

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 22/10/96

30 August 1996

Further information on EXTRA 108/96 (AMR 22/06/96, 17 July 1996) and follow-up (AMR 22/08/96, 20 August 1996) - Death Penalty

CHILECupertino Segundo ANDAUR CONTRERAS

On 29 August 1996, President Eduardo Frei took the decision to commute the death sentence against Cupertino Segundo Andaur Contreras to life imprisonment.

At 1:25pm President Frei read out a statement in the presidential palace, La Moneda in the capital Santiago:

"En mi condición de Jefe de Estado, me corresponde ejercer un deber constitucional ineludible. Debo decidir sobre la vida o muerte de un hombre condenado por haber cometido un asesinato atroz"

"Para cumplir este deber, he considerado en conciencia los antecedentes y, asumiendo la responsabilidad que la Constitución me impone, he decidido conmutar la pena de muerte del condenado por la de presidio perpetuo"

"Adopto esta decisión inspirado en mis principios y mis valores, sostenidos y expresados con profunda convicción a lo largo de los años. No puedo creer que para defender la vida y castigar al que mata, el Estado deba a su vez matar".

"La pena de muerte es tan inhumana como el crimen que la motiva".

"As Head of State I must exercise an unavoidable constitutional duty. I must decide on the life or death of a man sentenced for having committed an atrocious crime"

"To fulfil this duty, I have considered the facts of the case conscientiously and assuming the responsibility which the Constitution imposes on me, I have decided to commute the death sentence on the prisoner to life imprisonment".

"I have taken this decision inspired by my principles and my values which I have sustained and expressed with deep conviction throughout the years. I cannot believe that to defend life and punish the person that kills, the State should in its turn kill".

"The death penalty is as inhuman as the crime which motivates it".

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

- welcoming the presidential decision to commute the death sentence against Cupertino Segundo Andaur Contreras;
- calling for the total abolition of the death penalty in Chile, and expressing hopes that the forthcoming congressional debate on the death penalty will result in its abolition.

You may also raise other arguments for abolition of the death penalty listed in original EXTRA and previous follow-up.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic
Señor Presidente de la República de Chile
Señor Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile
Faxes: + 562 694 5080
Telegrams: Sr. Presidente, Santiago, Chile
Salutation Sr. Presidente /Dear President

Minister of Justice
Sra. Maria Soledad Alvear
Ministra de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Morandé 107
Santiago, Chile
Faxes: +562 695 4558
Telegrams: Ministra Justicia, Santiago, Chile
Salutation: Sra. Ministra

President, Commission for Human Rights (Deputies)
Señor Erick Villegas
Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos
Nacionalidad y Ciudadanía de la Cámara de Diputados
Pedro Montt s/n
Edificio del Congreso
Valparaíso, CHILE
Faxes: +563 223 2657
Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Señor José Miguel Inzulza
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
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President of the Senate's Commission on Human Rights, Nationality and
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Sr. Ricardo Martin Diaz
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Pedro Montt s/n
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Human Rights Organization
CODEPU

Brown Sur 150
Ñuñoa
Santiago, Chile

Daily Newspaper

La Nación
Agustinas 1269
Santiago, Chile
Fax: + 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 1 October 1996.