

AM 90/10/75

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES AVOCATS

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LAWYERS
INTERNATIONALE ANWALTS-UNION

UNION INTERNACIONAL DE ABOGADOS
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI AVVOCATI

Geneva, April 9th, 1990

President Patricio AYLWIN
President of the Republic
Palacio de la Moneda

SANTIAGO - Chile

COMMISSION DEFENSE DE LA DEFENSE
Président

Alb. Ls DUPONT-WILLEMEN
10bis, rue du Vieux-Collège
Case postale 236
CH - 1211 Genève 3

Tel. 022/28 99 44
Télécopieur 022/21 74 59
Telex 428462 dwav

DW/mp

Your Excellency,

The International Union of Lawyers, the oldest international lawyers organisation with several thousand members in over sixty countries, is seriously concerned to learn from the INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION about reports of death threats against criminal court Judge Rene GARCIA VILLEGAS who had cases removed from his jurisdiction and is threatened with removal from the bench, all apparently related to his work on human rights cases involving abuses allegedly committed by governmental authorities.

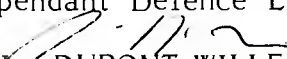
We are also advised that on January 12, 1990, the Supreme Court resolved to expel Judge GARCIA due to his "lack of good behaviour required by law". We are further advised that Judge GARCIA has not had a fair opportunity to respond according to the requirements of your Constitution.

The International Union of Lawyers is a non-political organisation, which does therefore not interfere in politically controversial matters. We understand however, that such is not the case in this instance, as Judge GARCIA's harassments are due to his professional activities related to human rights cases. Defence itself is crippled when, because of their professional activities, defence lawyers and judges are threatened or expelled. The Rule of Law can only be upheld according to internationally accepted principles when lawyers and judges have the assurance of safety.

We accordingly respectfully urge you to reconsider the action taken against Judge Rene GARCIA VILLEGAS and afford him a fair opportunity to respond to the charges made against him.

Respectfully yours,

For the U.I.A. Committee on the Right to
the Independent Defence Lawyers


Alb. Ls DUPONT-WILLEMEN
President