



FOR A FREE CHILE

A newsletter in support of basic human rights

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June 25, 1975

UNIONISTS EXECUTED

Summary executions and repression of trade unionists in Chile continues, according to an investigative report made public last weekend by the United Nation's International Labor Organization.

The investigation was headed by Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, former president of the International Court of Justice. It was conducted in Chile during December, 1974, and was completed recently.

Among the facts reported is that "many trade union officials died either by execution, with or without trial, or as a result of torture."

Investigators drew up a "nonexhaustive" list of 110 persons killed or tortured because of their trade union identification. They ruled that the junta "failed to prove that these deaths took place for reasons other than that these persons were trade unionists."



CONTINUED REPRESSION

The ILO report further reveals the continued denial of labor's rights, reporting that "union elections are prohibited, grievance and collective bargaining are banned, and the right to strike is nonexistent."

"Lack of adequate safeguards on the unionists lives", the report continues, "is likely to create a feeling of insecurity and fear which cannot fail to affect the exercise of trade union rights."

CALL FOR RIGHTS RESTORATION

Testimony by Chilean unionists to the ILO show that "there should be a return to normal as soon as possible."

Recent investigative reports by the Chicago Inquiry, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Organization of American States and by the United Nations attest to the executions, tortures and repression of human rights by the junta.

JUNTA DENIES CHARGES

The junta has denied the charges of these organizations and several months ago refused further entry into Chile by investigative teams.

Statements from the junta claim that a new labor code is being prepared. However, the ILO notes that "provisions dealing with trade unions in the draft labor code take little account of comments already conveyed" to the junta by the ILO commission.

Recent News

GRANMA June 15, 1975

Chilean painter, scenographer and poster designer Guillermo Nuno Henriquez was arrested in Santiago, Chile on March 20 by the military regime. The arrest occurred at an exhibit of his works in the Chilean-French Institute of Culture. The exhibit was confiscated by the military government who said that the works constitute an "insult to the junta."

The arbitrary closing of his exhibit by the police and his subsequent arrest constitute yet another example of the efforts being made by the military junta to destroy the cultural values of Chile.

An international effort is being launched to obtain Henriquez's release and that of many other intellectuals, students and workers.



Rose Styron

"Americans must be concerned, for Chile is clearly in our "sphere of influence". Without direct or indirect U.S. encouragement, the right wing military could not have carried out the coup against Allende. We Americans who still believe that a democratic nation should not interfere in another nation's political struggles are confused and deeply troubled. Is Chile perhaps the Spain of our generation?...."

Ramparts May/June 1975

"Chilean prisons are full of adolescents who suffer the same brutality as their elders. Now, according to an International Commission of Jurists report, camps are being set up in which 600,000 youngsters will be forcibly re-educated...."

THE NATION'S HEALTH, May 1975
(Official newspaper of the American Public Health Association)

After months of negotiations which yielded, in turn, approval, disapproval, then approval of an American Public Health Association fact-finding mission, the Chilean government has again reversed its stand and denied APHA permission to send its proposed delegation.

APHA's attempts to carry out the fact-finding visit stem from a Governing Council resolution adopted in 1973, expressing "grave concern" over the lives and safety of Chilean health workers and over the "dismantling" of the national health service there under the junta.

Commenting on the latest event in what APHA termed a "pattern of deception and delay," Committee Chairperson Paul B. Cornely said that "such tactics indicate that the Chilean government really has something to hide. Otherwise, it would appear that the government would welcome a mission by an organization such as APHA, which has shared good working relationships and mutual respect with public health organizations and schools throughout the Americas, and which, with no 'axe to grind' can provide an objective assessment of the situation."

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letters from our readers

"Dear Friends and Companeros,
I have been enjoying your newsletter and I think it is a wonderful piece of solidarity and a world of hope for us the Chileans.

Venceremos!
Roberto Belmar

Sisters and Brothers,

Many thanks for the newsletters. The information really increased understanding here in South Florida. We're planning a future youth conference on Latin America and will be using the information.

Thanks also for your hospitality. I really learned a lot during my visit with you.

