

**HISTORICAL FILE**

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THE DINA AND THEIR SECRET DETENTION AND TORTURE CENTERS (VILLA GRIMALDI AND OTHERS)

Extract from A United Nations Report - October 1976 (1)

The DINA is the organization which allegedly has assumed responsibility for selective repression. Its functions, according to the preambular provisions of decree-law No. 21, which established it, consist in giving the Government of Chile "immediate and permanent assistance...to provide it with the systematic and duly processed information it may need to do justice to its decisions in the field of national security and development". Article 1 describes the DINA as a military organization of a professional and technical character, "whose mandate shall be to gather at the national level all information originating in various fields of action for the purpose of producing the intelligence required for the formulation of policies, planning and adoption of measures to protect national security and the country's development".

Members of the DINA are prohibited from appearing in law courts even if summoned, and the Supreme Court and the court of appeal accept reports from the Minister of the Interior based on statements made by the DINA. The DINA does not report to the judiciary nor does it account to it for its actions, as manifested in official communications from the DINA to the court of appeal which were brought to the attention of the Group.

The effectiveness of the DINA's intelligence work is based almost exclusively on methods of torture as a means of obtaining information and on physical annihilation as a means of eliminating embarrassing witnesses or evidence. Each member of the DINA uses, in addition to the methods of torture obviously resulting from special training, his or her own impulses or "imagination" where torture is concerned. The Group has already described in section A above some of the most common methods of torture used, especially by the DINA, in dealing with political prisoners.

The vast majority of the staff of the DINA are active members of the various branches of the armed forces or the Carabineros, but civilians may also be incorporated in the service by a supreme decree of the Minister of Finance; these civilians often have criminal records - as in the case of Os aldo Romo, which was analysed by the Group in its previous report.

The attention of the Group has been drawn to a submission to the Supreme Court by relatives of 14 persons (whose names appear in the next paragraph) who were arrested under the powers vested in the President of the Republic during the state of siege. These detainees had been induced to sign a "contract of employment" with the DINA. The detainee signing such a contract became an official of the Ministry of Defence with the function of auxiliary agent for the DINA. Having thus become a member of the armed forces, he would be tried by a military tribunal applying war-time military procedures if any charges were brought against him. Some of them were made to sign another document in which they declared their loyalty to the Government and undertook to perform functions such as denouncing anti-patriotic persons they knew.

The DINA carries out most of its work in secret. This allows it to resort to

1. With some changes in presentation (elimination of certain references to other parts of the report et cetera) this is a copy of page 90 to page 97 of the United Nations Report of the Economic and Social Council on Protection of Human Rights in Chile. - Ad Hoc Working Group. Report dated 8 October 1976: A/31/253. This report is also available in Spanish and French.

extrajudicial interrogation based on duress and to commit all types of other abuses, such as sacking the homes of its victims, indulging in economic blackmail and other similar acts.

#### Organization and operations of the DINA

The head of the DINA is Colonel Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, of the Army, who previously commanded a regiment at Tejas Verdes, where there is said to be one of the most ill-famed centres of torture in Chile.

There is a major administrative centre, known in the DINA as the "CG", for Comando en Jefe General (general headquarters), located in Marcoleta street (in the former offices of the Chilean Communist Youth). The high command of the DINA is believed to operate from these premises, and the office of Colonel Contreras is also believed to be situated there.

It has been reported that the DINA maintains auxiliary offices in some European countries.

In Santiago, one of the DINA's main centres of operation is the Villa Grimaldi. This is a mansion located in Jose Arrieta street, near Tobalaba, approximately 1,000 metres towards the Cordillera de los Andes beyond the Canal San Carlos. Seen from outside, it is a plot of 5,000 to 10,000 square metres surrounded by a brick wall (2.5 metres high) topped with barbed wire; the only entry is an iron gate.

In his oral testimony before the Ad Hoc Working Group, Mr Joseph Eldridge, who accompanied three members of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, Mr Toby Moffat, Mr Tom Harkin and Mr George Miller, on their visit to Chile in March 1976, described their attempt to visit Villa Grimaldi. He further stated that they were not allowed by the authorities of Villa Grimaldi to enter it.

