

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Please organize up to five appeals per section

UA 38/92      Death Threats/Intimidation

4 February 1992

CHILE:                      Comité de Defensa de los Derechos del  
Pueblo (CODEPU), Committee for the Defense of the  
Rights of the People

Amnesty International is seriously concerned at the reported death threats received by members of CODEPU, Comité de Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo, Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the People, a human rights organization in Santiago, capital of Chile, on 29 January, 1992.

In the early hours of 29 January, the offices of CODEPU in Santiago were broken into. No important documents were taken and only minor damage was sustained. However, on the same day, following the break-in, nine telephone calls were received at the offices of CODEPU. The callers, who in the second call identified themselves as the Frente Nacionalista de Combate, Nationalist Combat Front, apparently a paramilitary group, said that they knew well who the members of CODEPU were and that they would kill them. They also accused them of being "communists".

Seven of the nine calls consisted of military marches played over the phone. The Front said the calls were a "warning".

A complaint has been filed by CODEPU with the Court of Appeals of Santiago, asking for the protection of its members and the physical integrity of its offices.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Two unrelated events in which CODEPU was involved preceded the threats and the office break-in. In one incident, on January 22 following an attempted burglary on a security van, two people died, apparently at the hands of the police. The relatives of one of those killed, an ex-political prisoner during the military regime of General Pinochet, held a press conference at the offices of CODEPU. They questioned the circumstances surrounding the death of their relative. The second event involved the imprisonment of one of the main leaders of the Grupo Lautaro, Lautaro Group, an armed opposition group, on January 15. Lawyers of CODEPU in their capacity as members of a human rights monitoring group, visited the prisoner in the Penitenciaría of Santiago to ensure that he was not being ill-treated.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the threats made against members of CODEPU and the raiding of its offices;

- asking that the source of the threats be investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- asking that adequate steps be taken to protect the lives and physical integrity of all members of CODEPU;

- urging the government to take measures to ensure that members of human rights groups are able to conduct their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.

page 2 of UA 38/92

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic:

Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar  
Presidente de la República  
de Chile  
Palacio de la Moneda  
Santiago  
Chile

**Telegrams: Presidente Aylwin, Santiago, Chile**

**Telexes: 240152 segreg cl**

**Faxes: + 56 2 697 3262**

**Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Sr. Enrique Krauss Rusque  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Palacio de la Moneda  
Santiago  
Chile

**Telegrams: Ministro Interior Santiago, Chile**

**Telexes: 240000 onemi cl; 240273**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Head of the Uniformed Police:

General Rodolfo Stange Oelckers  
Director General de Carabineros  
Plaza Bulnes 1196, piso 3  
Santiago  
Chile

**Telegrams: director general Carabineros, Santiago, Chile**

**Salutation: Señor Director General / Dear Director General**

**COPIES TO:**

human rights organization:

Sres.  
CODEPU  
Bandera 465, Of. 405  
Santiago  
Chile

fortnightly magazine:

Sr. Director  
Análisis  
Manuel Montt 425  
Providencia  
Santiago  
Chile

daily newspaper:

Sr. Director  
La Nación  
Agustinas 1269  
Santiago  
Chile

and to diplomatic representatives of Chile in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 March 1992.