

P.O. Box 895, State University, AR 72467 USA

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

Dear President Aylwin:

I am writing as a member of Amnesty International, the independent human rights organization, to bring to your attention the killing of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo.

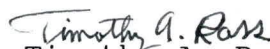
The year 1992 is being observed in many countries as the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Europeans in the Americas. Therefore, it seems a particularly appropriate time to raise concerns about unresolved human rights violations against indigenous people in the Western hemisphere.

Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo, a Mapuche Indian, was a student at the State Technical University in 1973. Following the coup against the Allende government, he was arrested at his home, on October 5 1973, by armed men in air force uniform. He was last seen alive on October 13, 1973, again in custody of air force personnel.

Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo's body, which had been buried in a cemetery as a "name unknown", was exhumed and identified in November 1990. He had been shot in the back of the head. It seems clear that he was the victim of an extrajudicial execution.

I am glad to learn that the National Commission of Truth and Reconciliation (CNVR) has presented the case of Nelso Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo to a judge for investigation. I hope that those responsible for his death will be brought to justice.

Sincerely yours,

  
Timothy A. Ross  
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