

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 195/92 (AMR 22/08/92, 11 June 1992) - Death Penalty

CHILE: Juan Domingo SALVO ZÚÑIGA, peasant

Amnesty International has learned that on 19 October 1992, the Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence against Juan Domingo Salvo Zúñiga. His case will now be heard by President Patricio Aylwin, who has the power to commute the sentence. President Aylwin recently commuted death sentences against three Peruvians.

Juan Salvo Zúñiga was sentenced to death in April 1992 by the Appeals Court in the town of La Serena for the murders of Antonia del Carmen Cabrera Gómez and her three children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

After taking office in March 1990, the civilian government of President Aylwin proposed the abolition of the death penalty. In December 1990 this proposal was rejected by the Senate. In January 1992 the Senate introduced a proposal for the extension of the death penalty to include the murder of off-duty *carabineros*, the uniformed police. In July 1992, the Chamber of Deputies rejected this extension. The bill is now to be discussed by a mediating body, the Comisión Mixta, a mixed commission made up of members of both Chambers.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- respectfully requesting that President Aylwin exercises his power of clemency and commutes the death sentence against Juan Salvo Zúñiga;

- stating that Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without reservation, on the grounds that it is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;

- calling for the total abolition of the death penalty in Chile in line with the worldwide trend.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic Chile:
Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar
Presidente de la República de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile

**Salutation: Excelencia /
Your Excellency**

Telegrams: Presidente Azocar, Santiago, Chile
Telexes: 240152 segrg cl
Faxes: + 56 2 697 3262

Page 2 of FU 195/92

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. President of the Senate's Commission on Human Rights, Nationality and
Citizenship:

Sr. Ricardo Martín Díaz
Presidente
Comisión de Derechos Humanos,
Nacionalidad y Ciudadanía
Cámara de Senadores
edificio del Congreso
Valparaíso
Chile

Faxes: + 56 2 232654

2. Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the People:

Sres. CODEPU
Bandera 465, 4
Santiago
Chile

3. Daily newspaper:

Sr. Editor
La Nación
Agustinas 1269
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 3 December 1992.