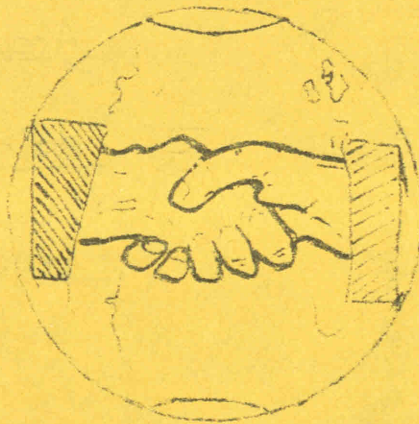


# SOLIDARITY

## Direct Links

**Chile**



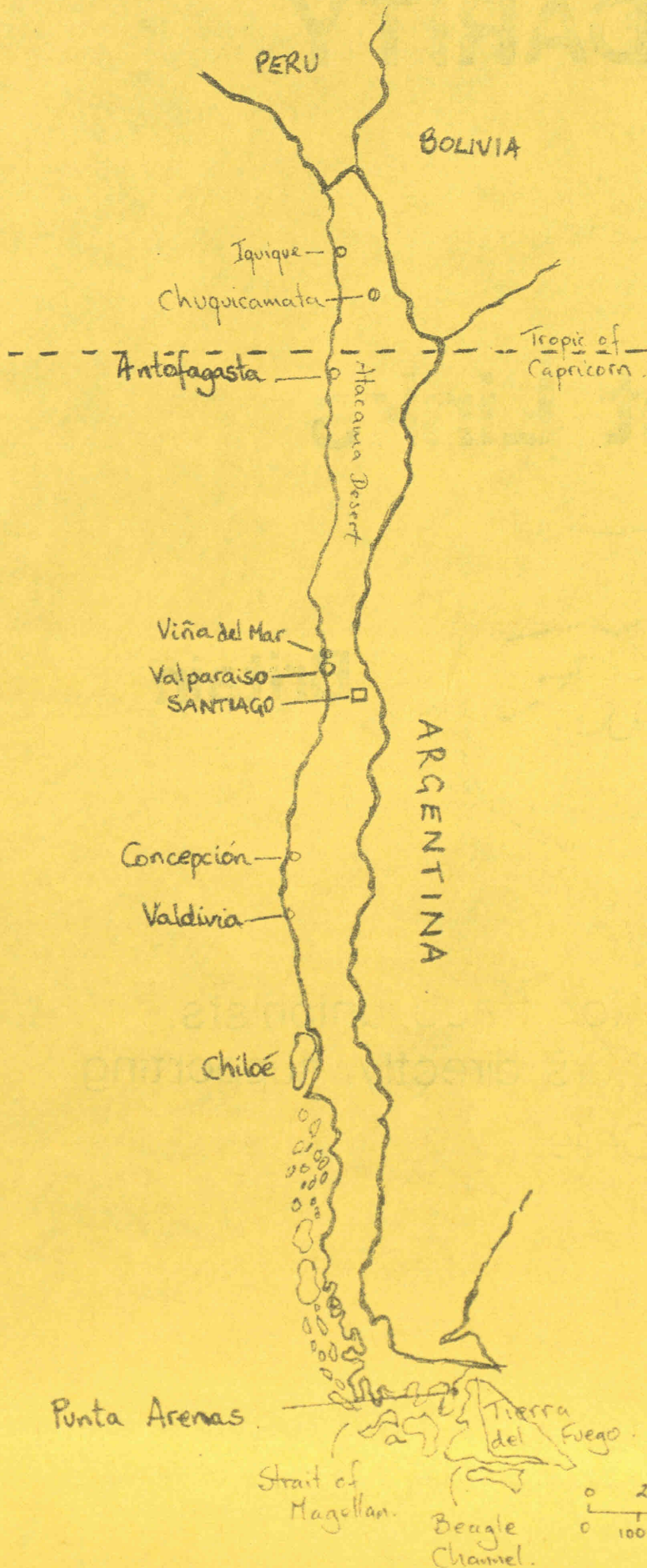
**Britain**

An action guide for trade unionists,  
students and others directly supporting  
the struggle in Chile.

Chile Solidarity Campaign



# MAP OF CHILE



Population: 11 million

Area: 300,000 square miles

Main Exports: copper, wool

fruit, timber, nitrates.



