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EXTERNAL -- FOR RESPONSE

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DEATH OF PETER DUFFY

Peter Duffy, was a long-time supporter of Amnesty International: as a volunteer, chair of the United Kingdom Section, chair of the organization's International Executive Committee -- the international board and as a Director of the Amnesty International Charity.

As one of the UK's foremost human rights barristers, he used his expertise to advise Amnesty International on legal matters, raise funds for the Charity and most recently in the House of Lords, presented the organization's case that Former Chilean Head of State Augusto Pinochet should not enjoy immunity from prosecution.

Mahmoud Ben Romdhane, current chair of the International Executive Committee said: "Peter's dedication to Amnesty International seemed boundless. His passing is a great loss to us all, on both a personal and professional level."

"His recent work representing Amnesty International before the House of Lords on the Pinochet case is a poignant reminder of how he continued to work for the truth and against injustice around the world."

Peter Duffy joined Amnesty International in 1976 and became a council member of the organization's British Section in 1983. In 1985, he was elected to the IEC. During his time on the IEC, he was responsible for increasing the organization's membership around the world, financial matters and helped oversee the incredibly successful 1988 "Human Rights Now" concert tour with musicians including Bruce Springsteen, Peter Gabriel and Sting, which doubled Amnesty International's worldwide membership. More recently, he led the Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust appeal to the legal profession to help establish a Human Rights Centre in London.

Peter Duffy also visited various countries as a specialist on research missions and for government talks, and to help develop national Amnesty International branches.

In 1989, he said: "Amnesty International is a very special movement, combining so many committed volunteers and staff members united in campaigning for human rights observance worldwide. It is an enormous privilege, challenge and responsibility to serve as an International Executive Committee member."

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