Villa Grimaldi, or "the palace of laughter", as this centre is known to many persons, houses most of the DINA's organization and a communications centre. The communications centre includes antennae and equipment for high frequency communication, which makes it possible to communicate with people throughout the world, as well as VHF antennae and equipment, which makes possible rapid communication between the centre and the President of the Republic, and with vehicles and operating groups in action. It is the DINA's largest torture centre and at times has allegedly held between 120 and 150 prisoners.

The outstanding features of the detention area of Villa Grimaldi are the following: a prisoners' area, a workroom, accommodation for

staff, a parrilla area, guardhouses and bathrooms, tiny cubicles smaller than telephone booths where prisoners are locked up with their hands and feet tied, the tower for special tortures and punishment, and the pool which is used for torture.

Although the physical premises used by the DINA may vary from time to time, the functional structure is generally the same, consisting of several sections. These sections, to which reference is made below, may all operate from the one focal point of the Villa Grimaldi, or some may operate from other points - but, if so, no information on this has as yet been obtained by the Group.

Villa Grimaldi, whose code name is said to be "Terranova" centre, is under the authority of a lieutenant-colonel. The officer-in-command of "Terranova" up to February 1975 was Army Lieutenant-Colonel "Rodrigo". As from March 1975 the officer-in-command has been Army Lieutenant-Colonel Marcelo Moren, known as "el Coronto" or "el Oso". He occasionally likes to be called "Don Marcelo".

"Terranova" is thought to consist of four sections, but the names of only two of them are known. The code names of the two sections known are Caupolican and Aguila, possibly also with two sub-units; Vampiro; and Tucan. Each section is headed by a major (or a captain of high seniority) and is under the direct orders of a warrent officer, sergeant or corporal. In charge of a section believed to be concerned with records and analysis of information is an Army major known as Major "Ubilla". Most if not all of the officers in command at "Terranova" - and in general the majority of the DINA officers - use first names (real or false).

Since May 1975 the senior officer in charge of the Caupolican Section has been Captain Miguel (his real name is Miguel Marchenko). He also acts as officer in charge of Halcon sub-units 1 and 2. Up to mid-1975, the Aguila Unit was under the command of a Lieutenant of Carabineros known as "Roberto" or Lieutenant "Cachete"; his name may be Roberto Lorenz, or at least Lorenz may be his surname. The Tucan Unit was under a Lieutenant of Carabineros known as "Marcos" (it is not certain whether that is really his first name). The Vampiro Unit was led by a very young Army Lieutenant known as "Pablito". The following particulars on the officers mentioned above have been reported to the Group:

(a) Army Lieutenant-Colonel "Rodrigo" has been directly responsible for innumerable atrocities. Compared to others, however, he was regarded as "soft" (he may have "softened" the application of the methods of torture a little; at least, it was during his time that the rules for torture are believed to have been drawn up). As indicated above, he left the "Terranova" command in March 1976. He had and still has very good relations with Captian Miguel Marchenko.

(b) Army Lieutenant-Colonel Marcelo Moren has been engaged in repressive activities since 11 September 1973. Hard and violent, he usually interrogates and tortures detainees personally. Very probably left Chile to interrogate Jorge Fuentes Alarcon (a member of the Central Committee of MIR) who was detained in another country in 1975.

(c) Major "Ubilla" takes no part in operational activities but in some of the interrogations.

(d) Army Captain Miguel Marchenko was a lieutenant in the Military Academy and teacher of ethics up to September 1973. During the coup d'etat itself, he took part in the attack on the home of the President of the Republic in Tomas Moro. He was subsequently promoted to captain. He

and his operational unit Halcon are responsible for most of the arrests, deaths and torture that have taken place. Miguel Marchenko is also hard and violent, but always tries to conceal this from detainees. He allegedly pretends to be opposed to torture and unhappy at having to use it, but justifies it as "indispensable" to achieve his ends and applies it mercilessly.

(e) Lieutenant Lorenz, "Roberto" or Lieutenant "Cachets" is extremely ruthless and cruel. He and his unit have allegedly been responsible for the worst thefts and atrocities committed in the DINA. He gives the impression of being very corrupt, and it is almost certain that he shares in the thefts committed when searches are made under his orders. He is thought to be connected with the activities of the DINA in "Colonia Dignidad".

(f) Lieutenant "Pablito" is an Army officer. He tortures with great cruelty and arrests people indiscriminately. Every operation directed by him means dozens of arrests, including whole families. Among many other things, he is allegedly responsible for the murder in Valparaiso of Alejandro Villalobos, a community leader who was apparently walking in the street when he was shot down at point-blank range.

