

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 22/30/99

20 December 1999

Further information on UA 252/99 (AMR 22/23/99, 27 September 1999 and follow ups AMR 22/22/99, 7 October 1999 and AMR 22/27/99, 19 November 1999) - Death Threats / Fear for Safety

CHILE Viviana DIAZ CARO (f) ] human rights defenders working  
and new name: Mireya GARCIA (f) ] for the *Agrupación de Familiares de*  
*Detenidos Desaparecidos*

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Amnesty International is very concerned for the safety of Viviana Díaz Caro and Mireya Garcia, the President and the Secretary General respectively of the *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*, Association of relatives of the "disappeared". On 15 December 1999, they received the following death threat in the post:

"Let's hope that Father Christmas will give us the opportunity to meet face to face in the year 2000 so that we can blow up your brains. Enjoy your last Christmas ... you will not be around for the next one. Greetings to your family ... Merry Christmas to everyone."

("Que el viejito Pascuero nos regale la oportunidad de encontrarnos cara a cara durante el 2000 ... y así poder volarte los sesos. Disfruta de tu última navidad .. Para la próxima ya no estarás. Saludos a tu familia ... Pascua Feliz para todos. F.N.L. 'Ediciones Villa Grimaldi'")

The message, sent in the guise of a Christmas greeting card, was signed: "FNL, editions Villa Grimaldi". Villa Grimaldi was a well known torture centre in Santiago used during military rule under the control of the *Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional*, (DINA), National Intelligence Directorate.

The FNL (*Frente Nacionalista Patria y Libertad*, Country and Freedom National Front), is a right wing extremist group active during General Augusto Pinochet's military government of 1973 to 1990.

This latest death threat raises concern for the safety of all those associated with the *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the arrest of the former general in London, United Kingdom, in October 1998, relatives of victims of past human rights violations as well as human rights lawyers and activists have been increasingly harassed and threatened with death.

The above threat is the latest in a number of death threats directed at Viviana Diaz and other members of the *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*.

The *Agrupación*, which was set up in the early years of General Pinochet's rule, have campaigned for information from the authorities about the whereabouts and fate of their relatives. After military rule ended, government agencies were set up to establish their fate. Despite over 1,000 cases of "disappearance" having since been officially recognized, legal efforts to find the truth have been hampered by military and civilian courts closing cases under the Amnesty Law of 1978. The *Agrupación* continue to pursue their goal through national and international legal avenues and peaceful public activities.

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

- expressing concern that Viviana Díaz and others associated with the *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*; are still being threatened with death;
- expressing concern for the safety of Viviana Díaz and Mireya Garcia, who were sent a death threat on 15 December 1999, signed by the FNL;
- expressing concern to the authorities that none of the threats sent to Viviana Díaz and other members of the *Agrupación* have been fully investigated and therefore none of those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for an immediate investigation into the death threats against Viviana Diaz and Mireya Garcia, asking that the findings be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to make public their repudiation of all harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders in Chile and to publically recognize the important contribution that human rights defenders make to the protection of human rights and the promotion of a society which fully respects human rights.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

**Telegrams:Presidente, Santiago, Chile**  
**Faxes:+ 562 694 5080**  
**Salutation:Sr. Presidente / Dear President**

Minister of Interior  
 Raúl Troncoso Castillo  
 Ministro del Interior  
 Ministerio del Interior  
 Palacio de la Moneda  
 Santiago, Chile

**Telegrams:Ministro Interior, Santiago, Chile**  
**Faxes:+ 562 696 8740**  
**Salutation:Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

Minister of Justice  
 Sr. José Antonio Gómez Urrutia  
 Ministro de Justicia  
 Ministerio de Justicia  
 Morandé 107  
 Santiago, Chile

**Telegrams:Ministro Justicia, Santiago, Chile**  
**Faxes:+ 562 695 4558**  
**Salutation:Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Señor Juan Gabriel Valdés Soublette  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Catedral 1158, Piso 3  
Santiago, Chile

**Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Santiago, Chile**

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

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

**Please also write to your own government and to political representatives who you know to have been following legal proceedings against former General Pinochet.**

**COPIES TO:**Newspapers

*El Mercurio*, Avenida Santa Maria 5542, Casilla 13-D, Santiago, Chile

**Faxes: + 562 228 7541**

*Diario La Tercera*, Vicuña Mackenna 1870, Santiago, Chile

**Faxes: + 562 550 7999**

Human Rights Organization, Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos,  
Desaparecidos, Manuel Rodríguez 33, Santiago, Chile

**Faxes: + 562 698 8609**

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 1 February 2000.