

CHILE

A newsletter in support of basic human rights

Volume I Number 3

May 21, 1975

RESISTANCE GROWS!



Laura Allende

"The fascists want to turn Chile into a prison from north to south, but find instead a growing number of resistance committees everywhere in the country," said former Socialist Party deputy Laura Allende a few minutes after arriving in Havana.

Laura Allende -- after being imprisoned, tortured and then expelled from her country -- arrived in Havana at dawn on Tuesday, April 15, on a flight from Mexico City, where she remained some time hospitalized because of tortures and abuses inflicted by the Chilean fascists.

"I was able to see in those days," she added, "despite the tortures and cruelty, how great is the spirit of struggle and of combativity of the Chilean people."

Laura Allende, as we may recall, was put under house arrest after the overthrow of the Popular Unity government on September 11, 1973. A year and two months later, on November 2, 1974, after a group of Carabineers raided her residence in Santiago, she was sent to prison for five months.

"We did not leave Chile because we wanted," she told journalists, "but because we were expelled by the fascist junta."

GREAT STRENGTH AND MORALE

Laura Allende also expressed her gratitude for the welcome in Mexico given to her and other Chilean exiles and for the attitude of the Mexican government in breaking diplomatic and trade relations with the fascist junta.

Finally, Laura Allende said she is sure that the resistance against the Chilean misgovernment is increasingly greater and affirmed that "in Chile there is a great strength and great fighting morale among workers and among resistance committees and organizations across the country."

Recent News

Liberation News Service (LNS) April 19th:

"...Ford, GM and Chrysler have submitted bids to the Chilean junta to expand their auto assembly operations in Chile....This comes at a time when 260,000 U.S. auto workers are laid off....these companies shut down their operations in Chile in 1971 as part of

the U.S. economic blockade of Chilenow they perceive an opportunity for superprofits once again..." (The K.C. Chile Solidarity Committee joins with Laura Allende in urging the people of the U.S., especially auto workers, to bring pressure on the auto companies to withdraw their Chile bids and give jobs to U.S. workers instead!)

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THE CHILE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE OF
KANSAS CITY
AND
FOOLKILLER THEATRE
present:

CAMPAMENTO

shows a group of workers and peasants building their own community on land provided them by the Popular Unity government. These communities, or campamentos, became one of the Allende government's strongest sectors of support and were thus among the military junta's first targets..

CHILE: WITH POEMS & GUNS

examines the three years of the Popular Unity government in a political and historical perspective, attempting to correct the distorted picture of the events in Chile given to the American people by the news media.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1975
8:00 and 10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 1975
7:00 p.m.

