

June 6, 1990

Sr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar
Presidente de la República de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago
CHILE
Sr. Presidente,

REPUBLICA DE CHILE
PRESIDENCIA
REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO

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A: 20 JUN 92

P.A.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>	R.C.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>	F.W.M.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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In this year, 1992, when many countries are commemorating the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Europeans on this continent, it is a particularly appropriate time to draw attention to concerns with respect to unresolved human rights violations against indigenous peoples of what is now called the Americas, including the case of Nelson Wladimiro Curiñir Lincoqueo, a 22-year-old Mapuche Indian, who was a student at the Universidad Técnica del Estado in Temuco and an activist in the Communist Party until his extrajudicial execution in 1973. On the night of 5 October 1973 a heavily armed group of men in air force uniform entered his home, threatened members of his household and told his family they were taking him to the Maquehua air force base from which he would be transferred to the Temuco prison. His family never saw him alive again.

In March 1990 a Mapuche Indian came forward to say that Nelson Curiñir's body had been found on the banks of the River Cautin in 1973 and that he had been buried in a cemetery near Temuco. In November 1990 his body was exhumed and identified by his family. Witnesses have testified that he had been taken out of the air force base in Maquehua by members of the air force in the early hours of 13 October 1973. That was the last time anyone saw him alive.

On 5 January 1991 Nelson Curiñir's family buried him in the General Cemetery of Temuco, 17 years after his abduction by the security forces. A criminal complaint for homicide was presented to the courts in 1991. I welcome the investigations at this late date into his killing and I hope that the full truth will emerge and that those responsible for his death will be brought to justice. I believe this must happen with respect to the killers of Nelson Curiñir and all human rights violations committed in Chile in order to prevent such atrocities from recurring.

Sincerely,

Vincent Pitarro & Heins Kortright

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