

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 22/05/93

Distr: UA/SC

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UA 337/93 Arbitrary killings/Torture and ill-treatment/ 23 September 1993
Death threats

CHILE: José Octavio ARAYA ORTIZ, aged 18
Sergio Leopoldo CALDERON BELTRAMI, aged 66
plus ten demonstrators and two witnesses

Two people were killed, at least 4 seriously wounded and scores of others were arrested in Santiago on 11 September 1993 as a result of confrontations with members of the uniformed police (*Carabineros*) during demonstrations to mark the twentieth anniversary of the 1973 military coup.

The clashes between the demonstrators and *Carabineros* began during a march to the General Cemetery past the presidential palace. José Octavio Araya Ortiz, a student and member of the Communist Youth, was reportedly shot by *Carabineros* during the clashes near the General Cemetery. He died later in hospital as a result of a gunshot wound to the back of the neck. According to witnesses' accounts, Sergio Leopoldo Calderón Beltrami, a bystander, died after being deliberately run over by a police water cannon vehicle dispersing the demonstrators. Another police vehicle observing the scene reportedly failed to stop the water cannon vehicle from running Sergio Calderon over. Investigations into the killings of José Araya and Sergio Calderón have been ordered by the government.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned that at least ten people arrested during the demonstration on 11 September were allegedly tortured and ill-treated by members of *Carabineros*, in many cases at the 9th *Carabineros* police station.

They were beaten and kicked, in some cases with service battons. One detainee, shot and wounded with plastic ammunition reportedly did not receive immediate medical attention and was repeatedly beaten and kicked. Most of those arrested were released during that day and the following week.

Two witnesses to the killings of Sergio Calderón were allegedly threatened by members of *Carabineros* during an interview with the press at the scene of the incident. According to press reports on 17 September, the daughter of one of the afore-mentioned eye-witnesses suffered a kidnapping attempt and her parents were threatened with death if they persisted in telling their story to the authorities and the press.

The human rights organization CODEPU, (*Comité de Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo*), filed an *habeas corpus* before the *Corte de Apelaciones de Santiago*, Santiago Appeals Court, on behalf of the witnesses of Sergio Calderón's death.

The *habeas corpus* was rejected by the Santiago Appeals Court on 20 September.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is the second demonstration violently suppressed by members of the security

forces in the last two months. On 4 August, relatives of the "disappeared" staging a peaceful demonstration in Santiago were forcefully detained and harassed by members of *Carabineros* (see UA 283/93, AMR 22/04/93, 20 August 1993).

Amnesty International remains concerned about the excessive and unnecessary use of force employed by the security forces in Chile in recent demonstrations and the continuing use of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, especially at the hands of *Carabineros*. Amnesty International also deplores the alleged harassment of witnesses to the killing of Sergio Calderón and calls on the Chilean Government to fully guarantee their safety.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing serious concern at the reports of torture and ill-treatment of at least ten demonstrators detained by *Carabineros*; requesting that a full and impartial investigation be immediately opened into these allegations and that those found responsible are brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to fully investigate the harassment of witnesses to the killing of Sergio Calderón, giving all witnesses and their families the necessary guarantees and protection and ensuring that those responsible for these violations are brought to justice;
- welcoming the investigations opened into the killing of José Araya and Sergio Calderón on 11 September 1993 and urging that those found responsible are brought to justice. Kindly request to be kept informed of any relevant findings.

APPEALS TO

1. President of the Republic

Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar
Presidente de la República de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile

Telegrams: Presidente Aylwin, Santiago, Chile

Telexes: 240152 segreg cl

Faxes: + 56 2 697 3262

Salutation: Excelencia/Your Excellency

2. Minister of the Interior

Sr. Enrique Krauss Rusque
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Santiago, Chile

Telexes: 240000 onemi cl

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3. Minister of Defense

Sr. Patricio Rojas Saavedra
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Villaviencio 364, Piso 22
Ed. Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Santiago, Chile

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. Committee for the Rights of the People
Sres.

CODEPU

Bandera 465, 4to. Piso

Santiago, Chile

2. Daily newspaper:

Sr. Editor

La Época

Olivares 1229, piso 6,

Santiago, Chile

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 4 November 1993.