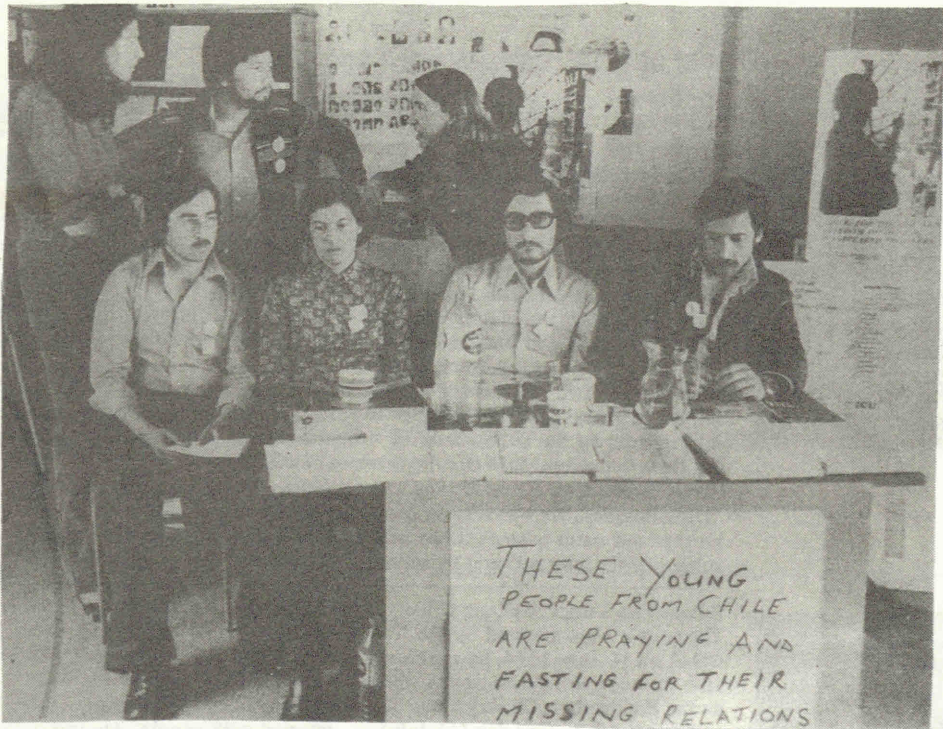


HUNGER STRIKERS - LONDON - DAY SEVEN



Photograph - Laurence Sparham (I.F.L.)

On Wednesday, 24 May, the six young Chileans shown in this picture with Dr. Sheila Cassidy, herself imprisoned and tortured in Chile, started an indefinite hunger strike in the London church of Saint Aloysius, in Phoenix Road, Euston. At the time of writing, Friday 2 June, they have gone without food for nine days and are growing steadily weaker.

WHY SHOULD THEY DO THIS?

The DINA/CNI, Chile's secret police, have arrested various of their relatives who have since gone missing. From left to right in the photograph: Grete Enriques has lost her husband Edgardo and her brother-in-law Bautista; Washington Guerrero has lost his brother Angel; Luis Munoz has lost his girl friend Diana Aron; Diana Beausire has lost her brother, the Anglo-Chilean businessman, William Beausire; Raimundo Elgueta has lost his brother Martin; and Cristian Van Yurick has lost his brother Edwin, his sister-in-law Barbara and his cousins Marcelo and Jaqueline.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ESTIMATES THAT MORE THAN 1500 PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THIS WAY SINCE GENERAL PINOCHET TOOK POWER FOLLOWING A MILITARY COUP IN SEPTEMBER 1973.

MISSING IN CHILE

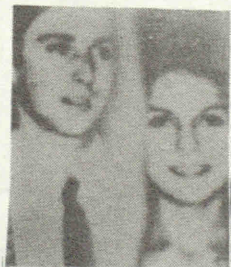
THREE OF THE ESTIMATED 1500+ CASES



William Beausire flew out of Santiago on 2 November 1974, en route to Paris. When his mother returned from the airport she was arrested by DINA agents. They discovered, from searching her handbag and questioning her, that William had already left Chile. They arranged for him to be intercepted at Buenos Aires airport. He was taken back to Chile in a military plane and then held and interrogated by the DINA in different torture centres: José Domingo Canas Street; Ville Grimaldi; the "Discotheque". He was seen by his mother and sister (also detained but subsequently released) and by several

other prisoners. He was physically and mentally broken by the torture. Several months later he was still very ill and had lost 14 kilos in weight. He was last seen on 2 July 1975 at the "Discotheque".

Beausire is a British subject (Anglo-Chilean) and was travelling with a British passport in his possession when he was abducted. Both the Argentinian and the Chilean Governments have consistently denied either knowledge or responsibility for William Beausire despite numerous requests from the British Government for an account of his whereabouts.



Edwin Van Yurick/Barbara Uribe
The couple were arrested by the DINA on 10 July 1974, he at about 1pm in the street, she at 8pm at their home. His brother, Christian was arrested the following day (11 July). The three were tortured together, being tied together at the waist and legs. The torture was mainly electric shocks applied to the genitals, mouth, eyes and different parts of the body. Barbara was raped by Oswaldo Romo and her brother-in-law was compelled to watch; this was at the DINA centre, No. 38 Calle Londres (London Street). Christian and Edwin were tortured together again on 20 July at Calle Londres and then on 28 August at Ville Grimaldi in the section known as "The Tower". On that occasion they were repeatedly submerged in a well full of dirty water and, in a courtyard, DINA men ran over Edwin's leg with a lorry, compelling Christian to watch. Edwin, Christian

and Barbara were tortured together for the last time on 18 September, this time in José Domingo Canas Street. They were tortured with electric shocks and Christian was injected with penotal. On this occasion Barbara's three sisters were also interrogated. Christian Van Yurick was subsequently released and is now a refugee in this country.

