

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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NAIROBI APPEAL CASES: UPDATECHILE: Reinalda del Carmen Pereira Plaza

There have been important developments in investigations into the "disappearance" of Reinalda del Carmen Pereira Plaza and twelve other members of the Communist party.

On 14 September 1985 a former member of the Communist Party, Miguel Estay Reyno, who became a collaborator with the security forces after his arrest in 1975, was charged with being an accomplice in the illegal arrest of Reinalda Pereira and another of the 13, Edras Pinto.

Miguel Estay had been arrested at the end of August 1985 in connection with the killing of three members of the Communist Party and the abduction and torture of four teachers' union leaders in March 1985.

When they learned of his arrest, lawyers acting on behalf of the 13 "disappeared" Communist Party members asked Judge Cerda, the judge responsible for investigating the 13 "disappearance" cases, to question Miguel Estay on the grounds that he could provide important information which might clarify what happened to them. The judge complied with the request and Miguel Estay was charged after interrogation.

Judge Cerda has expressed optimism that the investigations will lead to an explanation of the fate of the victims. In an interview with La Segunda newspaper on 16 September 1985, he said:

*"I don't know whether [they will be found] dead or alive. I can only say that one shouldn't lose hope that the facts of what happened will emerge ... Society has a right to know what really happened ..."*