

HISTORICAL FILE

URGENT ACTION

amnesty international

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMF 22/14/80
Distr: UA

FOR ACTION ONLY BY International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England
FRG, FRANCE, SWEDEN, USA

UA 122/80

Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death ~~sentences or the crime of torture~~ or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons wherever they may be and for any advocate of violence.
Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c)

17 June 1980

CHILE: 98 students from Catholic University in Santiago

COUNTRY SECTION
DOSSIER 7

AI has learnt of the arrest on 13 June 1980 of 98 students from the State-run Catholic University in Santiago. No names are yet known. They were arrested in a restaurant in central Santiago where they were holding a political meeting in defiance of Decree Law 77 of 1973 which banned political activities. They are reported to have had tapes of "Marxist" protest songs and a large quantity of allegedly "subversive" material.

The Ministry of the Interior has to decide within five days whether to bring charges against the students. It is feared that the authorities might use Decree Law 3168 of February 1980, which has been used for other recent mass arrests, in order to send the students into internal exile for three months. According to Decree Law 3168 the government may intern "Chileans or foreigners who in any way threaten or disturb the peace" at places of enforced residence inside the country for up to three months. Decree Law 3168 was used against 17 people arrested during International Women's Day Demonstrations on 8 March 1980, and against 37 people arrested on 1 May 1980.

There has been an upsurge in repression in Chile over the past three months. Hundreds of people have been arrested, detained for short periods and then released without charge. Those against whom sufficient evidence has been found have been charged under the Law of Internal State Security, mostly for belonging to banned left-wing groups. Reports received by AI indicate that most of those arrested recently have been held in incommunicado detention for the five days allowed under the law and many of them have been tortured. Torture has become systematic in Chile during the first five days of detention before a prisoner is charged or released. There is therefore concern about the physical safety of the 98 students.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR ACTION ONLY BY UA PARTICIPANTS IN FRG, FRANCE, SWEDEN AND USA

Telegrams/express letters/letters requesting that the names, whereabouts and legal situation of the 98 students arrested on 13 June 1980 be made known. Please also request that, in the absence of charges being brought against them, they be released immediately and ask for assurances regarding their physical well-being.

APPEALS TO:	General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte Presidente de la Republica Edificio Diego Portales Santiago, Chile	Sr Sergio Fernández Fernández Ministro del Interior Ministerio del Interior Edificio Diego Portales Santiago, Chile
	Dr Israel Borquez Presidente de la Corte Suprema Plaza Montt Varas Santiago, Chile	General de Brigada Humberto Gordón Rubio Jefe de la Región Metropolitana Santiago, Chile
COPIES TO:	Sr René Rojas Galdamez Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores Palacio Meneda Santiago, Chile	Comisión Chilena de Derechos Humanos Casa de los Derechos Humanos Av. Bernardo O'Higgins 1584 Santiago, Chile

- Hoy, Eliodoro Yañez 890, Santiago, Chile
- El Mercurio, Esmeralda 1002, Casilla, 57-V, Valparaíso, Chile
- Chilean diplomatic representatives to your country.

Amnesty International

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GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

IN 122/80

CHILE: 98 students from Catholic University in Santiago

As has learnt of the arrest on 13 June 1980 of 98 students from the State-run Catholic University in Santiago, the names are not known. They were arrested in a restaurant in central Santiago where they were holding a political meeting in defiance of Decree Law 2191 of 1973 which banned political activities. They are reported to have had access to "hardcore" student homes and a large quantity of allegedly "subversive" material.

The Ministry of the Interior has to decide within five days whether to bring charges against the students. It is feared that the authorities might use Decree Law 2191 of February 1980, which has been used for other recent mass arrests, in order to send the students into internal exile for three months. According to Decree Law 2191 the government may intern "Chileans or foreigners who in any way threaten or disturb the peace" at places of enforced residence inside the country for up to three months. Decree Law 2191 was used against 17 people arrested during International Women's Day demonstrations on 8 March 1980, and against 37 people arrested on 1 May 1980.

There has been an increase in repression in Santiago in Chile over the past three months. Hundreds of people have been arrested, detained for short periods and then released without charge. Two against whom sufficient evidence has been found have been charged under the law of Internal State Security, mostly for belonging to banned left-wing groups. Reports received by AI indicate that most of those arrested recently have been held in incomunicado detention for the five days allowed under the law and many of them have been tortured. Torture has become systematic in Chile during the first five days of detention before a prisoner is charged or released. There is therefore concern about the physical safety of the 98 students.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR ACTION ONLY BY PARTICIPANTS IN FRG, FRANCE, SWEDEN AND USA

Participants/activists should contact/notify the relevant authorities and legal assistance of the 98 students arrested on 13 June 1980 in Santiago. Please also request that in the absence of further information...

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action. <input type="checkbox"/> Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person"; Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"; Article 9, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile". <input type="checkbox"/> The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals. <input type="checkbox"/> In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture". <input type="checkbox"/> Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case. |
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