The operational units of the Caupolican Section are mainly composed of personnel from the Carabineros (ranging in rank from lance-corporal to warrant officer); a few are from the Army. Their ages vary from 30 to 45 years. Each unit has four to six persons in it (including the warrant officer). It has a vehicle with a radio and each person is armed. (The regulation small-arms are Spanish .38 revolvers, though pistols of various makes and calibres are issued.) One or two "Aka" machine-guns are also carried in each vehicle. A woman forms part of each operational unit. All of these women are very young (18-20 years of age) and allegedly are the product of courses given by the Carabineros and the Navy for female personnel.

Halcon Unit-1 allegedly consists of four persons: "Troglo" ("Ogre") who is the chief of the sub-unit, Osvaldo Romo, "Pulgar" ("Thumb") and "Soledad" (a woman). Particulars on these persons that have been reported to the group are:

(a) "Troglo" is an Army corporal, a native of Chillan and member of its regiment for the past 10 years. He is aggressive and cruel. A torturer, his criminal activities seem to make him directly responsible for the deaths of many detainees and an accomplice in others. His real name is thought to be Marcelo Alvarez M.

(b) Osvaldo Romo: the Group wishes once again to draw the particular attention of the General Assembly to the acts of this man Romo, the master torturer of Chile. He is an ever-present companion of "Troglo", has considerable influence over the Unit. His work in the DINA also involves serving as a kind of consultant to its chief on the "characteristics of the Chilean Left". His name has become synonymous with terror and torture in Chile.

(c) "Pulgar", rank unknown, belongs to the Carabineros. Cruel, full of hatred in his work, not as extreme as the two persons mentioned above but becoming so.

(d) "Soledad" belongs to the Navy. She has not been seen torturing or interrogating.

Halcon Unit-2 allegedly consists of five persons: "Tulio" who is the chief of the sub-unit, "Niki" or "Cara de Santo" ("Angel Face"), "Muneca" ("Doll"), another man whose name is unknown, and a young woman called "Teresa". The four men belong to the Carabineros and the woman to the women's branch of the Navy. The following particulars on these persons have been reported to the Group:

(a) "Tulio" is a warrant officer or sergeant in the Carabineros. His real name is probably Arturo Pincheira. Has prior experience in police investigation. Used to work against drug smuggling in Tarapaca. Hard-hearted, during interrogation and torture he is unbending. At other times he treats prisoners decently. His unit is marked by strict discipline and esprit de corps. It has made many arrests and has killed people in clashes but does not seem to be given to the alleged moral degradation, corruption and perversion common to the other units. While this is true of the unit as a whole, the same cannot be said of "Teresa" (see below), who seems to be merciless, cruel and perverted.

(b) "Niki" or "Angel Face" belongs to the Carabineros, rank unknown.

(c) "Muneca" may be a corporal in the Carabineros.

(d) Fourth man in the unit, name unknown, joined the unit, name unknown, joined the unit only recently. Prior to the coup d'etat was a traffic policeman. He may be a corporal.

(e) "Teresa", or "Chica Tere", belongs to the Navy (she must be of high rank). A torturer who treats women prisoner very badly.

Aguila Unit, also known as the Unit "de los Guatones", is allegedly the most merciless, cruel, coarse and corrupt unit in the DINA or at any rate in this Section. All of its members are about 35-45 years of age. Probably they all belong to the Carabineros. Although it is not certain, there are possibly two sub-units. The Unit Chief is "Gino", a sergeant or warrant officer in the Carabineros. The most feared member of the unit is a man known as "galo"; he allegedly is extremely cruel and treats all prisoners very badly whatever the circumstances. Another member of the Unit is known as "el Pelao del Jockey". There is a female member of the Unit.

Little is known about the Vampiro Unit, whose commanding officer is Lieutenant "Pablito". All of its members have a reputation for being Extremely cruel.

Nothing is known about the Tucan Unit.

The "Puren" Section is under a captain and there are reported to be three other officers of the rank of army captain as well. A woman is also said to be working in this Section. Little else is known about this Section. However, it is likely that it is responsible for repression of the Chilean Communist and Christian Democratic Parties. The resources at its disposal are probably similar to those of the Caupolican Section.

