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Australia
3rd July 1992

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

REPUBLICA DE CHILE			
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REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO			
NR.	92/16142		
A:	20 JUL 92		
P.A.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>	R.C.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.B.E.	<input type="checkbox"/>	M.L.P.	<input type="checkbox"/>
M.T.O.	<input type="checkbox"/>	EDG	<input type="checkbox"/>
M.Z.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARCHIVO	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Excellency,

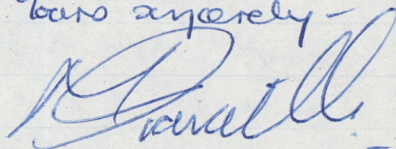
I write concerning a case I have recently read about. It concerns a Mr. Nelson Vladimiro Curtin Lingequeo, a Mapuche Indian and an activist in the Communist Party.

Mr. Lingequeo was taken by armed men in air force uniform in 1973, three weeks after a coup overthrew the government, to the Maquehua air force base. His family heard on October 13 1973, via a radio broadcast that he had escaped during transfer to Temuco Prison. Yet witnesses have testified that he was taken from the air force base in the early hours of October 13 1973. He was never seen alive again. In 1990 a Mapuche Indian reported that Mr. Lingequeo's body had been found and buried near Temuco in late 1973. His body was later exhumed and identified in November of that year (1990); he had been shot in the back of the head.

A criminal complaint for homicide was presented to the courts in 1991. I understand that under a 1978 law his killers would be granted amnesty, as members of the armed forces involved in human rights violations committed between September 11 1973 and March 10 1978. It is unfortunate that this law is used to close cases prior to 1978, before the full facts have been clarified and criminal responsibility established.

I believe that the CNUR's report in March 1991 stated that the Mapuche were treated with extreme cruelty after the 1973 coup.

I would like to hear more of this case, and other cases involving human rights violations against indigenous peoples.

Yours sincerely


Miss Michelle Travaille