

CHILE

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN CHILE DURING APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 1980

APRIL

- 3 Case against Talleres Socialistas Democráticos (Socialist Democratic Workshops) re-opened. The case against Luis Angel Santibañez, Leonardo Jeffs, Jaime Carmona, Hernán Valenzuela and Raúl Elgueta is for contravening the law banning political activity and was opened in December 1979 by the Minister of the Interior. The case was brought as a result of a press conference given by the above-named to announce that the Talleres Socialistas Democráticos had been set up. Four days later, the Minister of the Interior started the case against them. In March 1980 Servando Jordán (Minister in the Court of Appeal, Santiago) ordered the case to be suspended for lack of evidence. Now the court has ordered it to be re-opened.
- 4 Conference called by the Agrupación Nacional de Centros Culturales y Juveniles (National Association of Cultural and Youth Centres) forbidden by the government.
- 10 The government announces that the official celebration of May Day is to take place in Edificio Diego Portales and forbids any "parallel or unauthorized celebrations". It would only permit celebrations in the respective headquarters of the official trade union bodies.
- 10 Arrest of Juan Jara, leader of the Federación Nacional de Taxis de Chile (FENATACH; Chilean Taxi Drivers' Union) for "infringing the Law of Internal State Security": he had criticized the government's economic policies.
- 10 Arrest of Germán Haisson, alleged to be MIR (Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria; Movement of the Revolutionary Left) leader Andrés Pascal Allende's chauffeur. A recurso de amparo (writ of protection) is presented on his behalf by Carlos Horta Valenzuela, who himself later seeks asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy.
- 11 Arrest of Jaime Cuevas Hormazabal, a leader of MAPU Obrero-Campesino and member of the Unión de Jóvenes Democráticos (Union of Democratic Youth), accused of having links with the MIR.
11. Arrest of 12 leaders of the Confederación Unidad Obrero Campesina (UOC; Confederation of Worker-Peasant Unity) by the CNI (Central Nacional de Informaciones; National Centre of Information - the security police) following a search of their offices. They are accused of "promoting agitative activities for 1 May". The organization had been banned on 30 October 1978. One of those

arrested, lawyer Ramón Toledo, later declared: "...we were tied up with handcuffs or belts and hooded with paper bags. They took our finger prints and photographed and filmed us with television cameras ... they put posters on the wall which we could not read ... Some people were beaten ... They forced us to sign documents declaring that we had not been maltreated or harassed ..." Others arrested were Carlos Morales, President of the UOC, Humberto Vergara, Treasurer, Raúl Aravena, Secretary General, national leaders Hernán Navarro, Carlos Ulloa and Alfonso Hernández; Oscar Valladares, Hector Lagos, René Aucapán and Angélica Moncada. Eight of them were taken away to an unknown place but they were all released later the same day.

- 18 Juan Jara, the taxi drivers' leader, released on bail.
- 21 The Minister of the Interior, Sergio Fernández, warns that "whosoever tries to precipitate the process of returning to the unjust political practices of the past, the law will be applied to them with rigour and without hesitation, as was made clear by the measures taken following recent street demonstrations."
- 21 The Grand Master of Chilean Masons accuses the Catholic Church and other religious groups in Chile of seeking to overthrow the government.
- 22 The military commander of the Valparaíso area re-establishes the curfew in the city of Valparaíso and the whole of the Fifth Region.
- 24 Five students who had been expelled from the University of Chile and the Technical University occupied the UNESCO offices in Santiago for 48 hours. The students wanted to have a meeting with the highest university authorities to ask them for their "mediation and to obtain a solution to the problem of expulsion and suspension which affects us."
- 27 Death in prison in Talca of Bernardo Enrique Solorza González, alleged to have committed suicide by hanging himself with elastic from his underclothes.
- 28 Carabinero (uniformed policeman) Heriberto Novoa Escobar killed while guarding the "Flame of Liberty" on Santa Lucía Hill in Santiago, allegedly by the MIR. More than 500 arrests reported as a result in the next two days.
- 28 Oscar Salazar Jahnsen shot dead by security forces, allegedly while resisting arrest. He had presented a recurso de amparo (writ of protection) in March because he was being followed. (See UA 74/80 and follow-up).
- 28 Three people arrested, accused of belonging to an "extremist cell" of the Liga Comunista de Chile (Communist League of Chile) said to be operating under the orders of Oscar Salazar Jahnsen (see above). The three are: Gonzalo Javier Hidalgo Campusano, Marianela Silvana Carniglia Tobar and Carlos Hector Vallejos González. (They were released on bail on 27 May)

