

**CHILE** Viviana DIAZ CARO (f), President of the *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*, Ricardo Nuñez] Socialist Party senators José Antonio Viera-Gallo] and their families.

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Death threats, apparently from an extreme right-wing group active during the military government of Augusto Pinochet, have been sent to Viviana Diaz, president of the non-governmental organisation *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*, Association of Relatives of the "Disappeared", to Socialist Party senators Ricardo Nuñez and José Antonio Viera-Gallo and their families. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

According to reports, on 23 September 1999 a letter addressed to Viviana Diaz arrived at the offices of the *Agrupación* in Santiago. It was signed with the initials FNL, which apparently signifies a group with origins in the *Frente Nacionalista Patria y Libertad* (Country and Freedom National Front), a right-wing extremist group that operated during the early years of the military government of 1973 to 1990. It read: "...a los vende patria como tú los tenemos muy presentes y pronto, muy pronto sabras de nosotros. Esto no es una amenaza... porque nosotros no amenazamos como los que pretenden sólo asustar, nosotros actuamos... ya vas a entender la diferencia." ("...we have traitors like you very much in our minds and soon, very soon you will know about us. This is not a threat... because we don't make threats like those who just intend to scare, we act... you'll soon understand the difference"). The letter continued: "Si quieren encontrar a los detenidos-desaparecidos... busquen en las jaivas... se veian tan lindos mientras se iban hundiendo" ("If you want to find the "disappeared"... look inside the crabs... they looked so pretty as they were sinking").

Ricardo Nuñez and José Antonio Viera-Gallo received identical letters.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos* was set up by relatives of the "disappeared" in the early years of General Augusto Pinochet's military government of 1973-1990. They have campaigned for information from the authorities about the whereabouts and fate of their relatives. Since the end of military rule, government agencies have been set up to establish the fate of the "disappeared", and 1,000 cases of "disappearance" have been officially recognized. However legal efforts to find the truth have been hampered by military and civilian courts closing cases under the Amnesty Law of 1978. The *Agrupación* have continued to pursue their goal through national and international legal avenues and peaceful public activities.

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 harassment and death threats.

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

- expressing concern at the death threat against the President of the *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*, Viviana Diaz, and parliamentarians Ricardo Nuñez and José Antonio Viera-Gallo and their families;

- calling for an immediate investigation into these threats, for the findings to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging that immediate, adequate and appropriate protection be provided to Viviana Diaz, Ricardo Nuñez and José Antonio Viera-Gallo and their families.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic

Señor 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

Raúl Troncoso Castillo  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Palacio de la Moneda  
Santiago, Chile

**Fax:+ 562 696 8740**

**Telegrams:Ministro del 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**

**Telegrams:Ministra de Justicia, Santiago, Chile**

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

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Señor Juan Gabriel Valdés Soublette  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Catedral 1158, Piso 3  
Santiago, Chile

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

**Telegrams:Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Santiago, Chile**

**Salutation:Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

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Vicuña Mackenna 1870

Santiago, Chile  
**Fax:+562 550 7999**

Human Rights Organization  
Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos  
Manuel Rodriguez 33  
Santiago, Chile  
**Fax:+562 698 8609**

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 8 November 1999.