## ORGANISED RESISTANCE IN CHILE.

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Almost immediately after the brutal military coup of the 11th of September 1973 the Chilean People began organising to resist the Junta headed by General Pinochet. Grass roots organisations, in the shanty towns, among students and within the limitations of the Labour Laws in the factories, have grown in strength and confidence, despite the repression, over the last 9 years.

Marches, demonstrations, petitions and a wide range of campaigns have been fought and are being fought. A campaign for the whereabouts of the 2,500 disappeared prisoners to be explained by the Junta and Human Rights to be restored. Workers strikes for better wages, petitions calling for the rejection of monetarism and the adoption of an economic model to meet the needs of the People and more direct action to overthrow the Junta and bring back a democratic system. A vast number of all sorts of different groups are working in Chile under often appalling conditions. This year we have seen attacks on Trade Union offices and the burning down of the offices of the Chile Commission for Human Rights, but nevertheless, opposition grows.

The effects of the economic crisis caused by the failure of the monetarist economic model have reached large sections of the middle classes who are turning away from Pinochet. This general disillusionment is also reflected in the growing politicisation of the Trade Union Movement in Chile and the increasing militancy of the traditionally more conservative sections of it. Following the coup, trade union activity was repressed and the Chilean TUC (C.U.T.) was banned. Until 1978, opposition trade union came under the umbrella of the 'Group of Ten', a christian democrat dominated organisation bringing together various federations which received international support - notably from the US AFL-CIO. According to one version of events, it was a visit by AFL-CIO representatives in January 1978 which greatly influenced later developments. The delegation attached conditions to AFL-CIO support including a demand that the Group of Ten should distance itself from 'marxist elements'. This led to a great internal debate within the Group, and a few months later to the expulsion of two leading members - Hernan Mery and Juan Manuel Sepulveda, both Christian democrats, who refused to accept the AFL-CIO conditions. Following their expulsion they publically declared the formation of a new organisation - The National Trade Union Co-ordinating Committee. Since 1978 this organisation has grown until now there are around one million members affiliated through thousands of local branch unions, in almost every type of work. On the 25th of February this year, Tucapel Jimenez president of the Chilean Public Employees Union ANEF was found dead in his car with his throat cut. He had been followed and kidnapped by the secret police on his way to a trade union meeting. That meeting had been called to discuss moves towards trade union unity especially between the Group of Ten (now re-named the democratic union of workers - the UDT). And that was precisely what Pinochet and the Junta were afraid of - so Tucapel Jimenez - a lifelong moderate and anti-communist was murdered. There is no doubt, though, that his death has been a set back for the Trade Union Movement. Since February all large trade union meetings have been banned. On the 13th of May the entire executive committee of the CNS were arrested and the President and General Secretary detained and tortured over a period of several months. Despite the repression talks on Trade Union unity are continuing. The CNS recently presented a petition to Pinochet which was signed by 623 trade unions from 288 trade unions, federations and confederations. AS the Chilean trade union movement enters this crucial stage in the struggle for its own and wider freedoms, the CSC has an important role to play in helping to increase and strengthen the links between the British Trade Union Movement and fraternal Unions in Chile.

Cultural Groups, Womens Groups, Relatives of disappeared prisoners groups and neighbourhood Health Groups and linking their work more closely with that of other sections of the opposition. The degree of solidarity shown by such groups during strikes which have taken place this year again emphasises the the increasing unity of the Chilean People. When the miners struck in Lota, in the Concepcion area, the community effectively supported them and their families with a communal soup kitchen and other food and basic necessities.

In these circumstances the international solidarity movement is vital for the support of these struggles. The possibilities for putting the concept of internationalism and solidarity into practice through direct links with Chile is now more important than ever.



## WHY DIRECT LINKS ?

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When direct support for projects in Chile first began it was centred almost entirely on Children's Dining Rooms. But it has become more and more apparent that EVERY kind of support is necessary - even if it is only a matter of writing a letter to a fraternal trade union branch or cultural or women's group in a shanty town saying we are with you, we support your fight. That initial contact can be developed - it is not easy but it can and has been done effectively.