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- 29 Three people arrested in Rancagua: Claudio and Adolfo Quinteros Tamayo, accused of belonging to the Juventud Comunista (Communist Youth) and of "violating State security"; and Ruperto García Díaz, accused of possessing a revolver and of holding secret meetings in his home.
- 29 Security forces (CNI), uniformed and civil police continue their massive operation in search of the persons responsible for the death of carabinero Heriberto Novoa. Entry roads to Santiago are strictly controlled. The Director General of Carabineros says that the killing of Novoa proves the existence of terrorism in Chile. "This obliges us to adopt drastic measures." He did not specify what these measures might be.
- 29 The number of arrests since 28 April reaches 517 - 349 under suspicion, and five for breaches of the Law of Internal State Security (all five are students). The majority of the arrests were carried out in the centre of Santiago. Carabineros from the Primera Prefectura (Police administrative division) alone carried out 284 arrests. A large number of recursos de amparo were presented for those arrested.
- 29 Carlos Horta Valenzuela (see 10 April above) seeks asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy. He was being sought by the security forces because of his alleged friendship with Germán Haisson Arismendo, who had been arrested a few days previously accused of being Andrés Pascal Allende's chauffeur. A recurso de amparo had been presented by Carlos Horta because he had been threatened with detention by unidentified civilians.
- 30 Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríques cancels May Day mass because of warnings from persons close to the government that there could be violent clashes and even deaths. He said that he did not want "to be directly or indirectly held responsible for these possible incidents". The government denied having requested suspension of the mass. An Interior Ministry statement said that the government was not "responsible for the fact that religious events might be turned into political acts".
- 30 Arrest of five leaders of the Federación Nacional de Sindicatos Metalúrgicos (FENSIMET; the metalworkers' union) charged with "lack of representativity" under Decree Law 2346 of October 1978. They are Ricardo Lecaros, Juan Manuel Sepúlveda, Ruben Valdés, Rolando Olivares and Benito Villagra.
- 30 The police attribute the bomb attack and death of a carabinero on 28 April to a 12-member group of the MIR headed by a woman "surgeon" named as María Isabel Ortega Fuentes, whose fingerprints they claim to have found in the taxi used for the attack. Seven suspects, including a woman were arrested at the time of the attack.
- 30 The Appeals Court in Santiago requests the Ministry of the Interior for information concerning seven students for whom they have received recursos de amparo. The seven students from the Agronomy Faculty of the University of Chile were arrested on the night of

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28 April by the CNI. Their names are: Verónica Ríos Sironville, María Eliana Álvarez González, Margarita Leiva Pérez (together with her 3-month-old son), Pedro Izquierdo Huneus, Rodrigo García Hurtado, Rodrigo Fuentes Rustom and Jorge Fontecilla Concha. One of the women is reported to be pregnant.

- 30 The military authorities for the Santiago announce that, as a precautionary measure, troops will be kept on alert and traffic will be restricted during the nights of 30 April and 1 May. "Anyone suspected of or caught carrying out any illegal act will be immediately arrested and tried according to the law." "All celebrations taking place in trade union headquarters are authorized. What the government will not accept or tolerate is that the labour festival should turn into a political act with other aims."

