European Community (Foreign Ministers Meeting on Political Cooperation), sections can also urge the following:

- direct (possibly public) representations from your government about abuses which have taken place since the imposition of the state of siege, in particular killings, detentions without charge of non-violent opponents or critics and torture.

- to instruct ambassadors in Santiago to provide protection to those who request it.

- raise with the Chilean Ambassador the issue of attacks on human rights organizations.

- if your country is part of the EEC, lobby for strong measures by the European Community.

4. The additional information should be used in approaches to banks, companies and the World Bank. Canada, the FRG, Japan, Switzerland, Italy, the UK and the US Sections should implement recommendations on the Advisory Committee of foreign banks as specified in circular 6 (AMR 22/48/86).

5. The general information should be used as widely as possible in encouraging the media to report in depth on developments in Chile. Sections might want to encourage writing of feature articles. Press officers should not hesitate to refer journalists to the IS for additional briefing.

6. Sections should continue letter writing activities as suggested in earlier circulars. They could include the following in letters:

- express concern about the detention of members of the peaceful opposition following the declaration of the state of siege;

- urge for measures to prevent abuse of wide powers invested on the security forces, especially in view of past judicially corroborated cases of extrajudicial killing, torture or ill-treatment;

-express particular concern at repeated attacks against human rights activists and their organizations in Chile.

7. Sections should continue to use recommendations to Chilean Government as outlined in circular 1 and in the Briefing.

8. Sections can continue writing to Chilean churches and other non-governmental organizations.