

May 28, 1992

Vicki Nash
797 South Locust Street
Denver, Colorado 80224

U. S. REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO
NR. 92 / 12512
A: 05 JUN 92
P.A.A. R.C.A. F.W.M.
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M.T.O.
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Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azocar
Presidente de la Republica de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago
CHILE

Excellentísimo Sr. Presidente,
As a member of the independent human rights movement, Amnesty International, I am always concerned about violations of anyone's human rights. In this year, 1992, when many countries are commemorating the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Europeans on this continent, it is a particularly appropriate time to draw attention to concerns with respect to unresolved human rights violations against indigenous peoples of what is now called the Americas, including the case of Nelson Wladimiro Curinir Lincoqueo, a 22-year-old Mapuche Indian, who was a student at the Universidad Tecnica del Estado in Temuco and an activist in the Communist Party until his extrajudicial execution in 1973. On the night of 5 October 1973 a heavily armed group of men in air force uniform entered his home, threatened members of his household and told his family they were taking him to the Maquehua air force base from which he would be transferred to the Temuco prison. His family never saw him alive again.

In March 1990 a Mapuche Indian came forward to say that Nelson Curinir's body had been found on the banks of the River Cautin in 1973 and that he had been buried as "NN" in a cemetery near Temuco. In November 1990 his body was exhumed and identified by his family. Witnesses have testified that he had been taken out of the air force base in Maquehua by members of the air force in the early hours of 13 October 1973. That was the last time anyone saw him alive.

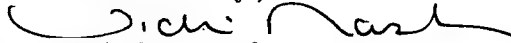
On 5 January 1991 Nelson Curinir's family buried him in the General Cemetery of Temuco, 17 years after his abduction by the security forces. A criminal complaint for homicide was presented to the courts in 1991. I welcome the investigations at this late date into his killing and I hope that the full truth will emerge and that those responsible for his death will be brought to justice despite the amnesty law passed in 1978 for all those who as "authors, accomplices or accessories" had been responsible for

crimes committed during the state of siege imposed in the country between 11 September 1973 and 10 March 1978. I believe this must happen with respect to the killers of Nelson Curinir and all human rights violations committed in Chile in order to prevent such atrocities from recurring. I also believe that the amnesty law of 1978 constitutes an obstacle to clarifying past abuses and preventing their recurrence and that the law should be repealed.

Please understand that my concern about Nelson Curinir will not diminish when 1992 is over. It will continue until his murderers are brought to justice.

ORIGINAL

Sincerely,



Vicki Nash

copy to: Senator Hank Brown, Senator Tim Wirth, Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, Congressman David Skaggs, Congressman Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Congressman Wayne Allard, Congressman Joel Hefley, Congressman Dan Schaeffer

