

19 November 1999

Further information on UA 252/99 (AMR 22/23/99, 27 September 1999) and follow-up (AMR 22/22/99, 7 October 1999) - Death threats / Fear for Safety

CHILE VIVIANA DÍAZ CARO, human rights defender

(Ricardo NUÑEZ, José Antonio VIERA-GALLO, Socialist Party senators and their families and Dora CARREÑO (f), member of the Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos)

On 11 November 1999, Viviana Díaz received another death threat which appears to come from the right wing extremist group *Frente Nacionalista Patria y Libertad* (FNL), Country and Freedom National Front. Amnesty International is extremely concerned for her safety.

The letter was sent to her at the offices in Santiago of the *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*, Association of Relatives of the 'Disappeared', the non-governmental organization of which she is president.

It read: "...Sra Díaz, Ud. está en nuestra lista, pero no tenemos apuro...lo que sí le podemos asegurar es que Ud. no va a morir de vieja...nosotros no bromeamos, ni tampoco somos impacientes...estamos mucho más cerca de Ud. de lo que se puede imaginar...que pasé un feliz día de los muertos...la próxima vez las flores serán para Ud....", ("...Mrs Díaz, you are on our list, but we are in no hurry...we can assure you that you won't die an old lady...we're not joking, nor are we impatient...we are much closer to you than you can imagine...have a nice Day of the Dead...next time the flowers will be for you...").

Further information regarding Ricardo Nuñez, José Antonio Viera-Gallo and Dora Carreño will be relayed to the network as soon as possible.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The FNL is a right-wing extremist group that originated during the early years of General Augusto Pinochet's military government of 1973 to 1990.

Since the arrest of the former general in London, United Kingdom, in October 1998, relatives of victims of past human rights violations and human rights lawyers and activists have been increasingly harassed, including death threats, by groups close to the former military government.

The *Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*, which was set up in the early years of General Pinochet's military government, 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. legal efforts to find the truth, however, 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.

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

- expressing concern that Viviana Díaz has received another death threat;
- expressing concern to the authorities that none of the threats against her have been fully investigated or those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for an immediate investigation into the death threats against her, asking that the findings are made public and those responsible are brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to make public their repudiation of all harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders in Chile and to publically recognize the important contribution that human rights defenders make to the protection of human rights and the promotion of just, democratic and equitable societies.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Señor Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle
 Presidente de la República de Chile
 Palacio de la Moneda
 Santiago, Chile

Telegrams: Presidente, Santiago, Chile

Faxes: + 562 694 5080

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

Minister of Interior

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

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Santiago, Chile

Faxes: + 562 696 8740

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Sra. Maria Soledad Alvear
 Ministra de Justicia
 Ministerio de Justicia
 Morandé 107
 Santiago, Chile

Telegrams: Ministra Justicia, Santiago, Chile

Faxes: + 562 695 4558

Salutation: Sra. Ministra / Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Santiago, Chile

Faxes: + 562 696 8796 / 672 6274

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

Please also write to your own government and to political representatives who you know to have been following legal proceedings against former General Pinochet.

COPIES TO:Newspapers

El Mercurio, Avenida Santa Maria 5542, Casilla 13-D, Santiago, Chile

Faxes: + 562 228 7541

Diario La Tercera, Vicuña Mackenna 1870, Santiago, Chile

Faxes: + 562 550 7999

Human Rights Organization, Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos,
Desaparecidos, Manuel Rodriguez 33, Santiago, Chile

Faxes: + 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 19 December 1999.