There allegedly has been a dispute between the "Caupolican" and "Puren" Sections concerning operational methods, particularly torture. "Puren" appears to favour the use of "soft" methods (i.e. psychological pressure, use of drugs, hypnosis, etc.). This dispute is said to have been referred to higher authority, since Puren Section has been concerned about the number of deaths caused by the use of physical torture by Caupolican.

Generally speaking, all the members of the operational units would appear to be corrupt in different ways. When making searches, they apply the principle of the spoils of war, taking furniture, appliances, money, clothing, etc. (this is allegedly accepted practice in the DINA, except in the case of money and valuables). The houses owned by detainees are usually taken over by the DINA, which allots them to various agents. In this way it rewards their repressive activities and supplements the salaries of the lower ranking personnel, which are usually small.

In addition, there is a contingent (estimated at 25 to 40 persons) for guarding the "Terranova" Centre and the detainees, and for cooking. Lastly, there is an operational unit (with shifts working round the clock). The normal work schedule is 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. approximately. The total number of staff is said to be over 100. During a "normal" night a contingent of some 20-25 persons is on duty under an officer commanding the guard.

Apart from Villa Grimaldi, there are other places which are presumably DINA premises:

- (a) A house on Londres street, the code name of which appears to be "Yucatan";
- (b) A residence expropriated by the DINA on Jose Domingo Canas street, which belonged to the Brazilian sociologist and professor at the University of Chile's Economic Department, Teothonio Do Santos;
- (c) A house on Santa Rosa street, near the free fair in that area;
- (d) An apartment in the San Borja Housing project;
- (e) A house on Sevilla street, in the Vivaceta area;
- (f) A house on Eduardo Castillo Velasco street, in the Munoz area;
- (g) An apartment on Huerfanos street, belonging to the University of Chile's School of Social Services;
- (h) The basement of the State Bank building;
- (i) The basement of the National Congress building;
- (j) Premises in Tejas Verdes, in San Antonio;
- (k) Regimiento Chacabuco de Talcahuano, in Concepcion;
- (l) Premises in El Cajon del Maipo, in Santiago province;
- (m) Cuatro Alamos;
- (n) A clandestine clinic with a legal front in Santa Lucia street, in the centre of Santiago, next to the Chilean-British Cultural Institute,

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1. As far as Amnesty International knows, these centers are no longer used by the DINA (for example: calle Londres, Cuatro Alamos...) but new secret detention centers are now being used.

to which badly wounded persons and tortured prisoners in serious condition are brought. This "legalized" clinic also treats DINA personnel. The medical staff must consist of at least three persons; the care provided by them is said to be limited to disinfecting some wounds and administering antibiotics, analgesics and tranquillizers.

Another DINA centre is known to exist in Colonia Dignidad; the Group made reference to it in its previous report (E/CN.4/1188, para. 129). Colonia Dignidad is located on the road to the Castillo hot springs in Parral, 400 kilometres south of Santiago, in Linares province. An agricultural colony which is reportedly a virtual town, it includes schools and hospitals and has the necessary infrastructure for about 500 people. In Colonia Dignidad prisoners have allegedly been subjected to different "experiments" without any interrogation: to dogs trained to commit sexual aggressions and destroy sexual organs of both sexes; to "tests" on the limits of resistance to different methods of torture (resistance to beating, electricity, hanging, etc.); to experiments designed to drive detainees insane through administration of drugs; to prolonged periods of isolation and other sub-human conditions. It is noteworthy that in this camp prisoners allegedly hear nothing from their captors other than the orders for torture. In Colonia Dignidad there appears to be a torture centre of a particular kind in a specially equipped place underground: there are small, completely soundproof, hermetically sealed cells for prisoners. Leather hoods are placed over the prisoners' heads and stuck to their faces with chemical adhesives. In these cells torturers allegedly carry out interrogation over a closed-circuit radio system, with the detainees naked and tied to their berths while electric shocks are applied.

Several witnesses heard by the Group referred to cases where detention, interrogation and torture were carried out by groups of persons whom they were not able to identify. One witness described these persons as being "highly qualified and very intelligent". They were reported to carry out interrogations in an unidentified place, which was not one of the known places of torture, in the DINA manner, applying electric shocks. Fears were expressed that this type of interrogation and torture may have been carried out by groups of persons linked in one way or another with the DINA; it was stated in another context that the DINA had recruited tens of thousands of collaborators, some of whom were members of the organization Patria y Libertad.

