

ARCHIVO

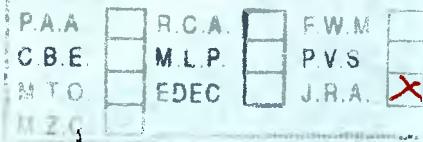
President Aylwyn,

Presidente de la República

REPUBLICA DE CHILE
DE PRESIDENCIA
REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO

Palacio de la Moneda 91/12745

Santiago de Chile JUN 91



St. Vincent's Church,

Redfern Street,

Redfern, Sydney

N. S. W. 2006

Australia

4.6.1991

Dear President Aylwyn,

In March 1990 when, after 17 years of darkness, you became President of Chile, many people in Australia rejoiced with our Chilean brothers and sisters and heard with great joy that you had promised to release all political prisoners.

It is with great concern that our community has heard that there are still 180 prisoners of conscience detained in Chilean prisons and that they are being held because they are purported to be members of organizations that have refused to renounce violence. Surely guilt by association has no precedent in a truly democratic country.

It has been reported today in Australia that a demonstration has been held in Santiago to demand the release of all political prisoners. It was most disturbing to hear that the police used tear gas to disperse the crowd from where it had gathered to exercise its democratic right to speak against the continuing detention of political prisoners.

We write, Mr President, with two urgent requests.

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The first is for either the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience or that they be promptly charged with a recognizable offence, given access to lawyers and brought to trial.

The second request is for your assurance that your police force will no more use violent tactics such as the spraying of tear gas into crowds which gather to exercise their democratic rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

Yours Respectfully,
Anne Webb.

Sinai Bennett

Cathy Lasey.

Michael Howard.

David Dorgan.

Judy Lott

Betty Dorgan

Denis Rose

Toni St. Patrick

Karen Kistner.

Verne Hubbard

Bethen Burke

Lyn Rafferty

Jim Allister

Beth Goodman

Kath van Wilt.

Garnett P. Nola

Patricia Ormsbee

M. Ellen Farlong

PETER GRIFFIN BETTY GRIFFIN

B. Nolin

J. Menna

A. Kenney

Mary and V. Magyer

Margaret Kennedy

Annelies Truman

maggie Galleys

Lemoy Pelt

Ron Light

Lesley Piper

Gordon Tribe

Marianne Payten

Sam Bennett

Chris Burke

J. Lally

Patricia Alexander

l.c.smith

Darren L. King

Lynd de Burgh

P.J. Cotton

Elizabeth Hobbs

Bill Spiller

David Nolan

Roslyn van West

Christine O'Heughlin

Janette O'Dwyer

George

Maria Henry

Victoria Nolan