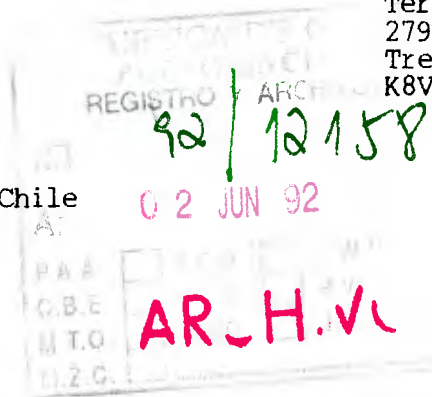


Teresa MacKenzie
279 McGill St
Trenton ON
K8V 3K7

May 24, 1992

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



Dear President,

I am writing to express my concern about violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples which occurred in Chile during the state of seige imposed on the country from September 1973 to March 1978.

It is my understanding that an amnesty law passed in 1978 prevents "authors, accomplices or accessories" of these violations from being brought to justice for crimes committed during this period. I believe that such a law of acts as an obstacle in the fight for human rights and should be repealed. It prevents the clarification of human rights abuses, and permits abusers to go unpunished, thus it does not deter the recurrence of such abuses.

1992 is being marked as the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Europeans to the Americas. It therefore seems an appropriate time for countries to begin to highlight concerns with respect to unresolved human rights violations against indigenous peoples of the Americas.

An example of such an unresolved case is that of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo in 1973. On October fifth, the State Technical University student was taken from his home to the Maquehua air force base by a group of heavily armed uniformed men. On October eighteenth 1973, Curinir's family heard a radio announcement which said that Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo (described as an activist in the Movement of the Revolutionary Left) had escaped while being transferred by military patrol to Temuco prison. Orders had been given for his capture, dead or alive. In March 1990 a Mapuche Indian came forward to say that Nelson Curinir's body had been found in the early hours of October thirteenth 1973--five days before the radio announcement. On the orders of the civilian judge in charge of the case, Curinir's body was exhumed in November 1990 and identified by his family. The autopsy report revealed that he had been shot in the back of the head.

I would welcome all investigations into the death of Nelson Curinir in hope that the truth will be brought to light, and that those responsible for his death be brought to justice. I believe that all human rights violations occurring in Chile should be investigated and resolved. As it stands, this will be difficult, for abusers during the period of 1973 to 1978 are protected by law. I believe that the law must be changed.

Respectfully Yours,

Teresa MacKenzie