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September 20, 1992

Your Excellency,

I would like to draw your attention to the fate of the Mapuche **Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo**.

In the night of October 5, 1973 the at that time 22-year-old student of the technical college Temuco and member of the communist party was taken away by men who wore the uniform of the air force.

His relatives were told that he would be taken to the next air force base of Maquehua first and afterwards be committed to the prison of Temuco.

But the efforts to discover him at one of these places later remained unsuccessful, although it was assured by official sources that Nelson Curinir was really in custody and would soon be released again.

On October 18, 1973 his family finally heard on radio that Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo, in the report described as an activist of the movement of the revolutionary left-wing, had escaped his military guard on the way to prison.

It was further spread on radio that a command had been issued to pick up the escaped prisoner, dead or alive.

In the early morning of October 13, 1973 Nelson Curinir was seen alive for the last time: Eyewitnesses noticed how he was taken away from the base of Maquehua by members of the air force.

In March 1990 another witness explained that the corpse of Nelson Curinir had already been found in 1973 on the bank of the river Cautín and buried anonymous in a graveyard near Temuco.

The National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation carried out investigations into the case of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Linoqueo and passed on the gained findings to a court of civilian judiciary for further determinations.

After that the relevant judge ordered the opening of the anonymous grave in November 1990 and the exhumation of the body.

The dead man was clearly identified by his family.

The autopsy turned out that he showed bullet wounds on the back of his head.

In 1991 proceedings against the responsible persons for the murder of the student were instituted.

But those responsible will probably refer to the Law of Amnesty passed in 1978.

As in my opinion this law stands in the way of the complete solution of the crimes of the past, I would like to appeal to you to repeal it.

Those who are concerned with the upholding of human rights throughout the world are very concerned about the solution of the background and circumstances of the execution of the Mapuche Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Linoqueo in 1973.

I would be more than glad if not only those responsible for the murder of Nelson Curinir would be called to account before court, but if also the innumerable crimes against human rights committed under the government of General Pinochet would be prosecuted to prevent the reoccurrence of injuries of human rights in future.

Thank you very much for your understanding and caring.

Yours respectfully,

Birgit Lange