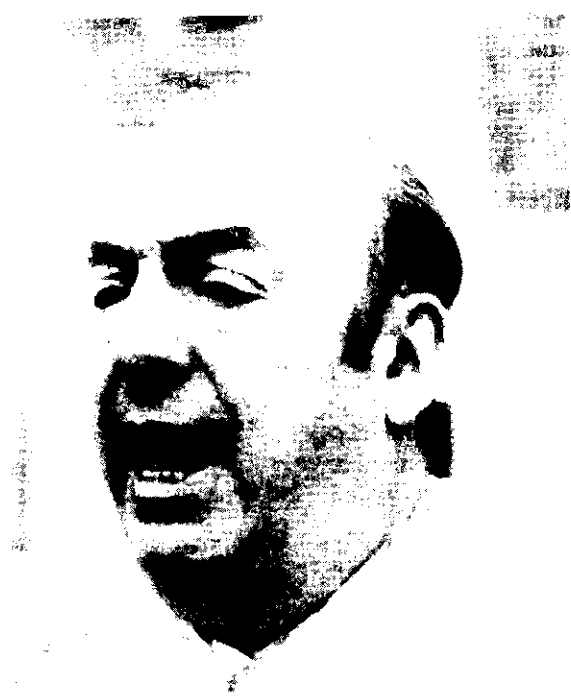
Ann Hirschman
Fort Lauderdale

PABLO NERUDA

A Short Biography

Pablo Neruda, the greatest Latin American poet of the twentieth century, was born in 1914 on Chile's frontier. When Neruda was still a boy his father, a railroad worker, died in a fall from a train.

In high school he was already writing poems, a poetry of high natured spirits and enthusiasm. At 19 he published a book called Twenty Poems of Love and One Ode of Desperation, which is still loved all over Latin America.



The governments of Latin America have a tradition of encouraging young poets by offering them consul posts. From 1927 to 1944, Neruda was consul to many countries; Japan, Mexico, China, India, Argentina and Spain. He was consul to Spain during the Spanish Civil War. When Franco invaded from North Africa, Neruda, overstepping his authority as consul, immediately declared Chile on the side of the Spanish Republic.

Neruda's poetry now became seriously political for the first time. He had loved Spain and shared with Spanish poets the shock of losing their country to Franco's repression.

In 1944, the workers from Antofagasta, the nitrate mining section of Chile, elected Neruda their Senator. Neruda's term as a senator ended with pursuit by the Secret Police. In 1948, Gonzalez Videla, a right-wing "strongman" supported by U.S. interests, took over as dictator. Six months later, Neruda, as Senator, attacked him for violations of the Chilean constitution. Videla responded by charging Neruda with treason and ordering his arrest.

Neruda went underground; miners and working people, to save his life, passed him from house to house at night. His poetry had always celebrated the lives of the Chilean people - the streets they lived on, the landscape that surrounds them, their extraordinary past - and they repaid his love. Finally he made it to Mexico and then flew to Paris.

When Videla's government fell in 1953, Neruda returned to Chile. He threw himself into the growing workers' movement which resulted in the election of Salvador Allende in 1970. It was during this time that he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Neruda remained a passionate fighter for the Unidad Popular government despite his growing weakness from cancer. When the military Junta overthrew the Unidad Popular, Neruda was a patient in Santiago Hospital. He died there just days after the coup.

Because of the Junta's intense hatred for this poet of the people, Pablo's burial took place in an atmosphere of such terror that it was an act of supreme courage to attend his funeral. From a tape of Neruda's funeral: "The funeral procession begins at the poet's house, where the corpse was lying in state attended by his widow and sisters. The day before, a stream was diverted into the house by the military who smashed everything in sight with their rifle butts and left the house flooded."

"The coffin has been removed and is being carried by some friends of the poet. Someone inquires and is told 'Pablo Neruda.' And quietly the word spreads, and the name opens doors and windows, it begins to appear at half-closed shops, it descends from telephome poles with the workers who worked on them, it stops buses and it empties them, brings out people running from distant streets, people who arrive already crying, still hoping it is not true. The name keeps emerging, like a miracle or anger, in hundreds and hundreds of people--men, women, children, almost all poor, almost all people of the shantytowns of Santiago--each of them becoming Pablo Neruda."



