amnesty international Canada Group 3



P.O. Box 195 Stn. K Toronto M4P 2G5 NEW ADDRESS

P.O. Box 45029 Mid-Yonge P.O. 2482 Yonge Street Toronto M4P 3E3

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

Dear Sir:



I am writing to you out of my grave concern regarding the extrajudicial execution of NELSON WLADIMIRTO CURINIR LINCOQUEO in 1973.

On the night of October 5, 1973, a group of armed men in airforce uniforn arrested Mr. Lincoqueo. Mr. Lincoqueo was a 22-year-old Mapuche Indian, who was a student at the State Techmical University in Temuco and an activist in the Communist Party. Although his relatives were unsuccessful in attempts to locate him, they were assured by officials that he was in detention and that he would shortly be released. Mr. Lincoqueo's body was found in March 1990. The autopsy report revealed that he had been shot in the back of the head.

We sincerely request that investigations will be made into his killing by your government, and that those responsible will be brought to justice. As supporters of Amnesty International we believe that this must happen with all human rights violations committed in Chile in order to prevent such atrocities from recurring.

Amnesty International believes that the amnesty law of 1978 constitutes an obstacle to clarifying past abuses and preventing their recurrence and that this law should be repealed.

I look forward to hearing from you about your response to this request.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,

Cheir MElhinal

MEATHER GODDEN

R. Project Adethoot Stephen Simpson Jalane Hadden

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which is independent of any government, political action, ideology, economic interest or religious creed. It works for the release of men and women imprisoned anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin, sex, or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and capital punishment in all cases without reservation. It advocates fair and early trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of persons detained without charge or without trial and those detained after expiry of their sentences. Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity.

Excelentísimo Señor Presidente

RE: EJECUCION EXTRAJUDICIAL DE NELSON WLADIMIR CURIÑIR LINCOQUEO.

Nelson Wladimir Curiñir Lincoqueo, estudiante y activista mapuche fue detenido por fuerzas de seguridad el 5 de octubre de 1973. Su desaparición de muchos años sólo pudo aclararse en Noviembre de 1990, cuando su familia ubicó e identificó su cuerpo y pudo finalmente darle sepultura. Nelson Curiñir es solamente uno de los numerosos mapuches asesinados cuyos asesinos continuan en la impunidad, protegidos por la Ley de Amnistía. Esta ley ha sido usada para cerrar sumarios en investigaciones de violaciones a los derechos humanos ocurridas con anterioridad a 1978, impidiendo que los hechos sean aclarados y las responsabilidades criminales establecidas.

En 1992, 500 años después de la llegada de los europeos a las Américas, queremos reafirmar nuestra esperanza que los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas sean defendidos por todos los gobiernos. Respetuosamente le pedimos que deroge la Ley de Amnistía que sirve de obstáculo para aclarar estos abusos. Nosotros creemos que es muy importante que aquellas personas que todavía piensan que pueden cometer abusos contra los derechos humanos, reciban un claro mensaje diciéndoles que no podrán esconderse de la justicia, que el Estado no los protegerá y que estas violaciones no serán jamás toleradas por su gobierno.

Sincera y respetuosamente,

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Your Excellency:

RE: NELSON WLADIMIRO CURIÑIR LINCOQUEO, EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION

Nelson Wladimiro Curiñir Lincoqueo, a Mapuche Indian, student and activist, was seized by security forces on October 5, 1973. It was not until November, 1990, that his family finally was able to locate and identify his body, and arrange a proper burial. Nelson Curiñir is just one of many Mapuche Indians whose killers remain beyond investigation, protected by the Amnesty Law that has operated to close investigations into human rights abuses which occurred prior to 1978, before the full facts have been clarified and criminal responsibility established.

In 1992, 500 Years after the arrival of Europeans in the Americas, we wish to re-affirm our desire to see the rights of Indigenous Peoples upheld by all governments of the Americas. We urge you to repeal the Amnesty Law that serves as an obstacle to clarifying past abuses. It is most important that potential abusers of human rights receive a clear message that they will not be able to hide, that the state will not protect them, and that violations will not be tolerated by your government.

Yours sincerely and respectfully, NAME (PRINT) **ADDRESS SIGNATURE** RR#2 Belleville Outario Carada CHERYL MARKIN SHARON VANCLIEF WINIFRED KERYMAN RRI DERGEAMT ESERDAITOL

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