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- 1 55 people arrested during unauthorized demonstrations in Santiago and charged under the Law of Internal State Security. There were also some arrests in Concepción.
- Seven Italian trade unionists who were due to attend a celebration in Santiago organized by the Coordinadora Nacional Sindical were detained in their hotel for several hours by security agents. They were released following the intervention of the Italian Chargé d'Affaires. Clotario Blest, the veteran trade union leader, was also held under house arrest for a short time.
- The Auxiliary Bishop of Santiago, Monsignor Enrique Alvear, together with Monsignors Miguel Ortega, Alfonso Baeza, Cristián Precht, and Father Fernando Tapia, were stopped in their car and searched by security agents armed with machine guns, as they were leaving a trade union celebration.
- Two journalists from "Boletín Solidaridad" (a magazine produced by the Vicaría de la Solidaridad) were also stopped and searched.
- The director of "La Tribuna" was arrested on suspicion by military personnel in Los Angeles (Concepción). He was released the next day.
- 2 The seven students from the Agronomy Faculty of the University of Chile arrested on 28 April are released without charge (see 30 April above).
- 57 recursos de amparo are presented by lawyers from the Vicaría Pastoral Obrera for those arrested in Santiago on May Day. Two were released later that day. Also under arrest is student Juan Alfonso Corvalán Cornejo for whom no recurso de amparo has been presented.
- 3 The CNI deny stopping and searching Monsignor Alvear and four other priests on May Day and say that they do not rule out the possibility that an "extremist commando group" were responsible.

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- 3 An armed group, alleged to be members of the MIR, attack a CNI barracks in Santiago. It is reported that they stole a taxi for the purpose and kept the driver tied up in the boot during the operation.
- 3 A group of about 20 people take over the church of San Miguel in southern Santiago demanding the release of those arrested on May Day and the return of those sent into internal exile.
- 4 The five metalworkers' leaders arrested on 30 April released on bail.
- 5 29 recursos de amparo presented to 'Pedro Aguirre Cerda' Court and the Appeals Court in Santiago for persons arrested on May Day; four are rejected.
- 5 Seven alleged members of the MIR are arrested in Santiago accused of operating a clandestine printing press and radio transmitter. Their names are: Hernán Alba Sánchez, Juan Pablo Alba Sánchez, Juana Rosa Aguilera Jaramillo, Inés Angélica Díaz Tapia, Pedro Alejandro Fernández Lembach, Ana Olivia Armijo Vásquez and Arturo Santibañez Latorre.
- 6 37 of those arrested on May Day sent into internal exile in different parts of the country under Decree Law 3168. No names or places were given. It was announced that the nine people still in detention would be brought to trial but seven were later released. The two remaining are Lautaro Torres and Julio Mardones. The official communiqué issued by the Ministry of the Interior read as follows: "Regarding the activists, it has been decided that they will be sentenced to three months' enforced residence in various parts of the country. Regarding people who had previously engaged in acts which disturbed public order, they have been placed at the disposal of the ordinary court for violating the national security law. Those detainees who are not punishable under the above law will be released but investigations into their personal records will continue."
- 6 At least 20 people arrested during a large-scale police operation carried out in the early morning in southern Santiago in search of those suspected of killing the policeman on 28 April.
- 7 The people occupying the church of San Miguel agree to leave after receiving guarantees from the government that no arrests would be made.
- 7 Two alleged MIR members arrested in connection with the running of a clandestine printing press. One is Jorge Torres, the other's name is not known.
- 8 11 alleged MAPU members arrested in Curicó accused of contravening the Law of Internal State Security and of planning attacks on farms in order to get money. They are: José Mario Salazar Sepúlveda, Ramón Luis Rivas Muñoz, Manuel Jesús Calquín Fuentes, Verónica del Carmen Flores Montecinos, Oscar Daniel Cabrera Díaz, María Gonzalez Alcaino, Oscar Saturnino Salas Guerra, César Enrique Díaz Arriagada, Mario Antonio Puebla Mesías, Manuel Bernardo Orellana Castro and Luis Guillermo Díaz Agurto. Their alleged leader, Patricio Catal Rodríguez, is still at large. A Dutch priest, Teodoro Klomberg Verrgsman, is also implicated but it is reported that he has since left the country.

