

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 02/00 (EUR 45/10/00, 14 January 2000) and further information (EUR 41/02/00, 11 February 2000) - Impunity / Legal Concern

UNITED KINGDOM (UK) Augusto Pinochet, former president of Chile

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On 2 March 2000 UK Home Secretary Jack Straw decided that he would not order the extradition of Augusto Pinochet to Spain. He also decided not to issue Authorities to Proceed in respect of extradition requests from Switzerland, Belgium and France.

The Spanish government refused to pass on to the British authorities a request from Judge Baltasar Garzón that the UK Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) challenge Jack Straw's decision through Judicial Review. The Spanish government said that it would respect the UK's decision to deny the extradition and it would not take further action in the case. Switzerland, Belgium and France did not appeal the decision.

On 2 March, the day that Augusto Pinochet left the UK, seven human rights lawyers filed a legal request before the *Corte de Apelaciones de Santiago*, Appeals Court of Santiago, in Chile, to lift the parliamentary immunity of Augusto Pinochet as a senator for life. It has been reported that on 6 March Chilean Judge Juan Guzmán Tapia also formally requested that Augusto Pinochet's immunity be lifted. The decision of the court is expected in two months. According to article 58 of the Constitution of Chile the decision of the Appeals Court can be appealed before the Supreme Court.

On 7 March the *Consejo de Defensa del Estado* (CDE), Council for Defence of the State, of Chile, which represents the legal interests of the state, reportedly announced that it had joined the complaint against Augusto Pinochet and other generals for their responsibility in the *Caravana de la Muerte*, Caravan of Death, case relating to the alleged extra-judicial executions of 72 people during a military operation in the north of Chile in 1973.

According to reports over 70 *querellas*, criminal complaints, have now been filed against Augusto Pinochet.

Amnesty International will continue its work against impunity in Chile and in support of Chilean non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in their search for truth and justice.

We are grateful for all your work over the past months. The members of the *Agrupación de Detenidos-Desaparecidos*, Association of Relatives of the Disappeared, and other Chilean NGOs have expressed their gratitude for your work.

No further actions are requested at this stage.