FUNDS FOR A FREE CHILE

A Campaign of Aid to the Chilean People

The National Coordinating Center in Solidarity with Chile has recently issued an appeal to raise \$50,000 expressly to aid the Chilean people in their struggle against facism. The campaign, called Funds For A Free Chile, is already underway in over 25 cities including Kansas City.

Funds will be used for:

- the defense of the 6,000 political prisoners still held in Chile's prisons and concentration camps without charges or recourse to legal defense;
- relief of the families of political prisoners--enabling them to servive the military's policy of economic strangulation;
- reorganizing the popular movements within Chile for the

distribution of news and information in the face of total press censorship, for maintaining contact with the outside world--in a word, for the continued growth of the struggle for democracy.

An international bureau for financial aid has been established by the representatives of the former Popular Unity government along with other Chilean organizations and parties. The bureau's bank account is under the supervision of Beatriz Allende, daughter of the slain President of Chile, Salvadore Allende.

Please give if you can afford it. Make your checks or money orders payable to FUNDS FOR A FREE CHILE and mail to: Kansas City Chile Solidarity Committee, P. O. Box 4771, K. C., Mo. 64109.

GUNS FOR THE JUNTA ?

One hundred members of the U. S. House of Representatives recently sent a letter to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger urging that the sale of military goods to Chile be resumed. Their argument is that the Foreign Aid Act was meant to end military aid to Chile, not military sales.

In introducing the letter into Congressional Record, Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.) said that unless the U. S. sold arms to Chile other nations would. However, France and Great Britain have already said they would not sell military equipment to the junta as long as it continues to ignore human rights.

Rep. McDonald's district in Georgia includes a massive Lockheed Aircraft factory. Lockheed is one of the largest defense contractors and sells substantial amounts of military equipment to other countries.

We, the Chile Solidarity Committee of Kansas City, Missouri, urge all supporters of the restoration of democracy in Chile to write their Representatives and Senators demanding that military aid not be resumed to the junta. Please let them know that this action is not representative of their constituency. Copies should be sent to the Solidarity Committee in Kansas City; we will forward the copies to Secretary of State Kissinger and the National Center.



NO MONEY NO MILK

Under Salvador Allende, elected leader of the Unidad Popular (UP) party, Chile's Socialist government achieved health reform that emphasized nutrition, maternal and infant care, environmental health, increased services for the poor, and improved distribution of care. The present regime under the Chilean Junta which imposed its totalitarian government with the military coup d'etat of September, 1973, has dismantled the health system; political repression has severely affected physician and other health workers.

ALLENDE'S ACHIEVED REFORMS

Allende tried to introduce broad structural changes that would redistribute services to the poor and increasingly would bring medical care under popular control. During the first two years of socialist government, several programs improved the distribution and quality of care available to the Chilean people. In line with Allende's long standing interest - being a physician himself - these programs emphasized nutrition. All children and pregnant or nursing mothers received 0.5 liters of free milk per day. To reduce Chile's high rate of infant and perinatal mortality, the government established a system of Maternity Clinics in small towns and worked to institutionalize the principle of free medical care in all hospitals.

Recognizing the importance of environmental health, the government began aggressive programs to improve housing conditions and sanitation. The National Health Service (NHS) also organized an emergency-care system that guaranteed emergency service, free of charge, for all Chileans. To combat alcoholism, the Ministry of Health established alcohol treatment centers in many cities and rural areas; the government tried to develop a popular consciousness about alcoholism and other health problems by publishing comic books that addressed public-health series in a humorous medium.

To implement these changes, neighborhood health centers were opened in districts which had no private doctors. To develop future priorities for health care, community-worker-professional boards were set up and preventive medicine was stressed in the medical schools.



TOTALITARIANISM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

These changes were vigorously opposed by Chile's private doctors, who saw their earnings threatened by the free neighborhood clinics, and their power threatened by the community-worker-professional boards. They blamed Allende for the shortage of medical supplies which resulted when the U.S. imposed an economic boycott on Chile in 1971. But despite the shortage, Chile's health statistics, as evaluated by World Health Organization (WHO) improved faster than any other Latin country in 1971-72. In October 1972 two thirds of Chile's doctors went on strike against Allende. But the health system continued to function fully, staffed by nurses, workers and the one-third of doctors who supported the Unidad Popular Party.