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- 9 24 prisoners escape from Talcahuano Prison allegedly with the help of members of the MIR who were trying to rescue imprisoned MIR member Atlas Romero Bello.
- 9 Five alleged MIR members arrested in Santiago and Puente Alto, in connection with terrorist activities in Aguas Claras.
- 9 It was revealed that three of those sent into internal exile are trainee priests of the Assumption Fathers order: José Juan Espinoza Bahamondes, Luis Agustín Fernández San Martín and Estéban Luis Monsálves Segura.
- 12 The head of the CNI, General Odlanier Mena, said in a statement to "El Mercurio" (a Santiago daily newspaper), that the CNI "only acts within the law ... There have been no changes in the legal attributes of the CNI. It continues to operate with the same ones. Any changes have been the result of modifications in the state of emergency." He went on to confirm that seven people were under arrest in connection with the theft of an historic flag in early April, the occupation of San Miguel Church and the printing of MIR publications. He concluded by saying that the 'suitability' of people working in public administration was still being checked.
- 12 CODES (Comité de Defensa de Derechos Sindicales; Committee for the Defence of Trade Union Rights) estimates that 800 people have been arrested since May Day.
- 13 Three lawyers present a disciplinary complaint to the Martial Court against military prosecutor Luis Berger after being prevented from seeing their clients in the military prosecutors' offices in Santiago, in contravention of Constitutional Act No. 3.
- 13 Four of those arrested on May Day and later released after being brought before the courts denounce the measures taken against the 37 relegados (those sent to internal exile) as being unjust and arbitrary. "The exiles were arrested in the same circumstances as ourselves and if they had been put at the disposition of the courts, they would today be enjoying unconditional freedom." During their detention the four allege that they were subjected to intensive interrogation.
- 14 The Minister of Foreign Affairs, René Rojas Galdames, declares that as there are no charges pending against Carlos Horta Valenzuela, who is seeking asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy, there is no reason why he should not leave the country. "In this case it is not necessary to offer political asylum as this person is not in a dangerous situation. The situation in this country is normal and so an asylum application is improper." On entering the embassy, Horta said that he was being followed by security agents and that he feared for his life.
- 14 Inauguration of the offices of the Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (National Human Rights Commission) which was set up two years ago.

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- 14 A new magazine "Gente Actual" is banned by the authorities in order to comply with "the national need to maintain order, peace and the tranquility of the citizens". The military commander of the Santiago region said that he was not legally obliged to reveal the reasons for the decision, which was taken in accordance with Military Edict No. 122 of 1978. The latter lays down that permission to publish a magazine has to be obtained from the military commander of the region under the state of emergency which contradicts Constitutional Act No. 3 whereby "every natural or legal person will have the right to establish, publish and run newspapers, magazines or periodicals in the conditions laid down by the law".
- 14 The same publishing company, Editorial Aconcagua, also submitted four books for approval to the military commander on 26 March. So far no answer has been given. The books are: "Detenidos Desaparecidos: una herida abierta" (Disappeared Prisoners: an open wound) by Patricio Verdugo and Claudio Orrego; "Lonquén" by Máximo Pacheco; "Testigos del Siglo XX: Clotario Blest" (Witnesses of the Twentieth Century: Clotario Blest) by various authors; and "En los más espesos bosques" (In the thickest woods) by Jaime Hagel.
- 15 The seven alleged MIR members arrested on 5 May are still being held incommunicado, the four men in the Cárcel Pública (Public Prison) and the three women in the Casa Correccional (Women's Prison).
- 16 Roberto Zamorano Nuñez, who was arrested on 5 October 1979, together with Ulises Gómez Navarro, and accused of possessing arms, was finally acquitted of all charges. He had been released on bail on 19 October 1979.
- 16 The Bishops' Conference of the Chilean Roman Catholic Church issued a statement saying that a sustained campaign was being waged against the Church in an attempt to destroy its prestige.
- 17-18 Five of the alleged seven MIR members arrested on 5 May are officially charged under the Arms Control Law and moved to the Penitenciaría (Penitentiary). They are alleged to have been severely tortured (see UA 96/80 of 22 May). The other two, Arturo Santibañez Latorre and Juan Pablo Alba Sánchez, were released due to lack of evidence.
- 18 Approximately 20 people arrested over the past few days in Talca. They are accused of carrying out "extremist activities". One of those arrested was Guillermo Muñoz, ex-deputy for Talca, whose whereabouts were unknown for several days.
- 20 Four people arrested accused of circulating two unauthorized magazines, "Libertad" and "Unidad Antifascista" (Liberty and Anti-Fascist Unity). They are: José Maldawsky Kischinevsky, a journalist from "Hoy" magazine (previously detained for several days on 8 March); Jorge Mario Soza Egaña, ex-director of "El Siglo", which used to be the Communist Party newspaper before 1973; Jaime Tarifeño Urra; and María Inés González Figueroa. They were held incommunicado and their whereabouts unknown for several days.

