

PUBLIC

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To: Health professionals
From: Medical office / Americas Program
Date: 22 November 2000

Further information on

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION
Delayed medical care
Pedro Rosas Aravena
Chile

(original action AMR 22/17/00, 8 September 2000)

Key wordsdelay of medical care / political prisoner

Summary

On 8 September 2000, Amnesty International issued a medical action on Pedro Rosas Aravena, a political prisoner in Santiago, whose medical treatment for cancer of the left testicle had been delayed on various occasions. Amnesty International's concern on his health was submitted to the Chilean authorities by Amnesty International delegates during a high level mission to Santiago in October. Pedro Rosas has now reportedly received further medical care. On 24 August 2000 he underwent further tests, including an abdominal pelvic scan, a chest scan and additional tests looking for indication of tumour spread.

Amnesty International has not received the test results but has received reports from the *Organization of Popular Defence* (ODEP) that Pedro Rosas has started to receive chemotherapy. He was hospitalised on 27 - 29 October 2000 for his first session of chemotherapy. A further three sessions of chemotherapy followed. He will now be assessed to decide how treatment should proceed.

There is concern that future treatment may be undertaken at the prison hospital where he reportedly has had to wait long periods on previous occasions before being provided with medical attention. The transfer between the prison and the hospital has been effected by prison vehicle and not in an ambulance, which has been difficult for Pedro Rosas.

Background information

Pedro Rosas' medical treatment has been characterised by delays. Pedro Rosas first reported pain in his testicles in May 2000. In June 2000 an ultrasound was done, more than four weeks after it was recommended. In July his left testicle was removed necessitated by a choriocarcinoma . In August a judge intervened ordering the prison authorities to follow the recommendations of Pedro Rosas' doctors and to use all necessary means to provide him with the care requested.

Pedro Rosas is still being held in the Special Unit of High Security, Preventive Detention Centre in South Santiago. He has been imprisoned in Santiago since 1994 after having been tried by ordinary and military courts on charges under arms control and illicit association legislation.

Recommended actions

Please write one letter per group in English or Spanish to the addresses listed below:

- introducing yourself as a member of the health professional network of Amnesty International;
- welcoming the medical attention reportedly provided to Pedro Rosas Aravena, imprisoned in the Special Unit of High Security, Preventive Detention Centre in South Santiago;
- seeking assurances that further medical care will be provided to Pedro Rosas as needed;
- requesting details about the “constant medical evaluation” that was reported by the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and how this evaluation is carried out;
- seeking assurances that his condition is taken into account during transfers between hospital and prison and that he continues to receive appropriate further medical treatment.

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response. Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 31 January, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Addresses

President

Senor Ricardo Lagos Escobar
Presidente de la Republica de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile
Fax: +56 2 694 4020

Foreign Minister

Senora Maria Soledad Alvear Valenzuela
Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Catedral 1158, Piso 3
Santiago, Chile
Fax: +56 2 696 8796 or 672 6274

Director of Gendarmeria

Senor Hugo Espinoza Grimalt
Director de Gendarmeria
Direccion Nacional de Gendarmeria
Calle Rosas 1274
Santiago, Chile
Fax: +56 2 698 2266

Minister of Health

Senora Michelle Bachelet
Ministra de Salud Publica
Ministerio de Salud Publica
Mac Iver 541
Santiago, Chile
Fax: +56 2 638 1843

Minister of Justice
Senor Jose Antonio Gomez
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Morande 107
Santiago, Chile
Fax: +56 2 695 4558 - 698 7098

Copies

Human Rights Organization:
CODEPU - (Cooperation of Promotion and Defence of the Rights of the People)
Victoria Subercaseaux 81,
Depto. 43
Santiago (Centro)
Chile
Fax: 00562 664 6476

and to diplomatic representatives of Chile accredited to your country.