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october 25th, 1992

REPUBLICA DE CHILE
PRESIDENCIA
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NR. 92/28570
A. 03 DIC 92
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Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azocar
Presidente de la Republica
de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago
Chile

Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo

Your Excellency

As a member of amnesty international I am always concerned about the violation of anyone's human rights. 1992 is being marked in a number of countries as the **500th anniversary** of the arrival of Europeans on your continent. It therefore seems a particularly appropriate time to highlight concerns with respect to human rights violations against indigenous peoples of what is now called Americas, including the case of **Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueno**. My concern will not diminish when 1992 is over.

On 11 September 1973 a violent coup d'état overthrew the democratically -elected Government of President Salvador Allende. Several weeks later, on the night of 5 october 1973, a heavily armed group of men in air force uniform entered the home of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo, an 22-year-old Mapuche Indian, a student at the State Technical University in Temuco and an activist in the Communist Party. Witnesses have testified that he had been taken out of the air force base in Maquehua by members of the air force in the early hours of 13 October 1973. In March 1990 a Mapuche Indian came forward to say that Nelson Curinir's body had been found on the bank of the river Cautin in 1973 and that he had been buried as "NN" (name unknown) in a cemetery near Temuco. In November 1990, when democratic government was restored in Chile, on the orders of a civilian judge Nelson Curinir's body was exhumed.

I ask you to display your commitment to upholding the law for all peoples in Chile. Indigenous people make up some six per cent of Chile's population. Nelson Curinir is one of more 100 Mapuche Indians whose cases were examined by the Comision Nacional de Verdad y Reconciliacion.

Please inform me about the outcome of the investigations in favour of the indigenous people. Also I request you to take your responsibility bringing the murder of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo to justice.

Your clemency in this cases will receive worldwide appreciation.

Yours sincerely and respectfully

Barbara Cryer

copie to Chile embassy, Berne

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

Gilly, le 14 novembre 1992

Monsieur le Président,

En tant que membre d'Amnesty international, je me sens concernée par les violations des droits de l'homme dans le monde entier. La commémoration du 500^e anniversaire de l'arrivée des Européens dans le Nouveau-monde me semble favorable pour réagir face aux violations des droits de l'homme dont furent victimes les populations indigènes de votre pays. Je pense spécialement au cas de

Nelson Vladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo

assassiné à la suite du coup d'État de septembre 1973. Je me réjouis que des investigations aient été menées sur les circonstances de sa mort, mais je souhaiterais que les responsables de ce meurtre soient jugés, de même que tous ceux qui, au Chili, ont été les auteurs de violences semblables. Amnesty international pense que la loi d'amnistie de 1978 est un obstacle à l'éclaircissement des cas de violations et que, de ce fait, elle devrait être abrogée.

Par avance, je vous remercie sincèrement, Monsieur le Président, de bien vouloir intervenir dans ce sens et je vous prie d'agréer l'assurance de mes sentiments distingués.

R. Ziegenhagen.

Expéditeur : Renée Ziegenhagen
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P. S. Une copie de cette lettre est envoyée à l'ambassade du Chili à Berne, de même qu'à différentes organisations chiliennes.