FOOLKILLER THEATRE * 809 East 31st St.
kansas city, missouri

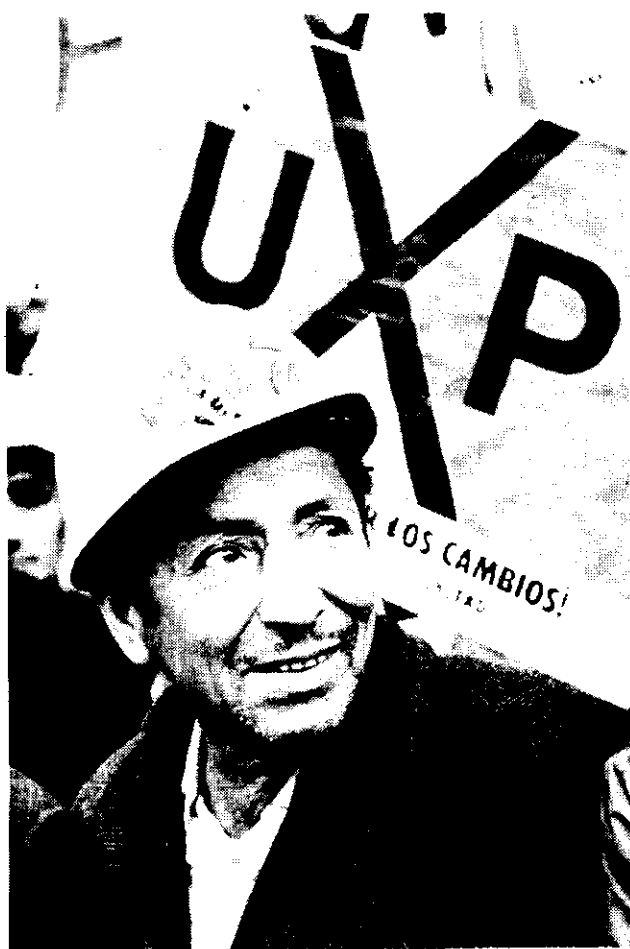
letters from our readers

"I received the CHILE newsletter and the educational contents of it were very interesting. Your newsletter was perhaps one of the truest profiles in regard to Salvador Allende's livelihood and it illustrated his loyal dedication for the survival of Chile's political interests. The Granma article gave a full account of the various torture practices used against the Chilean people and it was not a very pretty picture at all, sort of like during the Hitlerian period. From the knowledge of the tortures and the food situation alone, the CSC cause for concern is a further step toward the unity of people who aspire to make life more livable and just for everyone and not just one of a few."

Inmate, San Quentin
Prison - Tamal, Ca.

"Your newsletter is very impressive. I hope you can keep it up. Keep up the good work and keep us posted on your progress."

For a free Chile,
Charlie Rankin
(National Coordinating Center in Solidarity with Chile)



POSTERS FOR THE RESISTANCE!

We have a limited number of individually silk screened posters, produced by Kauchema Industries for sale. The design is of a group of workers with upraised fists, and a Chilean flag silhouetted against a yellow Indian sun graphic. A quote by Pablo Neruda,

I must speak to the dead now
as if they were here,
Brothers and sisters, it will go on
Our fight will go on in the land,
in the factories, in the farms,
in the streets,
the fight will go on, and then;
out of the silence your voices
will rise
in the mighty shout of freedom
when the hopes of the people
flame into hymns of joy.

dramatically emphasizes the ongoing struggle of the Chilean resistance. We have some done on a lightweight brown paper (\$1.50, including postage) and others on a heavier grade white paper (\$1.75, including postage). The size is approximately 15½" by 18". All proceeds will be sent to the Chilean resistance, via Chile Democratico, in Rome, Italy.

TRADE UNIONS ABOLISHED

Chile, historically a Latin American country with a strong trade union and worker's movement, has been transformed into a state which represses the right to organize and demonstrate dissatisfaction with the policies of the present ruling government.

CENTRAL FEDERATION OF WORKERS (CUT)

When the military junta took power in September, 1973, the Central Federation of Workers (CUT) was closed. The CUT, founded in 1952, had a membership of over 500,000 Chileans, about seventy percent of all union members. It was a major force in the development of electoral strength for the Popular Unity government, electing Salvador Allende to office in 1970.

During the Popular Unity government, the U.S. supported the American Institute for Free Labor Development (see Vol. 1 #2 of CHILE - A Newsletter in Support of Basic Human Rights, "AIFLD - Tool of U.S. Corporations") and financed the truck owners strike in 1973, just prior to the military coup.

REPRESSION UNLEASHED AGAINST UNIONISTS

Since the military coup, union leaders have been sought as criminals, imprisoned, harassed, killed or forced into exile. Luis Rojas Valenzuela, regional secretary of CUT in Arica, and Luis Almonacid, provincial secretary of CUT in O'Higgins, were shot during searches of their homes. The General Secretary of the CUT, Rolando Calderon, was shot by the military near the interior of the Swedish Embassy, where he was seeking political asylum.

Closing the CUT, the Junta at the same time outlawed any union activity whether written or by any other means (Decree #12, Sept. 17, 1973). Funds of unions have been frozen. All delegated labor bodies and meetings of such are abolished and prohibited.

