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Palacio de la Moneda
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Chile

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C.B.E. **ARCHIVO**

Your Excellency:

1992 is being marked in a number of countries as the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Europeans on the continent. It therefore seems a particularly appropriate time to highlight concerns with respect to unresolved human rights violations against indigenous peoples of what is now called the Americas, including the case of **Nelson Wladimiro Curiñir Lincoqueo**. He was a 22-year-old Mapuche Indian who was abducted from his home on 5 October 1973 by a heavily armed group of men in air force uniform. Witnesses testified that **Nelson Curiñir** was 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.

In March 1990, a Mapuche Indian came forward to say that **Nelson Curiñir's** body had been found on the banks of the River Cautín in 1973 and that he had been buried as "NN" (name unknown) in a cemetery near Temuco. The National Commission of Truth and Reconciliation presented **Nelson Curiñir's** case to a civilian court for investigation. On the orders of the civilian judge in charge of the case, **Nelson Curiñir's** body was exhumed in November 1990 and identified by his family. The autopsy report revealed that he had been shot in the back of the head.

I am gravely concerned about the extrajudicial execution of **Nelson Wladimiro Ciriñir Lincoqueo** in 1973. I welcome the investigation into his killing and hope that the full truth will emerge and that those responsible for his death will be brought to justice. Amnesty International believes this must happen with respect to this and all human rights violations committed in Chile in order to prevent such atrocities from recurring. The amnesty law of 1978 constitutes an obstacle to clarifying past abuses and preventing their recurrence and should therefore be repealed.

My concern will not diminish with the end of 1992. All human rights violations in Chile must be ended forever. Please do all that is in your power to bring this about.

Sincerely,

Dianne K. Seaborg
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