

Post Office Box 1531
Greenwood, Nova Scotia
Canada B0P1W0

ARCHIVO

January 31, 1993

REPUBLICA DE CHILE			
PRESIDENCIA			
REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO			
NR.	93/3042		
	09 FEB 93		
P.A.A.	P.C.A.	F.V.M.	
M.T.O.	M.L.P.	E.D.E.C.	J.N.A.
M.Z.C.			



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

Dear Mr. President:

As a member of Amnesty International, I am concerned about human rights violations. As last year marked the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Europeans in North and South America, it seems appropriate to me to highlight concerns with respect to unresolved human rights violations against indigenous peoples in your country.

Of special interest to me is the case of Nelson Wladimiro Curinor Lincogues, a 22-year-old Mapuche Indian. A student and an activist in the Communist Party, Nelson was taken from his home by armed men in air force uniforms on October 5, 1973. His relatives were unsuccessful in attempts to locate him at the local airbase and at Temuco Prison. Authorities told his family that he had escaped captivity. In March 1990, a Mapuche Indian confessed that Nelson's body had been found by the Cautin River and buried (name unknown) in 1973. His body was exhumed in November 1990 - he had been shot in the back of the head.

I am grateful that the Chilean government is investigating the murder of Nelson Curinor, and I hope that the full truth will emerge, with those responsible being brought to justice. Amnesty International believes that all human rights abuses committed in Chile should be investigated in order to prevent such atrocities from recurring, and that unless the 1978 Amnesty Law is repealed, it will remain an obstacle to clarifying past abuses and preventing their recurrence.

Respectfully yours,
Sheila L. Hulford
(Sheila L. Hulford)