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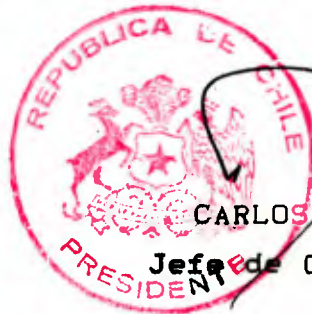
SANTIAGO, 26 OCT 1990

DE : JEFE DE GABINETE PRESIDENCIAL

AL : SR. MINISTRO SECRETARIO GENERAL DE GOBIERNO
D. ENRIQUE CORREA RIOS

Adjunto a Ud. fotocopia de carta enviada por Frances D'Souza, Director del International Centre on Censorship, en donde muestran preocupación por situación de periodistas procesados.

Saluda atentamente a Ud.



CARLOS BASCUNAN EDWARDS

Jefe de Gabinete Presidencial

DISTRIBUCION

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- 2.- Gabinete Presidencial (Arch.)
- 3.- Arch. Correlativo
(90101090)

05.10.1990

His Excellency Patricio Aylwin, President of the Republic of Chile, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago, Chile.

Your Excellency,

ARTICLE 19 is an international human rights organization which campaigns for freedom of expression and combats censorship worldwide.

ARTICLE 19 would like to express its deepest concern at the arrest and detention of the following journalists:

- On September 26 1990 Sr. Juan Pablo Cárdenas, Director of the weekly magazine "Análisis" who faces charges of "offenses and injuries" against General Pinochet, for an interview that appeared in a magazine on March 19 1990;
- Sr. Alfonso Stephens a commentator for "Análisis" magazine was also detained.
- Sr. Juan Andrés Lagos, Editor-in-chief of the weekly "El Siglo" who was arrested on September 21 1990 for refusing to appear before a military court to answer questions concerning articles published in the paper. We have also been informed that Sr. Guillermo Torres, editor of "El Siglo" and national secretary of the College of Journalists is also facing charges.

These latest arrests are part of a wider programme of processing charges against civilian journalists in military tribunals. According to our information, there are currently 29 journalists whose cases are being dealt with in the military courts.

In early September Sr. Fernando Paulsen of "Análisis" had a prison sentences ratified for alleged "offenses against the armed forces" although we understand he is not yet in prison.

Sr. Jorge Donoso chief editor of "Fortín Mapocho" has received a 60-day suspended sentence and had restriction imposed on his movements for an article published in May 1984.

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Director:
Frances D'Souza

**Article 19 of the
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights:**

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

We believe that the arrest and sentencing of these journalists is in breach of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which defends the right of everyone to "hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

In October 1989 the government representative, Sr. Lyon reporting to the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva emphasised that prosecutions in the civil courts for alleged "offenses against the armed forces" were dropped by the Interior Ministry in December 1988. With reference to the cases of journalists being tried by military tribunals he stated:

"The cases before the military courts cannot be withdrawn because they have been brought by individuals... [However,] there is reason to believe that the proceedings against them will ultimately be dismissed."

We respectfully urge the government to do all in its power to ensure that those journalists currently in detention will be released and that the right to freedom of expression is given practical effect in Chile.

Yours sincerely,



Frances D'Souza, Director

ARTICLE

19

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