

To - SR. PATRICIO AYLWIN AZÓCAR  
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA  
SANTIAGO.

FRANK COZZO  
30 KINTYRE CRESCENT  
NEWTON MEARNS  
GLASGOW  
SCOTLAND

92/16068

20 JUL 92  
ARCH 10

29/6/92

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN MY CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, A POLITICALLY IMPARTIAL ORGANISATION CONCERNED SOLELY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS.

I WAS VERY CONCERNED TO READ A RECENT REPORT ISSUED BY AMNESTY, CITING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN CHILE AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS.

I WAS VERY DISTURBED TO READ ABOUT THE MURDER OF NELSON WLADIMIRO CURIÑIR LINCOQUEO A MAPUCHE INDIAN WHO WAS AN ACTIVIST IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HE WAS TAKEN BY HEAVILY ARMED MEN IN AIR FORCE UNIFORM TO MAQUETUA AIR FORCE BASE FOLLOWING THE 1973 COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT ALLENDE.

WITNESSES HAVE REPORTED THAT NELSON CURIÑIR WAS TAKEN FROM THIS AIR FORCE BASE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 13 OCTOBER 1973, HE WAS NEVER SEEN ALIVE AGAIN. IN 1990 A MAPUCHE INDIAN REPORTED THAT HIS BODY HAD BEEN FOUND AND BURIED NEAR TEMUCO IN LATE 1973.

THE C.N.U.R. PRESENTED THIS CASE TO A CIVILIAN COURT FOR INVESTIGATION AND THE BODY OF NELSON CURIÑIR WAS EXHUMED AND IDENTIFIED IN NOVEMBER 1990; HE HAD BEEN SHOT IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD. A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT FOR HOMICIDE WAS PRESENTED TO THE COURTS IN 1991.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT HIS KILLERS ARE GRANTED IMPUNITY UNDER A 1978 LAW WHICH GRANTS AMNESTY TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BETWEEN 11 SEPTEMBER 1973 AND 10 MARCH 1978. I BELIEVE THIS 1978 IS STILL BEING USED TO CLOSE INVESTIGATIONS INTO CASES OF ABUSES BEFORE THE FULL FACTS AND CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REPEAL THIS 1978 LAW, ENSURE ALL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE GIVEN FULL, IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION MAKING PUBLIC THE RESULTS AND METHODS USED AND ENSURING ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE, ARE CHARGED AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE MAKE UP SOME 6% OF YOUR COUNTRY'S POPULATION, WITH THE MAPUCHE INDIANS THE LARGEST GROUP WITH SOME 0.6M - 1M. PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO A 1991 C.N.U.R. REPORT THE MAPUCHE WERE TREATED WITH EXTREME CRUELTY AFTER THE 1973 COUP.

I CALL UPON YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO ENACT LEGISLATION WHICH WILL PROTECT THE MAPUCHE AND ALL INDIGENOUS GROUPS RIGHTS AND SAFETY AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY AND SINCERELY

Frank Cozzo.