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- 22 The Permanent Defence Committee for Freedom of Expression of the Chilean Journalists' College denounce the arrests of 20 May and give details of further recent harassment of journalists.
- 22 Appearance of leaflets "Versus Comunismo" (Versus Communism) put out by the so-called "Group of Catholic Anti-Communists", in which Cardinal Silva is accused of "using human rights as a means of rehabilitating marxist-leninism in Chile".
- 22 The offices of the Archbishopric of Santiago are broken into and ransacked. It was also revealed that on the day following the murder of Archbishop Romero in El Salvador, the tomb of Cardinal Silva's parents was desecrated.
- 22 24 metalworkers' unions announce the creation of the Confederación de Sindicatos Metalúrgicos (Confederation of Metalworkers' Unions) under the leadership of the five ex-leaders of FENSIMET who are at present being investigated concerning charges of "lack of representativity" (see 30 April above).
- 24 The four people arrested on 20 May are ordered to be kept in incommunicado detention in the Penitenciaría. They are accused by the Minister of the Interior of offences under the Law of Internal State Security and Decree Law 77 which forbids marxist organizations.
- 25 Fire at the church of San Miguel which was occupied earlier in the month. Journalists who went there to take photographs were prevented from entering and allegedly threatened with chains.
- 28  
circa Offices of the Federación Nacional Minera (National Mining Federation) searched by 12 members of the CNI in the presence of the secretary, Hernán Castaneda, who was told that the organization was illegal. The home of the president of the federation was searched that same night.
- 28 30 people arrested in Antofagasta and nearby towns. One of them, Bernabé Videla Torres, was taken away by unidentified civilians and his whereabouts is unknown. It is feared that his brother Hugo may also have been arrested (see UA 108/80 of 30 May).
- 29 The courts are instructed by the government to investigate the alleged illegality of the Frente Unitario de Trabajadores (FUT; United Workers' Front) and of the Comando de Defensa de los Derechos Sindicales (Command for the Defence of Union Rights, which includes the Coordinadora Nacional Sindical, CNS), the Confederación de Empleados Particulares (CEPCH, Confederation of Private Employees), and the so-called "Group of 10".
- 29 Police break up a meeting of 1,000 people organized by the Coordinadora Nacional Sindical in a church in central Santiago to protest at the recent arrests and banishments.
- 31 14 peasant leaders, who had been arrested earlier in the month and released after five days, re-arrested in Talca by the CNI and taken to an unknown destination.

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31 12 of those arrested recently in Antofagasta (see 28 May) accused of belonging to "a cell of political activists" of the banned Communist Party. They were put at the disposition of the courts after having been held incommunicado for five days.

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2 Minister of the Appeals Court of Santiago, Adolfo Bañados Cuadra, orders the Brigada Investigadora de Asaltos (BIA, detective branch of the civil police) to carry out searches of supposed "letterbox-houses" (casas-buzones - network of secret contacts) of the Communist Party, in connection with the case against José Maldawsky and three others arrested on 21 May. The prisoners are still being held incommunicado.

