

PUBLIC

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8 November 1999

Further information on UA 04/99 (AMR 22/01/99, 11 January 1999) - Fear for Safety

**CHILE** Members of staff and volunteers of the non-governmental organisation *Corporación de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo* (CODEPU), Committee for the Promotion and Defence of the Rights of the People

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of members of the human rights organization *Corporación de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo* (CODEPU), Committee for the Promotion and Defence of the Rights of the People, who have been subjected to repeated acts of intimidation. Amnesty International believes these are related to the judicial proceedings currently being conducted in London, UK, against former General Augusto Pinochet.

On the night of 3 November 1999, the CODEPU headquarters in Santiago were broken into. Documentation was searched and equipment stolen. A complaint has been made before the authorities to investigate the incident and the acts of intimidation against human rights activists.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

CODEPU was founded in 1980 as a response to human rights violations committed during the Pinochet military government (1973-1990). Its work has continued on behalf of victims of past human rights violations and their relatives. Its president is Fabiola Letelier, a human rights lawyer and the sister of Orlando Letelier, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was assassinated in Washington in 1976 by members of the Chilean security forces.

Since the arrest of former General Augusto Pinochet in October 1998, relatives of victims of past human rights violations and human rights lawyers have been subjected to repeated harassment and death threats in Chile. The president of CODEPU, Fabiola Letelier, and lawyers, Julia Urquieta and Hugo Gutiérrez have been assigned police protection following death threats and CODEPU offices have been placed under police protection.

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

- expressing concern at the continuing intimidation against staff members of CODEPU;
- asking for an immediate and thorough investigation into the events related to the break in and acts of intimidation, including death threats, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking for reassurances that the Chilean authorities will take all necessary steps to fully protect the physical integrity of staff members of CODEPU.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

**President of the Republic**

Sr. Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle  
Presidente de la República de Chile  
Palacio de la Moneda  
Santiago, Chile  
**Fax: +562 694 5080**

**Telegrams: Sr. Presidente, Santiago, Chile**  
**Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President**

**Minister of Interior**

Sr. Raul Troncoso  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Palacio de la Moneda  
Santiago, Chile  
**Fax: +562 696 8740 - 699 2165**  
**Telegram: Sr. Ministro del Interior**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

**Minister of Justice**

Sra. Maria Soledad Alvear  
Ministra de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Morandé 107  
Santiago, Chile  
**Fax: +562 695 4558**  
**Telegram: Sra. Ministra de Justicia**  
**Salutation: Sra. Ministra / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sr Juan Gabriel Valdés  
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores  
Minsiterio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Catedral 1158, Piso 3  
Santiago, Chile  
**Fax:+562 696 8796 - 672 6274**

Newspaper

**La Nación**  
Agustinas 1269, Santiago, Chile  
**Fax:+562 698 1059**

Human Rights Organization

**Codepu**  
Brown Sur 150 - Ñuñoa, Santiago, Chile  
**Fax: +562 341 5041**

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 17 December 1999.