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Pinochet case: Amnesty International renews request for judicial review

Amnesty International and five other human rights organizations are today presenting a new request for judicial review following yesterday's ruling by High Court judge Maurice Kay denying their initial request to do so.

The new hearing, scheduled for Monday 7 February, will be heard by the Divisional Court composed of two or three judges. It will provide an opportunity for further scrutiny of the arguments presented by the human rights organizations.

"We want to ensure that any decision relating to Augusto Pinochet's state of health is made according to international standard of fairness and that it is free from political interference. The lack of transparency that has characterized this stage of the extradition process raises doubts about its fairness and about whether the right decision will be made."

"Since the health of Augusto Pinochet has been put in issue in the extradition proceedings, fairness requires that the interested parties, including the states requesting extradition, be given the opportunity to review the existing medical report and obtain another examination."

Amnesty International and the other human rights organizations wish to highlight the interest of the victims and survivors of crimes against humanity in a just process. The human rights organizations' intervention would complement the case presented by Belgium, the only one of the four prosecuting states seeking judicial review.

Amnesty International is also reiterating its appeal to the Spanish authorities to transmit to the UK authorities the request made by judge Garzón to exhaust all available legal actions relevant to the extradition process. The Spanish authorities have so far blocked such initiatives by the Spanish judiciary.

Additional information

The new request for judicial review will be presented by Amnesty International, the Association of the Relatives of Detained and Disappeared Persons in Chile, Human Rights Watch, Justicia, the Medical Foundation for the Care of the Victims of Torture, and Redress.

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on 44 171 413 5566 or visit our website at <http://www.amnesty.org>