

Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azocar
President de la Republica de Chile
Parlacio de la Moneda
Santiago
Chile

REPUBLICA DE CHILE
PRESIDENCIA
REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO
March 11, 1992
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P.A.A. P.C.A. F.W.M.
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Sr. Presidente de la Republica,

I would like to express my gratitude to you for publicly opposing the death penalty. I was pleased to learn that since you took office in March 1990, no death sentences have been carried out and that all but one of the political prisoners under sentence of death have had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. I welcome your promise to use your powers to grant clemency in death penalty cases that come before you.

As an opponent of the death penalty, I am sure you regard it as I do, as an abuse of basic human rights, and recognize that the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments.

Over 40 per cent of all countries have now abolished the death penalty in law or in practise. The United Nations and Human Rights Organizations have called for its abolition. Amnesty International for one (while not condoning violent crimes) considers the death penalty to be the premeditated and cold-blooded killing of a human being by the state.

I believe it is in the best interests of its citizens for the Chilean Government to practise such a high degree of respect for human rights. And such a policy will earn it respect from other countries.

I am therefore concerned about the attempt by some members of Congress to extend the scope of the death penalty to include the murder of off-duty Carabineros, adding to the list of 37 crimes that already carry the death penalty.

I hope you will work against this new legislation, and continue to strive for the total abolition of the death penalty in Chile.

Should the proposal pass both Chambers of Congress, I respectfully request Your Excelencia to exercise your power to veto it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With best wishes,

A. Mugnatto-Hamu

Adriana Mugnatto-Hamu
100 Wellesley St. E. #1112
Toronto, ON M4Y 1H5

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11. MARCH, 1992

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With best wishes,

Christine Gebel
CHRISTINE GEBEL
65 CLARENDON AVE.
TOR., ONT. M4V 1S2
CANADA

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With best wishes,

Judith Forrestal

JUDITH FORRESTAL

591 Church Street #2

TORONTO, ONTARIO M4Y 2E6
CANADA