

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

29 March 1985

CHILE: José Manuel PARADA, head of Santiago human rights organization's documentation department
Manuel GUERRERO CEBALLOS, President of metropolitan council of national union of teachers (AGECH - *Asociación Gremial de Educadores de Chile*)
Alejandro TRAVERSO CARVAJAL, Secretary General of AGECH
Eduardo OSORIO VENEGAS, AGECH leader
Mónica ARAYA FLORES, AGECH leader
Nelson BERMUDEZ, AGECH leader
José TOLOSA, AGECH leader

According to reports, the above seven people were arrested in Santiago on 28 and 29 March 1985 by armed men believed to be members of the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI, Chilean secret police). Amnesty International fears that they may be tortured while in detention.

At approximately 8.30 p.m. on 28 March, eight armed men in civilian clothes are said to have burst into the headquarters of Chile's national union of teachers (AGECH, *Asociación Gremial de Educadores de Chile*). According to eye-witness accounts the men, carrying machine guns, proceeded to destroy files and equipment and beat some of the teachers who were present when the raid took place. They are said to have then led away five of the union leaders: Alejandro Traverso, Eduardo Osorio, Mónica Araya, Nelson Bermúdez and José Tolosa. Lawyers and relatives are said to have been unable to discover where the five are being held or who arrested them. However, the manner in which the raid and arrests took place indicate that they were carried out by the CNI.

In a separate incident on 29 March, two men were arrested and another seriously wounded by men who are also believed to be CNI agents. At about 8.30 a.m. two armed men drove to a school in a car without a registration number and forced Manuel Guerrero, President of the Metropolitan Council of AGECH, to accompany them. Another teacher, Leopoldo Muñoz, who saw the detention, is reported to have gone to his assistance. Others present are said to have heard one of the armed men say "shoot him". Leopoldo Muñoz is reported to have been shot in the stomach at point blank range and is now in a serious condition in a Santiago hospital. Another man, José Manuel Parada, said to have gone to the aid of Manuel Guerrero, was also detained by the armed men who are reported to have sped away from the school to an unknown destination. José Manuel Parada works at the *Vicaría* .../...

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