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Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azocar
 Presidente de la Republica de Chile
 Palacio de la Moneda
 Santiago
 Chile

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Excelencia

I am concerned about the legislation currently calling for the extension of the death penalty to include the murder of off-duty police officers.

Amnesty International totally opposes the death penalty and, whilst it in no way condones violent crime considers the death penalty to be the premeditated and cold-blooded killing of a human being by the state. Crime figures from countries which have abolished the death penalty do not show that abolition results in increases in the crime rate.

I welcome your opposition to the death penalty and respectfully ask that if the draft bill is adopted you exercise your power to veto it.

Yours respectfully and sincerely

Catherine Shaw.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



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UNITED KINGDOM

22 March 1992

Sr Patricio Aylwin Azocar
Presidente de la Republica de
Chile'Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago
Chile

Your Excellency

I am writing to you because I am very concerned about the proposed legislative reform to the Code of Military Justice extending the application of the death penalty to include the murder of off-duty Carabineros. This draft bill was approved by the Senate's Comision de Constitucion, Legislacion y Justice at the beginning of January 1992.

I am particularly concerned about this proposed legislation because I am a member of Amnesty International, the worldwide human rights organization. Amnesty is totally opposed to the death penalty, and while it in no way condones violent crime or the murder of policemen it considers the use of the death penalty to be the premeditated and cold-blooded killing of a human being by the State.

I know that Your Excellency is opposed to the use of the death penalty yourself, and I very much welcome this fact. I would therefor respectfully like to request that if the draft bill is adoped you will use your power to veto it.

I would further like to ask whether the death penalty can be totally abolished in your country, which would be in line with a worldwide trend, for over forty per cent of all countries have now abolished capital punishment either in law or in practice. Such abolition would ensure the long-term respect for human rights of the citizens of Chile which it is clear the use of the death penalty violates.

I hope very much that you will respond to my two respectfull requests, and act with your usual mercy and clemency in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Shaw

Gillian Shaw
Secretary, Mayfair Group of Amnesty International