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Sept. 2, 1992

Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar, President
 Palacio de la Moneda
 Santiago, Chile

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing in respect to the amnesty law, now in effect in Chile, which absolves all political crimes committed between eleven September, 1973 and ten March, 1978. The law is currently being used to close investigations about abuses that occurred before 1978, prior to the discovery of the facts or the establishment of the responsibility for the reign of terror that then existed.

Specifically, it's estimated that near a thousand people "disappeared," and over a thousand individuals were executed or died due to torture.

Much of this terror was directed at the indigenous peoples in Chile. One case, that of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo of the Mapuche Indians has received widespread publicity.

Therefore, I urge you to seek the repeal of this law, so thorough investigations and prosecutions may occur for all human rights violations committed during this four and a half year period. Doing this will help prevent a recurrence of this kind of human tragedy.

Cordially,

cc / Organización Mapuche Ad Mapu
 Cautín 1635
 Temuco
 9a. Región
 Chile

Jackie Lane
 3425 Westminister #2
 Dallas, TX 75205

14 Sept 1992

Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar
Presidente de la Republica de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, CHILE

Dear Mr. President,

As the year 1992 marks the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Europeans in the Americas, it seems a particularly appropriate time to highlight concerns with respect to human rights violations against indigenous peoples, including the case of Nelson Wladimiro Curiñir Lincoqueo.

I have grave concerns about the extrajudicial execution of Nelson Curiñir in 1973. He was a 22-year-old Mapuche Indian student at the State Technical University when he was removed from his home by men in air force uniforms. Witnesses last saw him alive when he was taken from the Maquehua air force base.

In March, 1990, a Mapuche Indian came forward to say that he had found Nelson Curiñir's body near the River Cautin in 1973 and had been buried in an unidentified grave. His family buried him after identifying the body, in 1991. However, nothing seems to have come of the investigation into the murder.

I urge you to begin a new, prompt and thorough investigation into this matter. I hope that the full truth will emerge, and that those responsible be brought to justice. Amnesty International believes that this must happen with respect to all human rights violations committed in Chile in order to prevent such atrocities from recurring. Your 1978 amnesty law that excludes accomplices and accessories to crimes during Chile's state of seige constitutes an obstacle to clarifying past abuses and preventing their recurrence. This law should therefore be repealed.

copy:

Señor Francisco Cumplido Cereceda
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Compañía 111
Santiago, CHILE

Sincerely,
Eric Milnes
1740 W. Roscher
Chicago, IL 60640
USA