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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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United Kingdom

COUNTRY	SECTION
DOSSIER	6

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 22/33/87
Distr: PG/SC

Date: 8 September 1987

TESTIMONIES OF TORTURE RECEIVED FROM DOCTORS AND NURSES

Patricia Beatriz HERRERO MEDIAVILLA (nurse)
Olga Miriam BERGHOLZ (nurse)
Gina CERDA YEOMANS (nurse)
Dr Pedro Raul MARIN HERNANDEZ
Dr Elba SALINAS PUELLES
Dr Manuel UBILLA

CHILE

In February and March 1987 Amnesty International published two papers containing information on torture methods used in Chile and extracts from the testimonies of detainees. Among the testimonies published in March 1987 were a number received from doctors and nurses who were arrested between December 1986 and February 1987 and who are being charged under the Anti-Terrorist Law. These are reproduced here, together with further testimony from another doctor - Manuel Ubilla, who was arrested in late December.

The six all allege that they were subjected to torture while held incommunicado in CNI detention centres (Central Nacional de Informaciones - Chilean secret police). In addition, Patricia Herrero and Drs Ubilla and Marin spent further periods in incommunicado detention after being transferred to prison. This is part of a pattern which developed in 1986 of continuing to restrict access to detainees for a period of days or weeks after their transfer from police or security police detention. In some cases the period spent incommunicado from initial arrest to the lifting of the order in prison has amounted to more than 40 days during which time relatives and lawyers were given no indication of the welfare of the detainee.

Torture has been a long-standing Amnesty International concern in Chile and in 1986 the number of victims increased considerably. The Chilean government has now taken a number of steps which should provide some safeguards for detainees. However, the testimonies given here are among several received after some of the initial measures had already been announced. The Vicaría de la Solidaridad, the Catholic church human rights organization, reported that between January and June 1987 almost 50 complaints of torture had been received in Santiago, almost double the figure for the same period the previous year.

A further positive step has since been taken. In June this year the right of the CNI to hold detainees in officially designated CNI detention centres was rescinded. Amnesty International welcomes the closure of the centres and hopes that this will result in an improvement in the protection of the rights of detainees (it is in CNI centres that torture has most commonly taken place). However, reports of torture by the CNI and other

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branches of the police have been received since the closure of the CNI centres was announced. Amnesty International believes that the treatment of detainees should be closely monitored so that the CNI does not revert to clandestine practices common in the early '80s when it frequently held political suspects in secret interrogation centres.

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CHARGES AGAINST THE ABOVE-NAMED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

All those whose testimonies appear below have been accused of belonging to the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), and have been charged with "unlawful association" under article 1.11 of the Anti-terrorist Law. The FPMR is an armed opposition group who have claimed responsibility for the attempted assassination of General Augusto Pinochet in September last year. The doctors and nurses were arrested in connection with the existence of a clinic alleged to have been run clandestinely by the FPMR and used to treat several of its members injured in the attack on President Pinochet.

In addition to the above charges, Dr Pedro Marin, Dr Manuel Ubilla and Patricia Herrero have been charged under articles of the Anti-terrorist Law with being accomplices (encubridores) in terrorist acts. Dr Ubilla is further accused of being a leader of the FPMR and Patricia Herrero with being a regional coordinator of health care for the FPMR. Judicial investigations into the case in Chile are not at present being made public.

The four women are now being held in San Miguel prison, Santiago, Dr Ubilla in the Cárcel Pública in Santiago and Dr Marin in San Felipe prison (a town to the north of Santiago) where he was recently transferred.

Amnesty International has not adopted the detainees as prisoners of conscience, but is currently seeking clarification of the basis for the charges against them and is urging that thorough investigations into the reports of their torture while in CNI detention be carried out with the full cooperation of the security forces.

MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE SAFEGUARDS FOR DETAINEES, and JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE

The Chilean Government recently adopted certain measures in response to growing international criticism of its human rights record.

. Closure of CNI detention centres

In June 1987 a new law was passed removing the CNI's power to hold detainees in CNI detention centres. According to the law, although the CNI still has powers of arrest, detainees must now be handed over to the police forces, either to investigaciones (criminal investigations police) or to carabineros (uniformed police). While Amnesty International welcomes the closure of official CNI detention centres, it is monitoring developments to determine whether this in practice reduces the risk of the torture of detainees. (Since the new law was introduced, Amnesty International received reports that a man was tortured with electricity at the house where he was arrested by the CNI; several others present were ill-treated.)

. The CNI's past failure to observe court rulings:

In the past year, some courts made efforts to investigate the condition of detainees; those held by the CNI have in the majority of cases been subjected to torture. In the course of 1986 complaints were received by the Supreme Court from lower courts that the CNI were obstructing their efforts. An example of this was the refusal on the part of the CNI to allow the courts, or doctors sent by the courts, to see detainees held incommunicado. These complaints led General Pinochet to make a statement on 30 October 1986 in which he said that he had "immediately issued instructions to the ministers of the Interior and National Defence.. that they reiterate to [the CNI] that it should act in strict accordance with the Constitution and laws..." (1) Despite these reassurances from the President, the CNI continued to disregard court orders, and the pursuit of investigations by the courts into the treatment of detainees has even led to cases of death threats. (See below and also under the details on Dr Ubilla's case.)

