

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence. (Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

EXTERNAL Index: AMR 22/18/82
general Distr: UA

For action only by the following national sections:
FRANCE, COSTA RICA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, UK, USA

COUNTRY	SECTION
DOSSIER	7

5 March 1982

UA 61/82

"Disappearance"/Health concern/
Legal concern

HISTORICAL FILE

CHILE: Oscar Eliecer ROJAS CUELLAR
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Between 25 and 31 December 1981, a series of mass arrests are alleged to have taken place in the shanty towns of Santiago. Most of those detained were subsequently released.

One of those believed to have been arrested in the round-up is Oscar Eliecer Rojas Cuellar, a technical draughtsman, aged 36 and married. His whereabouts since 28 December 1981 are unknown. Oscar Rojas was previously imprisoned in Chile from 18 September 1973 until April 1977 when his sentence was commuted to exile and he went to live in Great Britain. Two years later he decided to return to Chile.

There is considerable concern for the safety of Oscar Rojas. Over the past year, several people have gone missing for several days or weeks and subsequently were discovered dead in suspicious circumstances, either following their kidnapping or during so-called 'confrontations' with security forces.

Background information

From detailed reports received by Amnesty International, a consistent pattern emerges: agents of the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI - Chilean secret police) or other security forces belonging to the army or navy seize people and take them to torture centres in military barracks or secret locations. There, interrogation is accompanied by torture for days at a time. Victims of arbitrary arrest and torture include trade unionists, members of church organizations, political opponents and the poor. In some instances, so-called commando groups have claimed responsibility for kidnappings and killings but it has later become apparent that such groups consisted of members of the security forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/airmail letters requesting clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Oscar Eliecer Rojas Cuellar and urging that his physical safety be guaranteed.

.../...

APPEALS TO: (For action only by those national sections listed overleaf)

Sr. Sergio Fernández Fernández
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Palacio La Moneda
Santiago, Chile

General Humberto Gordon Rubio
Jefe de la Central Nacional
de Informaciones (CNI)
Rafael Cañas 214
Santiago, Chile

COPIES TO:

Fundación de Ayuda Social de las
Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC)
Manuel Montt 2501
Santiago, Chile
(human rights organization)

Ultimas Noticias
Compañía 1214
Santiago, Chile
(daily evening newspaper)

and to Chilean diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Appeals may continue until
16 April 1982.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.<input type="checkbox"/> Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";Article 9, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".<input type="checkbox"/> The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise: although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals.<input type="checkbox"/> In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture".<input type="checkbox"/> Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case. |
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