The Chicago Commission of Inquiry into the Status of Human Rights in Chile, which traveled to Chile in February, 1974, revealed that "of 137 national unions, only 30 of those less important are functioning. The

remaining 25 percent do not exist as unions because there can be no grievances filed, no collective bargaining; and union meetings cannot be held except with prior approval of the agenda by the police. Such meetings are limited to an explanation of military decrees. Election of union officers is also forbidden.

UNION SOLIDARITY IN THE U.S.

From the beginning of the repression in Chile, those in the trade union movement here in the U.S. who value democracy and freedom, have strongly condemned the rise of fascism in Chile. I.W. Abel, Arnold Miller, Leonard Woodcock, Harry Bridges, Patrick Gorman, Cesar Chavez are only a few of the leaders who have condemned the suspension of trade union rights in Chile.

WHAT WE CAN DO

In line with the growing world solidarity movement with the people of Chile, the CUT (some of it's leaders in exile or underground in Chile) calls upon their fellow trade unionists in the U.S. to increase their efforts of support. **IMMEDIATELY WE MUST:**

1. Call/write to the Chilean Embassy, 1736 Mass. Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20036. Demand the full, immediate restoration of trade union rights in Chile. Demand that imprisoned trade union leaders be released immediately and unconditionally.
2. Circulate the petition demanding that the military junta be expelled from the UN. The increased international isolation of the junta contributes to the pressure to restore the trade union, human and democratic rights.
3. A delegation of Chilean trade union leaders will be visiting the U.S. in the early summer. Write to the National Coordinating Center in Solidarity with Chile, 156 5th Ave., #516, New York, N.Y., 10010, for more information.



"The people continue to be exploited."

PRISONERS NEED ASSISTANCE

Action is needed to save thousands of political prisoners in Chile. Organizations all over the world are taking part in a campaign to force the junta to stop tortures, free political prisoners and give them safe passage out of the country, and end the executions of political prisoners.

One jail, the 'El Buen Pastor', holds about 90 to 95 women political prisoners. Most have been given no lawyers, or even charged with any crime. Their only crime is sympathy with the elected government of Chile. These women include teachers, writers, actresses, labor leaders, and intellectuals. Repeated incidents of rape have caused several to become pregnant. They are desperately asking for medical attention.



Granma (May 4, 1975) reports that recently another prison, the Ritoque, was surrounded by soldiers and policemen with dogs trained to kill. The intention was mass murder of its political prisoners under the guise of an "escape" attempt. However, the resistance exposed these plans on time to prevent their implementation.

Luis Corvalan, the General Secretary of the Chilean Communist Party, is one of the prisoners at Ritoque. Concern for his situation has increased following the arrest of Manuel Ostornol, who had agreed to be Corvalan's defense attorney.

The junta's repression is evidenced further in the capture and torture of two members of Chile's Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). The junta denies the capture but friends and the French newspaper Le Monde report the imprisonment of Gladys Diaz. She had been a popular radio broadcaster before the junta as well as a staff writer for Punto Final, a respected Latin American political magazine.

A second leader, Bautista Van Schowen, is in serious medical condition due to constant torture, according to a smuggled copy of his medical record. He is a doctor and had been a member of MIR's political commission.

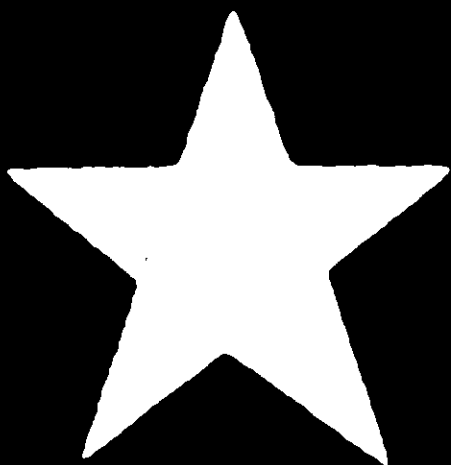
Letters and telegrams do help! Chile has released many political prisoners, such as Laura Allende, due to international pressure. They have also been pressured to stop torture and improve prison conditions. If you would like to help, contact us: Chile Solidarity Committee
Box 4771
K.C., Mo. 64109

PETITION DEMANDING EXPULSION OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

We are enclosing a copy of the petition to expel the Chilean military junta from the United Nations General Assembly. This offers our readers a concrete means of assisting the Chilean resistance in their struggle.