Edwin and Christian's grandparents emigrated to Chile from Swansea (Wales). His name was Ernest Jones Morgan.

The British Embassy inquired about the Van Yuricks in August 1974. On 18 August the Chilean Foreign Ministry admitted that they were in "preventive detention". Later in July 1975, the Junta's propagandists promoted a story that 119 people had been killed ABROAD. Most of these people were known to have been abducted in Chile. Amongst the list of 119 names were those of Edwin Van Yurick and Barbara Uribe.

SINCE THE COUP IN CHILE IN SEPTEMBER 1973 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ESTIMATES THAT MORE THAN 1500 PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED - AS MANY AS 15,000 SINCE THE COUP IN ARGENTINA IN MARCH 1976.



Diana Aron worked for Editorial Quimantu and the Chilean national television under the Government of Salvador Allende.

She was arrested on the street, in broad daylight, on 18 November 1974. Two DINA vehicles were involved and Diana was recognised by a woman acquaintance who was working for DINA. When she tried to escape she received four bullets in the back. In this condition, she was taken to Villa Grimaldi for interrogation and torture. Due to her grave condition, she was subsequently transferred to a clandestine DINA clinic.

On 10 December 1974, her boy-

friend was also arrested and the fate and health of Diana, who was two months pregnant when detained, were used to blackmail him. The commander of Villa Grimaldi, Captain Miguel Krasnoff Marchenko, told him that he personally had arrested and shot Diana. On 20 January 1975, Captain Krasnoff told him that Diana had died because he had ordered the termination of her medical treatment.

All efforts made by Diana's family, who live in exile, to obtain information, or confirmation of her death, have proved futile.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, Monday, 22 May 1978

69 relatives of disappeared prisoners declared an indefinite hunger strike. They started their fast in three Santiago churches and in the United Nations building in the city.

Wednesday, 31 May 1978

The number of people on hunger strike had grown to 141, most of them being the wives of missing men. They were joined by 11 nuns and 7 priests and are supported by both the church and 16 trade union organisations representing more than a million workers.

A wave of similar hunger strikes have started throughout the world: two others in Chile; seven in Britain; in Paris; Rome; five in Germany; three in Sweden; in Washington; New York; San Francisco; San Jose; Los Angeles and Tucson in the United States; in Quebec and Winnipeg in Canada; and in Buenos Aires and other Latin American capitals. The hunger strikers are all trying to get an answer concerning the fate and whereabouts of the missing people. Despite releases of prisoners, the Chilean government has failed to provide any satisfactory answer. Indeed, the few judicial investigations that have been allowed are now being closed down.

Amnesty International strongly supports the cause of those who are working to secure an explanation from the Chilean authorities as to whether the disappeared people are dead or alive, and, if alive, where they are being held. We also want the relatives and supporters in Chile protected against reprisals.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE ?

Last year Amnesty International, together with other organisations, campaigned against disappearances in Chile. Disappearances virtually stopped in the face of so much adverse publicity but the Chilean government has not provided an explanation that satisfies either the relatives, or the church in Chile, or the British and other concerned governments, or the United Nations.

Britain has a special responsibility in that several of those who disappeared have British family connections. One of them is British as well as a Chilean subject - William Beausire - who was abducted at Buenos Aires airport in November 1974 and returned to Chile to be tortured and broken in health. His sister, Diana, who is one of the hunger strikers in Saint Aloysius, saw him later when she and her mother were also briefly imprisoned; several other people who have since been released also saw and spoke to him. General Pinochet's government has denied all knowledge of what has happened to William Beausire.

Amnesty International, together with representatives of the relatives, appealed to the Foreign Office on Thursday, 25 May, for their support. Amnesty International asked that the Foreign Secretary or a Foreign Office Minister should publicly state his own and H.M. Government's strong concern that the truth about the missing people should be publicly established and that the government should co-operate with other like-minded governments to try and protect the hunger strikers in Chile from retaliation. On Thursday, 1 June, Amnesty asked the Foreign Office to try and protect the two Irish priests and the nun who are reported to have been on hunger strike in the church of Jesus Obrero for the last week.

This is a time when much depends upon whether, in Britain and other countries, there can be sufficient governmental and public support for the relatives' attempts to get at the truth and for the efforts that are being made to protect courageous people in Chile from possible reprisals.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is an international human rights organisation which campaigns for the release of Prisoners of Conscience, provided they have not used or advocated violence, throughout the world, from Argentina to the USSR, from South Africa to Indonesia. 116 countries are listed in Amnesty International's latest Annual Report. Of the figure of 500,000, which is Amnesty International's estimate of prisoners of conscience detained at any one time, 1,500 (approx) were released in 1977. Much of the pressure for their release came from Amnesty International, with its 34 National Sections and members in 70 countries, and 1,945 groups throughout the world.

YOUR PROTEST IS OF VALUE