

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Life under Pinochet: Survivors and experts available ahead of 40th anniversary of coup

Ahead of the 40th Anniversary of General Augusto Pinochet's coup d'etat in Chile, on 11 September 1973, Amnesty International will issue a series of features highlighting the inspiring stories of women and men who survived torture and those still searching for their missing loving ones.

The organization is also launching a new petition calling on the Chilean authorities to repeal legislation that guarantees impunity for those responsible for the human rights violations and abuses committed under Pinochet's authoritarian regime.

These abuses included systematic sexual abuse and other forms of torture, extra-judicial killings and disappearances. Significant progress has been made in bringing those responsible to justice. However, further concrete steps need to be taken to fully address the legacy of widespread abuses of the past.

If you are interested in receiving the material, including features, facts and figures, photos, videos, graphics and audio, please contact:

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SURVIVORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Gloria Elgueta – sister of a man held in Londres 38, who is currently missing

Hardly a day goes by when Gloria Elgueta doesn't think about how her brother Martin may have spent his final days. He was detained by Pinochet's political police and held in Londres 38, a colonial building five blocks away from their family home. After years searching for justice, Gloria joined other relatives in a campaign to turn the notorious house of torture into a memorial site to remember those who lost their lives.

Languages: Spanish

Lelia Pérez – Torture survivor

As a 16-year-old high school student, Lelia Pérez was used as a guinea pig for Chilean soldiers to hone their skills in torture. She was detained twice in 15 years and was held in three different detention centres, before being forced into exile. After the fall of Pinochet she returned to Chile, where she is now trying to make sense of the past.

Languages: Spanish, English

Atacama – women who had to find the remains of their relatives buried in the desert

In 1975, the Chilean military killed 15 men and buried their remains in secret in the Atacama desert. It took their relatives 17 years of intensive searching to find the mass grave that contained their crushed remains – and another five years to identify 13 of the men.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

Roger Plant – Amnesty International’s researcher on Chile 1972-1975

Roger Plant joined Amnesty International in 1972 to cover the organization’s work on Latin America. A few months later, he was sent to Chile to document the arbitrary detentions, torture and disappearances taking place under the brutal Pinochet regime. The result was a groundbreaking report that helped shine a light on the brutality of the emerging dictatorship.

Languages: English, Spanish

Javier Zúñiga – Amnesty International’s Special Advisor and Chile expert

Javier Zúñiga joined Amnesty International’s Americas team in the late 1970’s. He visited Chile on various occasions during Pinochet’s regime and visited prisons to document abuses. He worked tirelessly to bring justice to the relatives of the disappeared and other victims of human rights violations. He was part of the team that fought to bring Pinochet to justice when he was arrested in London.

Languages: English, Spanish, French.

Maria Jose Eva Parada – Amnesty International’s Chile Researcher

Chilean Born Maria Jose Eva Parada joined Amnesty International in 2011 to document ongoing human rights abuses in South America, including Chile, and to fight for justice for the victims of Pinochet’s brutal regime.

Languages: English, Spanish