Please circulate the petition -- if each reader obtains 5 signatures, we will add 2,350 signatures to our total. If each reader obtains 10 signatures, we will have over the 5,000 total that we pledged. Take it with you to any groups you attend -- you'd be surprised at the people who are interested in signing. If anybody wishes to be on our mailing list, have them star their name and include a complete mailing address.

Return the petition to us via our post office box (printed at the bottom of the petition) by June 30 so that we know how to gauge our future petitioning efforts.



MURDER
 TORTURE
 ARBITRARY ARREST
 CONCENTRATION CAMPS
 EXILE
 STATE OF SIEGE
 MASSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT AND STARVATION
 NO CONGRESS
 NO POLITICAL PARTIES
 NO TRADE UNIONS
 NO POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS
 NO DUE PROCESS OF LAW
 NO FREE PRESS
 NO PUBLIC MEETINGS

EXPEL THE CHILEAN JUNTA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

TO: President of the United Nations General Assembly
 United Nations Secretary General, Hon. Kurt Waldheim
 United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. John Scali

Since September, 1973, the ruling fascist junta, in cooperation with the U.S. Government, has systematically violated the human and democratic rights of the citizens--blatently and consciously violating the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Resolution No. 2142 of the 29th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

We, the undersigned residents of the United States, recognizing and opposing our government's complicity with the overthrow of the constitutionally elected Popular Unity Government of Chile, petition for the expulsion from the United Nations General Assembly of the delegates of the Chilean military junta.

NAME

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RETURN TO

CHILE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE OF K.C.; Box 4771, K.C. Missouri, 64109

Jack Anderson April 24th:

"...The Chilean military junta has taken over the nation's schools, has forced upon them a curriculum of "national security" studies, has assigned soldiers to monitor classrooms and has organized a secret spy system to check upon the loyalty of students, teachers and administrators....

"Not only students but their parents are summoned to the high schools to attend meetings. 'Failure to attend', warns one notice, 'will be more than sufficient reason to proceed with your arrest'."

LNS April 29:

"Last week the Chilean junta ended the secret military trial of 13 leading opponents of the right-wing Chilean government. The junta had refused to allow any observers at the trial, including the lawyers of the defendants and the United Nations Committee of Inquiry...Many of the defendants were central committee members of the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left).

The verdict will be handed down in June. The only charge was that of belonging to MIR, which, along with all parties which supported Allende, has been outlawed by the Junta. The Junta has "suggested" verdicts of twenty years to life imprisonment.

Granma, May 5:

"In an effort to check the inflation which is devastating the Chilean economy, the junta has decided to dismiss 15,000 government employees, according to information disclosed this week."



Boston Globe/epf

"GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

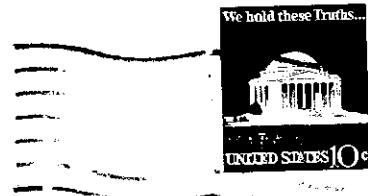
N.Y. Times May 6:

The New York Times, May 6th, reported that large numbers of Chileans are affected by malnutrition and hundreds are begging in the streets of Santiago. In late April, the Junta announced police would crack down and "rid the streets of beggars".

CHILE -- a newsletter in support of basic human rights is a monthly publication of the Information Committee of the Chile Solidarity Committee of Kansas City. Funds raised by the committee are forwarded in total to the Chilean resistance. Any articles, criticisms, suggestions, or donations can be sent to the Chile Solidarity Committee of Kansas City, P.O. Box 4771, Kansas City, Missouri, 64109



Chile Solidarity Committee of Kansas City
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Kansas City, Missouri 64109



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