

UA 302/99

Threats/f**CHILEElias PADILLA BALLESTERO, Human rights defender  
Staff of Amnesty International Chile**

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Human rights defender Elias Padilla Ballestero, former president of Amnesty International's Chilean Section, has been threatened with kidnapping. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for his safety, and for that of the staff of the Chilean Section.

A man who identified himself only as a "friendly military person" ("*amigo militar*") called Amnesty International's headquarters in the capital, Santiago, on 18 November 1999, and warned that Elias Padilla was going to be kidnapped. The threat was immediately reported to the Investigations Police (*Policia de Investigaciones*), the Intelligence Unit (*Unidad de Inteligencia*) and the Ministry of the Interior.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

This is the latest of a number of anonymous threats made by telephone and e-mail to the staff of the Chilean section. Since the arrest in London of former General Augusto Pinochet in October 1998, relatives of victims of past human rights violations and human rights lawyers have been subjected to harassment and death threats.

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

- expressing concern at the threat to kidnap Elias Padilla;
- asking for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation of the threat, and for the results of the investigation to be made public;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Elias Padilla and staff of Amnesty International Chile;
- urging the authorities to publicly repudiate all harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, and to publicly recognize the important contribution that human rights defenders make to the protection of human rights and the promotion of a just, democratic and equitable society.

**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: 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: 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

**Fax:+ 562 695 4558**

**Telegram:Ministra Justicia, Santiago, Chile**

**Salutation:Sra. Ministra / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sr Juan Gabriel Valdés

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Catedral 1158, Piso 3, Santiago, Chile

**Fax:+ 562 696 8796/672 6274**

Amnesty International

Chilean Section

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Newspaper

*La Nación*

Agustinas 1269, Santiago, Chile

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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 January 2000.