

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 22/07/97

EXTRA 145/97

Fear for safety / Health concern

24 October 1997

CHILE Carlos GUTIÉRREZ

Rodolfo RETAMALES

Sergio VÁSQUEZ

And another 16 male political prisoners

On 18 October 1997, members of the *Grupo Especial Antimotines de Gendarmería* (GEAM), Special Anti-riot Unit of the police, transferred 16 political prisoners from the *Carcel de Alta Seguridad* (CAS) maximum security prison in Santiago to the *Penal de Detención de Colina 2*, Colina 2 Prison, located outside the capital. According to reports the prisoners were beaten during their transfer and have been kept in punishment cells since their arrival at Colina 2.

Three political prisoners, Carlos Gutiérrez, Rodolfo Retamales and Sergio Vásquez, who were left in the CAS, were reportedly injured as the result of the beatings they suffered during the transfer, and are now also being held in punishment cells.

Reports indicate that no independent doctors have been allowed to visit either of the two prisons. Amnesty International is concerned for the health and safety of all 19 detainees.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following the escape on 30 December 1996 of four political prisoners from the CAS in Santiago, there were reports of reprisals and ill-treatment of the remaining detainees. According to these reports, a number of prisoners were subjected to beatings during cell searches. Reports were also received indicating that the prisoners were subjected to threats should they complain of the beatings. Amnesty International expressed its concern to the authorities and requested that access be given to independent doctors to check the state of those that were kept in isolation. No reply was received.

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

- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment of the political prisoners during the transfer;
- asking that independent doctors be given access to check the state of health of those prisoners reportedly injured and kept in isolation;
- asking for assurances that the political prisoners will not be subjected to further ill-treatment or reprisals;
- asking for information on the medical attention provided to those injured.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior

Sr. Carlos Figueroa Serrano
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile

Faxes: +562 696 8740

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Santiago, Chile

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Sra. Maria Soledad Alvear
Ministra de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Morandé 107
Santiago, Chile

Faxes: +562 696 6952

Telegrams: Ministra Justicia, Santiago, Chile

Salutation: Sra. Ministra / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Newspaper

La Nación

Agustinas 1269
Santiago, Chile

Faxes: +562 698 1059

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 26 November 1997.