2 The Comisión Chilena de Derechos Humanos holds a press conference in which it denounces the "discriminatory treatment" and "bad living conditions" of the 59 people who have been sent into internal exile. The Commission reports that the exiles have no possibility of doing paid work, or free board and lodgings, are restricted in their movements, underfed and poorly clothed, and in most cases are sent to small villages several thousand metres up in the mountains. They sometimes have to travel several kilometres several times a day to sign a control book.

3 The Vicario Episcopal (Episcopal Vicar) of the rural coastal zone of the Archbishopric of Santiago sent a letter to the Mayor of the María Pinto community, on the outskirts of the capital, criticizing him for trying to prevent the director of an old people's home in the village from giving board and lodgings to one of the people sent into internal exile, Cristián Galaz García. The old people's home is administered by the Church and the Episcopal Vicar stated that as long as Galaz remained in the village, the home would continue to offer him hospitality, in accordance with the evangelical mandate of "providing lodgings for strangers, feeding the hungry and visiting those deprived of their freedom".

5 A Chilean living in Caracas, Venezuela, Victor Manuel Campos Fuentes reportedly committed suicide five days after attempting to seek refuge in the Romanian Embassy, alleging that he was being pursued by Chilean and Argentinian police agents.

6 21 people arrested in Antofagasta at the end of May are ordered to be kept in prison pending trial for infringing provisions of the Law of Internal State Security. They are alleged to belong to a cell of the Communist Party and to have printed and distributed "subversive" leaflets. Their names are: Julio Pizarro Ocampo, Luis Martinez Delaport, Julio Angel Angel, Mario Flores Cortés, Bernardo Ubilla Araya, Eliana Ortega Rojas, Julio Carrillo Cortés, Luis Palacios Hidalgo, Nolberto Rivera, Domingo Ceriche Alfaro, Juan Castillo Tapia, Orlando Tello Castillo, Guillermo Bruna Bruna, José Honorio Cepeda, Ruby Espinoza Garbizo, Roberto Pozo Martínez and Mario Andrés Collao. Also held are Miguel Pena Calderón, José Lemus Gómez and Jorge Rodriguez Gallegos, who are alleged to have operated in Taltal, and Rosa Marquez, who is alleged to have operated in Calama. Two others, Mirta Allende Castro and Guillermo Carrillo Fuentealba were released for lack of evidence.

JUNE

- 7 Four armed persons, three men and one woman, hijacked a milk lorry, drove it to "La Victoria" shanty-town in Santiago and proceeded to share out the milk and other dairy products to the inhabitants. The police attributed the incident to the MIR and are looking for Ramón Levinao Riveros and his cousin, Jeremías Levinao Meliqueo, who allegedly belong to a Mapuche cell of the MIR.
- 7 The Archbishop of Valparaíso, Monsignor Emilio Tagle Covarrubias, issued a statement forbidding the use of churches and other buildings belong to the Church for meetings of a political nature. This followed a request by the "Group of 24" (a group set up to try and draw up a new constitution as an alternative to the new draft constitution drawn up by the government) to hold a meeting in a church in the parish of Viña del Mar.
- 7 Over 200 people arrested in an operation carried out by police and security forces in several parts of La Florida community in Santiago, allegedly in an attempt to "detect antisocial elements and possible extremist groups".
- 11 The Santiago Appeals Court ordered the re-opening of a case of presumed kidnapping in Santiago in December 1973 of two Bolivian students, Ramiro Carlos González González and his cousin Enrique Antonio Saavedra González.
- 11 José Maldawsky and three others arrested on 21 May are ordered by the Santiago Appeals Court to be brought to trial under Article 3 of Decree Law 77 ("spreading Marxist doctrine") and Article 4 a) of the Law of Internal State Security ("inciting or encouraging the subversion of public order, in an attempt to overthrow the constituted government"). However, the charge under Article 2 of Decree Law 77 was dropped. Article 2 of Decree Law 77 refers to the organizers of an "illegal association". The Court said that - at the time of their arrest - the four were neither organizing or promoting any illegal organization, but that they were militating in an already organized association, the proscribed Communist Party. The three men are being held in the Santiago Penitentiary and the woman is in the Centro de Orientación Feminina, Santiago (Women's prison).
- 11 A young unidentified, unemployed teacher was arrested by security agents in Calama - 1,700 kilometres north of Santiago - for insulting the President. General Pinochet was watching a military parade when the teacher is said to have raised his arms and shouted insults at him from a distance of some 20 metres. He was arrested as he tried to push his way towards the President. He was unarmed.
- 12 The Prosecutor of the Santiago Appeals Court asked for a sentence of three years' internal exile for alleged MIR member Ricardo de la Riva who is accused of having participated in the robbery of the flag of Chilean independence from the National History Museum. He was arrested on 8 April. The police later searched him home where they allege they found "subversive" propaganda and literature.

