



CONTAK Philippines

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June 30, 1992

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

REPUBLICA DE CHILE	
REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO	
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Dear Senor Presidente,

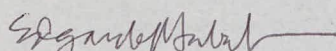
Warm Greetings of PEACE and JUSTICE from the Philippines!

Many countries of Europe will grandiosely celebrate with music and dancing the so-called 500th Anniversary of the arrival of the Europeans to Latin America because if not for these Europeans like Cristobal Colon, Chile and other Latin American countries will remain without the benefits of Christianity and the inroads of science and progress.

But for the many indigenous peoples of Latin America, the 5th Centenary marks the 500 years of untold slavery, suffering of indigenous peoples, even up to now. We read about the abduction and subsequent extrajudicial execution of a 22-year old Mapuche Indian named Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo. He was abducted several weeks after the September 1973 coup d'etat that overthrew the democratically-elected Government of President Salvador Allende. But he was not alone, there were large numbers of Mapuche leaders, activists and community members who were arrested and tortured, killed or "disappeared." The only reason for the cruelty and killings afflicted on the Mapuche Indians was - they were beneficiaries of the agrarian reform led by the Allende Government from 1970 - 1973. The Mapuches were able to regain some of the lands taken from them since the arrival of the Spaniards in the 16th century.

Sr. Presidente, like many christians from the Philippines, I am also concerned about the unresolved human rights violations against indigenous peoples in Chile, particularly the killing of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo. The 5th centenary will never be meaningful if the human rights of all indigenous peoples are not respected and promoted this year 1992. You can make this meaningful if you assure us of your commitment to uphold always the rights of all indigenous peoples in Chile by ordering new investigations into the killing of Nelson Curinir and other Mapuche Indians so that the truth will emerge and those responsible be brought to justice so that similar incidents will never occur again.

Sincerely,


Ed Sabalvoro