Secondly, the fight for rights and freedoms in Chile has reached a new level and there is consequently now more opportunity to make direct contact and give direct moral and material support. Establishing direct links, however, is not a matter of one group of workers of one nationality helping another more repressed group of another nationality - the internationalisation of capital has proceeded much more rapidly in the last ten to fifteen years. Blue Circle - a British Multi-National has invested heavily in Chile and South Africa while closing plant in Britain and throwing its workforces in Humberside and Wales on the dole. Supporting trade union activities in Chile helps prevent the over exploitation of cheap labour by such multinational companies. If trade unionism is to remain effective, or even survive over the next two decades it will have to be far more internationally orientated. The struggle for the rights and freedoms of the Chilean People helps preserve the rights and freedoms we enjoy, at the moment, here in Britain. The Tory Party whether in Government or not is 'staunchly' internationalist. Direct Links with their counterparts in Latin America are certainly maintained daily through letters, telephone calls, telexes, and many more face to face visits and exchanges than the trade union or Labour Movement could ever afford. Two Tory Ministers have visited Chile in the last two years heading trade delegations. The ease with which capital maintains its power and ability to export across national frontiers and from continent to continent can only be effectively curtailed through co-ordinated international Labour Solidarity which has to be built by establishing direct links. The type of link established depends on the preferences and limitations of the branch or group in Britain. The link may only be an exchange of letters, it may mean supporting strike action or raising money to buy office equipment or supporting a more long term project like a trade union training school.

Groups and organisations in Chile with whom a direct can be established fall into the following main categories:

1. A Trade Union Branch.
2. A Shanty Town Community Group.
3. A Women's Group.
4. A Youth Group or Cultural Group.
5. A Student Group.
6. A Political Party Branch. ( This would be much more difficult for obvious reasons)
7. A Human Rights Organisation or Group.
8. A Church Organisation or Group.

A list of addresses for such organisations and groups is contained at the end of this pack, it is by no means exhaustive. Other addresses can be obtained from CSC if those are not suitable for linking with your organisation.

CSC Local Committees which have undertaken to support a project in Chile include LEEDS which since 1979 has been supporting a PROJECT IN CURICO canteens & workshops etc organised by a local catholic priest. In the last two years approx £2,000 has been raised to send. DUNDEE has had a link since 1979 with Children's Dining Rooms in TALCAHUANO, also with CODEPU in Concepcion.



LIVERPOOL has had a direct link since 1979 with PUDAHUEL maintaining regular contact and sending £40 a month by international money order. NORTHAMPTON has had a direct link with Vina del Mar where a project was adopted.

STAGE BY STAGE : ESTABLISHING A DIRECT LINK.  
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- 1. Examine list to find counterpart organisation. If no organisation is suitable on list contact :

John Shuttleworth, or CSC,  
CSC Direct Links Convenor, 129, Seven Sisters Rd,  
c/o UJAMMA Centre, London,  
14, Brixton Road, N7 7QG.  
London SW9

Tel : 01-582-0514. Tel: 01-272-4298.

- 2. Using model letter make initial contact with suitable group.
- 3. Inform John Shuttleworth that contact has been made.
- 4. When reply received try to have it translated locally or if this is not possible contact either of the above.
- 5. Advice on developing the link is always available from the CSC office or the Direct Links Convenor.

MODEL INITIAL LETTER.  
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Address of group.

Queridos amigos,

Nosotros somos una parte del sindicato / grupo .....  
Uno de los objetivos de nuestra organizacion es el trabajar en solidaridad con el pueblo Chileno.

Les estamos escribiendo con el motivo de establecer un lazo directo con esa organizacion en Chile, que este trabajando por los derechos humanos de las gentes Chilenas.

En Gran Bretana, nosotros nos gustaria saber acerca del desarrollo en la politica en su pais. Trabajamos con el motivo de que el gobierno Britanico se preocupe de los derechos del pueblo Chileno y no de sus gobernantes. En adiccion, somos dos paises en lucha contra el monetarismo.

Si en algo podemos contribuir, dentro de nuestros posibilidades algo limitadas, nos gustaria saber.

Aun tenemos mucho que aprender de ustedes en Chile. Por eso estaríamos muy agradecidos si fuera posible que nos remitieran informacion sobre ustedes y sus ideas acerca de como podriamos juntos construir una verdadera solidaridad internacional ; la qual beneficiaria las trabajadores que ustedes y nosotros representan.

Fraternalmente,

name and address of your organisation/group.



Dear friends,

We are a branch of the union/group .....  
One of the aims of our organisation is to work in solidarity with the people of Chile.

We are writing to you because we would like to establish a direct link with an organisation in Chile which is working for the rights of the Chilean people.

Here in Great Britain we would like to know about political developments in your country as well as letting others in our country know about these developments too. We work so that the British government will concern itself with the rights of the Chilean people and not with their rulers. Britain like Chile is fighting against monetarism.

