

HELP SAVE A LIFE

Monday, October 15, 1973

Charles E. Horman has been "missing" in Chile for one month. Six days after the military coup, Charlie was seen taken from his house by military forces. At this time, the Chilean military still claims that they did not arrest him and have never held him. The U.S. embassy claims they cannot find him and accepts the word of the military government that Charlie is not being held. Who to believe?

Joyce Horman, Charlie's wife, is still in Chile trying to find him. On the afternoon of Sept. 17th, she was out shopping when Charlie was taken from their home in a working class district of Santiago. She was quoted in the New York Times, Sept. 23 "I was caught downtown by the curfew Monday night and couldn't get a bus and so spent the night in the home of a girlfriend. When I got back at 8:30 Tuesday morning I found the house in shambles" and Charlie missing. Joyce interviewed eye-witnesses, neighbors, who told her that Charlie had been taken from the house about 5 p.m. by military forces. Another witness, leaving a neighboring house in a taxi, saw the truck with Charlie in it go to the national stadium. Despite official denials the facts are clear: Charles Horman was taken by the Chilean military and has not been heard from or of since.

The following day the Chilean Military Intelligence Service called three of Charlie's friends to question them about him and his activities. They could not have known to call these people without having talked directly to Charlie. The Military Intelligence Service is not the kind of group to lose track of a person they have made inquiries about. They now deny that they made those phone calls.

Charles Horman is an American citizen unjustly held in Chile without any charges against him or even acknowledgement of his whereabouts by the authorities there. Joyce and Edmund Horman, Charlie's father who has flown to Santiago, are still searching and trying to dig out the facts which someone wants to hide.

Who is Charlie Horman and what's all the fuss? One of the many mysteries to friends of Charlie who knew him in Chile and the U.S. is what kind of reasoning could have lead to these bizarre events. "Horman was born in Manhattan and attended the Phillips-Exeter Academy. He graduated from Harvard in 1964, magna cum laude in English and a member of Phi Beta Kappa." (N.Y. Post, Sept. 25.) In the years after college he wrote for various publications including Innovation and the Christian Science Monitor. He also did script writing for documentaries produced for TV in Seattle and later for Channel 13 in New York. As a writer, Charlie read and studied all facets of Chilean life and politics, but he was never directly involved in political activities in Chile. He had hoped to write some free-lance articles on Chile, but with the production of an animated cartoon for children, he found his time too occupied.

He and Joyce had traveled down through South America on buses as tourists. Arriving in Chile, they decided to settle for a while, work and learn more Spanish. He taught English and wrote translations to help support them and they had lived in Chile for just over a year without any problems. Last Christmas Charlie wrote a childrens story; with his film experience and Joyce's artistic talents they decided to try producing it as an animated cartoon. They borrowed camera equipment from an independent film company and build their own animation studio. At the time of his arrest, they had been hard at work for several months on the production of "The Sunshine Grabber."

It is terrifying to think that a person of Charlie's gentle character could be arrested and held without reason by the Chilean military. If in these days of fast-breaking world and national news you can feel for the life of this lone American in Chile, we urge you to write or call your Senator or Congressman and inquire about efforts to locate and free Charlie Horman. Mail them this leaflet! Cable the embassy in Santiago! If people can't move our government, Charlie Horman...

Friends of Charlie Horman
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