With the failure of the private doctors' strike and Allende's increasing popularity at the polls, the private doctors, along with most of the other rich people in Chile, decided that Allende must be removed by the right-wing military. They supported the military coup, and even aided in the "interrogation" of prisoners, and supplied the junta with the names of "radical" doctors for arrest.

Since the coup, the military ruling government has shut down all the neighborhood health centers, forbidden the subject of preventive medicine in all the medical schools, executed hundreds of health workers, nurses and doctors, stopped the free milk program. Now, one cannot get any form of health care in Chile without money.

Recent News

Continued from Page 2

...the torture stories that were the hallmark of the military junta's first year still continue...mid-night arrests and unexplained detentions are rarer now than immediately after the coup...terror has become institutionalized...it operates in the hands of DINA (Direccion de Informaciones Nacional) which maintains centers for interrogation where dozens of suspects are brutally tortured as a matter of routine.

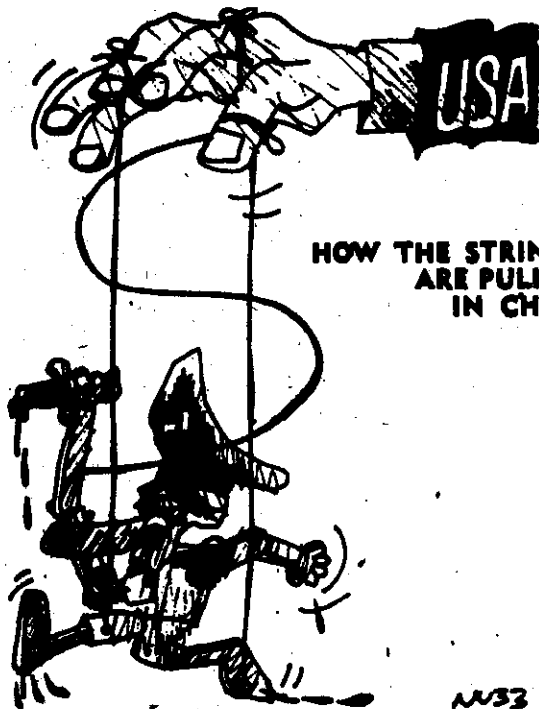
Last month, with considerable fanfare, General Pinochet (military strongman Augusto Pinochet Ugarte) signed a new decree requiring police officials to notify a prisoner's family within 48 hours of his detention and prohibiting "illegal pressure on detainees", meaning torture. But, in one two-week period since the decree, according to legal sources, about 30 people were seized by the police; 19 of them have not been seen since.

TIME June 16, 1975

Despite continued repression, there has been a cautious but discernible rise in public criticism of the junta. The main target of the complaints has been the regime's economic policies, which thus far have failed to curb the country's 15% unemployment or its astronomical inflation, now rocketing at the rate of 1% each day.

Under Finance Minister Jorge Cauas, the government is resorting to economic "shock treatment" - 15% to 25% reductions in government spending and attempts to hold the money supply down...the government's economic planners want to return to an unrestricted free-market economy...the problem is that this recessionary program is likely to push unemployment up to 25% in the coming months.

TIME June 16, 1975



BUENOS AIRES -- According to reports received here, Chilean workers have held militant demonstrations demanding restoration of human rights in Chile, improvement of their material standards and freedom for thousands of political prisoners being held in jails and concentration camps.

Demonstrations were on a large scale in the nitrate mines area which is the cradle of the working class movement in Chile.

Workers from mechanical plants, copper mines, and metallurgy industries, demonstrating in five provinces, defied repressive laws which make even a ten minute strike punishable by death.

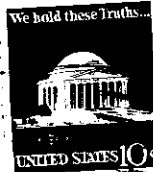
Reports added that Pinochet's spies are zealously trying to expose members of the underground resistance committees set up at most working centers.

Daily World, June 5, 1975

FOR A FREE 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. Any articles, criticisms and suggestions can be sent to the Chile Solidarity Committee of Kansas City, P.O. Box 4771, Kansas City, Missouri, 64109.



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