

W.M.B.

September 30, 1992

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

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Your Excellency:

I understand that you have been an outspoken opponent of the death penalty in your country. I want to commend you for this principled stand and encourage you to apply that principle in the cases of Mauro Gonzalez Quispe, Rene Larico Aguilar and Lisbert Fausto Mamani Morales.

With respect, I urge you to exercise your right to commute the death sentences of these three individuals. Whatever their crimes, capital punishment serves only to perpetuate further disrespect for human life.

In my own country, the prosecutors and politicians still cling to the false notion that state killings will somehow reduce crime. There is no evidence that capital punishment has had any beneficial affect on the crime rate and, in fact, we stand today with more people imprisoned per capita than just about any country in the world.

Along with my colleagues in Amnesty International, I call on you to carry the flame of enlightenment in Chile, by joining the worldwide trend toward abolishing the death penalty.

Respectfully Yours,



William M. Berg