



# TRADE UNION BULLETIN 32



## CHILE

### TEACHERS' LEADERS RECEIVE THREATS

Five trade union leaders in the Valparaiso area, four of them teachers, received anonymous warnings to leave the country otherwise their families would be subjected to "severe repressive measures". Amnesty International is concerned that they may be in danger of abduction and subsequent torture.

The five are: Jose Luis Muñoz, local leader of the Colegio de Profesores de Chile, the Chilean Teachers' Association, and María Isabel Torres, provincial leader of the Association; Andres Reyes Barra, Valparaiso leader of the Asociacion Gremial de Educadores de Chile (AGECH), another teachers' union; Hugo Guzmán, leader of a teachers' union in nearby Viña del Mar; and Alejandro Valenzuela Cortés, leader of the Comando Comunal de Trabajadores, Workers' Communal Association, in Valparaiso.

The dismissal of more than 6,000 teachers after the transfer of responsibility for education from national to local government prompted a series of demonstrations and other actions by teachers' unions. About 900 of those dismissed came from the Valparaiso area. A number of teachers had been detained for short periods after demonstrations in Santiago in January and February, and the AGECH reported that one teacher needed hospital treatment after being bitten by a police-officer as he was being arrested.

Three of the above-named trade unionists received similar warnings in January 1986, prompting one of them to leave the country because of fears for his safety. Another teacher, Ronald Douglas Wilson, has received death threats.

Trade union leaders have been among the victims of intimidation by clandestine groups which Amnesty International believes are linked to the security forces. Hundreds of people associated with human rights groups, church or professional organizations, opposition or community groups have received death threats. Others have been abducted beaten or tortured and then released after a few hours, warned that they or their families would be abducted again or else killed if they did not cease their activities.