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12 98 people, mainly students, were arrested in a peña folklórica (folk club) in central Santiago, accused of participating in an "act of a subversive nature". The students were having a meal as an act of solidarity with students and student leaders who have been expelled from the University of Chile and the State Technical University over the last few months. Among those arrested was Isabel Liphay, a journalist from the magazine "Hoy".

12 The mother of one of the "disappeared" prisoners, Malva Hernández Castillo, has been dismissed from her job as a teacher at the University of Chile, allegedly for "budgetary reasons". The Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos (Group of Relatives of Disappeared Prisoners) issued a statement claiming that Mrs. Hernández "has been the victim of yet another injustice in reprisal for her decision to try and find out what happened to her son." Her son, Alejandro Medina Hernández, an 18-year-old philosophy student, was arrested on 27 May 1976 since when he has remained "disappeared".

13 An unidentified person died inside a military establishment belonging to the Second Miller Marine Infantry in Viña del Mar. The military authorities state in a communiqué that the person was caught inside the building and when approached by guards he tried to escape. The person was wounded as a result of the "immediate reaction of the security personnel" and died on the way to Viña del Mar Hospital. The Communiqué went on to say that the person had not yet been identified as s/he was not carrying any identification.

15 Three bombs were left in three different hotels in the centre of Santiago. One of the bombs, allegedly left by Jorge Verdugo Mondaca, exploded as it was being de-activated by the CNI Explosives Department and injured one policeman. No one was hurt in the other two explosions.

15/16 The 17 people sent into internal exile following demonstrations on 8 March, International Women's Day, returned to their homes in Santiago and Valparaíso.

17 The 29 women arrested on 12 June allege that they were "searched, and submitted to two interrogations and five identifications". The 73 men said that their personal belongings "were thoroughly searched and calculators, musical instruments and other things related to student and artistic activity were examined". They demanded their immediate release and stated that the national press had given "false information" about the incident and the reasons for the meeting. Later that day, the government announced that 22 of those arrested, mainly students and all men, would be sent into internal exile for three months. The Ministry of the Interior stated that the students were participating in a secret political meeting in which they distributed posters, leaflets and other printed matter "of a subversive nature", and that those who have been sent into internal exile showed "characteristics of being marxist activists and on repeated occasions have participated in activities affecting public order". The other 74 people arrested on 12 June were released but they were warned that if they were arrested again they would be similarly punished.

