

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FLASH

### *Pinochet Case*

#### **Lady Thatcher's comments to Tory fringe meeting: irrelevant and in conflict with UK law**

Lady Thatcher's arguments in support of General Pinochet are not only irrelevant but also in conflict with British law, Amnesty International said.

"The arrest of General Pinochet and the charges against him are a legal matter, not a political one. Everyone should be judged according to the law, not according to who their friends are."

*"General Pinochet is not a political prisoner. He is being held because he is accused of the crime of torture, not in connection with some political offence. Torture committed abroad became a crime in the UK under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (section 134), legislation promulgated under a government which Margaret Thatcher led. Under the Extradition Act 1989, torture is clearly specified as not being a political crime for the purposes of extradition."*

*"Amnesty International wants justice to be made by the international community for the sake of the thousands of victims in Chile and their loved ones. The message for any alleged perpetrators around the world must be that no country, including the UK, will shy away from its legal and moral obligation to take action against them."*

*"Whether Pinochet is guilty or innocent of the charges against him is for a court of law to determine, not for Lady Thatcher or Amnesty International," the organization concluded.*

ENDS.../

