

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 22/08/99

23 March 1999

Further information on EXTRA 20/99 (AMR 22/06/99, 12 February 1999) - Legal Concern/medical concern/reported torture and ill-treatment

CHILE Omar Hermosilla Marin  
Pablo Contreras Olivos  
Dante Ramirez Soto  
53 other political prisoners

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Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of the political prisoners transferred to the high security prison *Colina II* in Santiago on 6 February 1999.

Omar Hermosilla was reportedly beaten around the head by prison guards (*Gendarmeria*) on 8 March. He needed medical attention for his injuries, and has apparently lost sensation in the fingers of his right hand as a result. Pablo Contreras Olivos was also beaten up that day. The men's families filed a complaint (*Querrela*) about this incident before the Colina Court (*Juzgado de Letras de Colina*) on 12 March.

Concern remains for the health of Dante Ramirez Soto, who was beaten around the head during the transfer to *Colina II* on 6 February, and is believed to have sustained serious head injuries. Amnesty International is particularly concerned that no independent medical care has been provided to any of the prisoners who were ill-treated during the transfer.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/e-mails/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern that Omar Hermosilla Marin and Pablo Contreras Olivos were reportedly beaten on 8 March, and that Omar Hermosilla Marin has lost the sensation in his right hand as a result;
- asking the authorities to provide independent medical care to Omar Hermosilla, Pablo Contreras, Dante Ramirez Soto and all other prisoners who have been ill-treated;
- asking the authorities to initiate a thorough, independent and conclusive investigation into both incidents or for details of any investigation they have already begun;
- asking for assurances that no political prisoners will be harmed in detention;
- asking that all the prisoners be granted access to relatives and lawyers;

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic  
Señor Presidente de la República de Chile  
Señor Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle  
Palacio de la Moneda  
Santiago, Chile

**Telegrams: Presidente, Santiago, Chile**

**Faxes: + 562 694 5080**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President Ruiz-Tagle**

**E-mail: webmaster@presidencia.cl**

Minister of Interior  
Sr. Raul Troncoso  
Ministerio del Interior  
Palacio de la Moneda

Santiago, Chile

**Telegrams:Ministro Interior, Santiago, Chile**

**Faxes:+ 562 696 8740 / 699 2165**

**Salutation:Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

Minister of Justice

Sra. Maria Soledad Alvear

Ministra de Justicia

Ministerio de Justicia

Morandé 107

Santiago, Chile

**Telegrams:Ministra Justicia, Santiago, Chile**

**Faxes:+ 562 698 7098**

**Salutation: Sra. Ministra / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sr. Jose Miguel Inzulza

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Catedral 1158, Piso 3

Santiago, Chile

**Faxes:+ 562 696 8796 / 672 6274**

Newspaper

El Mercurio

Avenida Santa Maria 5542

Casilla 13-D

Santiago, Chile

**Faxes:+ 562 228 7541**

Human Rights Organization

Codepu

Brown Sur 150 - Nuñoa

Santiago, Chile

**Faxes:+ 562 341 5041**

and to diplomatic representatives of Chile accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 April 1999.