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- 18/19 The 22 people ordered into internal exile on 17 June were taken to several small towns on the island of Chiloe in the extreme south of Chile.
- 18 In a press conference, the Comisión Chilena de Derechos Humanos stated that violations of human rights in the country were on the increase. They said that 1,208 people had been arrested since the beginning of the year, which is equivalent to a rate of seven per day. Mass arrests as a result of "round-ups" by the police and security forces during the first three months of the year led to several hundred people being arbitrarily deprived of their freedom only to be later released with no charges being brought against them. The Comisión emphasized that the present situation is marked by five main trends: a) the prolonging of the state of emergency; b) the growing number of Chileans affected by concrete measures arbitrarily taken against them; c) the gradual removal of any kind of defence from cases, and even the complete lack of intervention on the part of the judicial authorities in some; d) the continuing use of illegal forms of pressure, including the use of torture and the loss of objectivity regarding punishable conduct; and e) the application of sanctions in matters of individual conscience. Lawyers Fabiola Letelier and Gonzalo Taborga provided information on the cases of the peasants arrested in Talca, stating that they had proof that the peasants were "tortured physically and psychologically" using various methods. They allege that the peasants were forced to sign "confessions" while they were blindfolded, and were later released without charge. Guillermo Yungue, President of the Comisión de Defensa de Derechos Juveniles (CODEJU, Youth Rights Defence Committee) said that one of the people sent into internal exile following the International Women's Day demonstrations, had been kidnapped on two occasions by unknown persons in the place that he had been sent to. The Comisión Chilena de Derechos Humanos also pointed out the repeated violations of the rights of assembly, education, work and freedom of the press, as well as numerous cases of "abuse of power".
- 18 A recurso de amparo was presented to the Santiago Appeals Court by Monsignor René Vio Valdivieso of the rural zone of the Santiago Archbishopric on behalf of a Chilean priest Ignacio Serrano Moraga who has been prevented by the government from returning to the country following the completion of a sentence of 'five years' banishment passed on him in 1974 by the Council of War, after his arrest in 1973.
- 18 A recurso de queja (writ of complaint) presented on behalf of Mario Navarro, President of the External Committee of the illegal Central Unica de Trabajadores (CUT; Trade Union Congress), who wants to return to Chile, was rejected by the Supreme Court of Justice.
- 19 The Santiago Appeals Court ordered the reopening of the investigation into the disappearance in 1975 of Alfredo Rojas Castañeda, who was Director General of the State Railways at the time of the coup d'etat. The court has asked for reports to be provided by the Security Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and by the Ministry of the Interior.

JUNE

- 19 10 people arrested in connection with an explosion in Concepción in June 1979 and released on bail in September of last year, have been acquitted. They are: Tito Carrillo, Alejandro Sepúlveda, Eduardo Contreras, Samuel Aedo, Nelson González, Rosa Zurita, Jorge Lizama, Pedro Neira, Cecilio Arévalo and David Duran.
- 19 Patricio Reyes Sutherland, arrested in September 1979, is to be brought to trial for possible infringement of the Law of Internal State Security. He is accused of putting up a "subversive" sign in a Santiago street, together with three others. He is already involved in another court case in connection with the Arms Control Law.
- 19 Juan Jara, leader of the Taxi Drivers' Federation, arrested on 10 April and released on bail on 17 April, was given a suspended sentence of 61 days' imprisonment for insulting the government authorities. He has to sign a book periodically in the court where the trial took place.
- 20 The Dean of the Philosophy Faculty of the University of Chile has suspended 29 students for having participated in demonstrations of support for sacked teacher, Malva Hernández (see 12 June). He said that the punishment against the students was temporary as he was waiting for the arrival in the next few days of the Rector of the University, General Agustín Toro Dávila, who is abroad. The university authorities said that they were also investigating other cases of pupils "continually involved in incidents of a political nature", but gave no further details.
- 26 Ten people, seven women and three secondary school students, were arrested while paying homage at the grave of the late President Salvador Allende on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of his birth. The grave is in Santa Inés cemetery in Viña del Mar.
- 27 Those arrested on 26 June were taken to the Primera Comisaría (police station) in Viña del Mar and 5 women were released. Recursos de amparo have been presented on behalf of the other six. According to one report, they were arrested for shouting anti-government slogans.
- 29 Carabineros (uniformed police) prevented a dinner organized by the Federación Nacional de Taxis de Chile (FENATACH; National Chilean Taxi Federation) in honour of Juan Jara (see 19 June above) from taking place because it had not been authorized in accordance with military edict (bando) No. 82 of the Ministry of Defence. The meal was to be attended by 1,500 people.