If there is anything we can do within our limited capabilities, we would like to hear from you.

We have a lot to learn from the people in Chile. For this reason, we would be very grateful if you could send us information about yourselves and any ideas you have towards building solidarity together which will benefit the workers that we both represent.

Yours fraternally,

LIST OF CONTACT ADDRESSES IN CHILE

Comision Chilena de Derechos Humanos  
Alameda B. O'Higgins 1584, 2do. Piso  
SANTIAGO-CHILE

Vicaria de la Solidaridad  
Plaza de Armas 444  
(write to: Casilla 30-D)  
SANTIAGO-CHILE

CODEPU  
Casilla 1843  
Correo Central  
SANTIAGO-CHILE

(Please do not write to CODEPU to this address until further notice)

ACE (Ayuda Cristiana Evangelica)  
Manuel Montt 460  
SANTIAGO-CHILE  
(for community, peasants and trade union training schools)

FASIC (Fundacion de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas)  
Manuel Montt 2501  
SANTIAGO-CHILE  
(for work with political prisoners, and medical/health projects)

Pedro Aguiar  
Casilla 6001  
VINA DEL MAR-CHILE  
(for youth, cultural and human rights projects)



CODEHS (Comite de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos y Sindicales)

Ricardo Cruz ....

SANTIAGO-CHILE

CODEJU (Comite de la Defensa de los Derechos de la Juventud)

Alameda B. O'Higgins 1548, 2do. Piso

SANTIAGO-CHILE

CODEPU-CONCEPCION

Oficina Juridica

Lord Cochrane 1012, 1er. Piso

CONCEPCION-CHILE

(Please do not send letters to this address until further notice)

COAPO (Comite de Ayuda Poblacional)

c/o CODEPU

Casilla 1843

Correo Central

SANTIAGO-CHILE

TRADE UNION CONTACTS IN CHILE

ESICO (Escuella Sindical de Concep.

Casilla 1151

CONCEPCION-CHILE

(when writing, please address envelopes: Juan Perez .. followed by Casilla etc.)

(contact for Lota/Coronel coal miners, teachers association, women)

Coordinadora Nacional Sindical

Abdon Cifuentes 67

SANTIAGO 3 - CHILE

Paginas Sindicales

Casilla 419

SANTIAGO-CHILE

(trade unions, especially Federacion Maipu and Solidaridad)

Alamiro Guzman

Federacion Nacional Minera  
de Chile

Casilla No 10361

Correo Central

SANTIAGO-CHILE

Construction Workers:

Hector Cuevas

Casilla 7069

Correo 3

SANTIAGO-CHILE

Print Workers:

Ruben Molina

SUNAG

San Isidro 264

SANTIAGO-CHILE

Civil Servants:

A.N.E.F.

Alameda Bernado O'Higgins 1603

SANTIAGO-CHILE

Dockers:

Federacion Nacional de Trabajadores Portuarios

Molina 47

Valparaiso

Chile



Metalworkers Union:

CONSTRAMET  
Avenida Brazil,  
43 Primero Piso,  
SANTIAGO-CHILE

Textile Workers:

Cassila 69,  
Correo 7,  
SANTIAGO-CHILE

WOMENS' ORGANISATIONS IN CHILE

There are Womens' Sections of the following organisations, whose addresses have been given above:

Comision Chilena de Derechos Humanos

CODEPU

Coordinadora Nacional Sindical

In each case write to the Comité de Mujeres, followed by the name and address of the organisation. Do NOT write to the CODEPU addresses until further notice.

Also:-

PIDEE ( Proteccion a la Infancia Danada por los Estados de Emergencia )  
Crescent Errazuriz, 2134,  
SANTIAGO-CHILE

CODIN ( Comité de defensa de los Derechos del Nino )

Also at CNS, (Committee for the Defence of Childrens Rights)

Circulo de Estudio de la Mujer

Also at CNS. ( Womens' Study Circle )

It should be remembered that especially since March 1982 there has been an increase in Trade Union repression in Chile, especially the detention of trade union leaders and attacks on trade union offices. It is therefore very important that you contact the Direct Links convenor or CSC National Office before writing, to check that the above addresses are still correct.

Establishing a direct link requires hard work and tenacity but is nevertheless one of the most effective and rewarding ways in which internation-lism and solidarity can be made a reality.

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