. Investigations into torture allegations

René Garcia, a Chilean judge known for his diligent investigations into torture allegations, is currently investigating some 40 complaints (querellas) of torture presented to the courts, including querellas from some of the doctors and nurses whose testimony is given here. He has already faced numerous obstacles in investigating the allegations, in particular long delays in the carrying out of judicial orders. It took five months to obtain permission from the military courts for one group of detainees to appear before him, and after he reportedly identified two CNI agents responsible for the torture of a detainee in September 1986, the head of the CNI refused to comply with an order summoning the agents to appear before him. The CNI head's refusal was based on the grounds that a civilian judge had no jurisdiction to try members of the security forces. In August 1987 the judge received a series of anonymous phone calls threatening him with death.

. ICRC access to detainees in police detention:

At the end of 1986 it was announced that an arrangement had been made between the government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which would enable ICRC delegates to visit detainees held in police custody and carry out medical examinations. ICRC delegates previously visited prisons, but not police or CNI detention centres. This arrangement, agreed at the end of 1986, meant that detainees could be seen by members of the ICRC after 24 hours if held by Investigaciones, at any time if held by Carabineros, and after 5 days if held by the CNI. This was prior to the rescinding of the right of the CNI to hold detainees.

In January 1987, the Foreign Minister, Jaime del Valle, stated that the new concessions to the International Committee of the Red Cross meant that "claims that there is torture in Chile must end once and for all." (2) As it is most commonly during the initial days of detention that torture is practised in Chile, the decision to grant the ICRC access to detainees in police custody was an important development.

However, the ICRC itself points out that their work does not constitute a guarantee that torture does not take place, and AI has

received testimonies from several detainees who were tortured before or after they were seen by ICRC delegates. Both Manuel Ubilla and Patricia Herrero were visited by ICRC delegates while in CNI centres. In some cases, ICRC delegates may see physical signs of torture, but they are bound by policy not to publicize their findings. They report in confidence to the relevant authorities in the country. It is reported in the Chilean press, however, that the Chilean government has agreed to the ICRC providing information to the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Chile, who compiles annual reports on the human rights situation in Chile.

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Extracts from the testimonies of Drs Marin, Salinas and Ubilla and of the nurses Patricia Herrero, Olga Miriam Bergholz and Gina Cerda follow. Their original Spanish is given in appendix.

TESTIMONIES

Dr Elba SALINAS PUELLES. Aged 32. Detained 17 December 1986,
imprisoned 2 January 1987

At the time of her arrest on 17 December Dr Salinas was seven months pregnant. Although she was not tortured with electricity, she was beaten, threatened and subjected to physical and psychological duress through prolonged interrogation.

"I was again interrogated. On several occasions I was hit in the face and my hair pulled. I was also beaten repeatedly in the ribs. I was threatened that even though I was pregnant I would be tortured and also killed as no one knew that I was in Chile and therefore it wouldn't cost them anything to make me disappear. Then I was taken to a doctor by a woman who told me they would take out my baby to kill it and then I would be killed. The doctor confirmed the length of my pregnancy because my interrogators didn't believe it and also confirmed the other health problems affecting me...The same woman, extremely rude and without scruples, and always threatening to kill my child, took me again for interrogation."

The interrogations continued intermittently throughout the 16 days she was held by the CNI. She said that on the advice of the doctor she was not beaten any more, but that the threats continued, and occasionally she was hit in the face.

"On 1 January, I was taken out of my cell very early. They made me get dressed and took me to a room where there was a table and many lights. There in a very rough and threatening manner they filmed me. I was very thirsty and extremely tired. I was alone in the room and they interrogated me from above. This lasted almost two hours. Then they carried on interrogating me all day and night until the early hours of the morning of 2 January when I was taken back to the film room. I could see the interrogator. Sometimes he acted in a very educated way at other times very rude and sarcastic. This went on for about three hours. Then they carried on interrogating me until midmorning."

At midday, she was taken to the Military Prosecutor's Office where she remained for twelve hours without being given anything to eat or drink. She said in her testimony that *"while held by the CNI, I lost six kilos, showed signs of intrahepatic cholestasis, had two asthma attacks and on 31 December had signs that I was going into labour."* (3)

Dr Salinas' child remained in prison with her after its birth. The child had a number of health problems but had free access to medical care and was taken to an outside clinic by relatives.

Gina Cerda Yeomans. Nurse. Detained 17 December 1986.

Gina Cerda was arrested by the CNI on 17 December with her boyfriend and taken to a CNI detention centre. She states in her testimony that during the 16 days she was held she was threatened with death and:

"I was maltreated physically and psychologically. I was beaten several times and my hair pulled while I was being interrogated. I was permanently tortured psychologically as they told me that my boyfriend had had a heart attack because of the electric shocks he had been given, that he would soon be killed, that he pleaded with them to punish me instead of him, that he had been shot etc." (4)

Dr Manuel Jesús UBILLA ESPINOZA. Aged 23. Detained 18 December 1986,
imprisoned 2 January 1987

Dr Manuel Ubilla was arrested by the CNI in Santiago on 18 December 1986 and held incommunicado until 2 January. During these two weeks the CNI repeatedly refused to comply with the orders of a Santiago appeals court that he be visited by a court-appointed forensic doctor. Relatives said at the time that they had information that Dr Ubilla could not walk and was in a state close to coma. He was visited by a delegate from the ICRC on 26 December.

When Dr Ubilla appeared before the Military Prosecutor on 2 January 1987 he was seen to be in a poor physical condition and his lawyer lodged a request with the Prosecutor that he be transferred to hospital; this request was however turned down. The Military Prosecutor ordered that Dr Ubilla be held incommunicado upon his transfer to prison, an order which remained in effect for a further month. During this time further visits from the ICRC were reportedly not allowed.

At the request of the Supreme Court, Manuel Ubilla was visited in prison on 7 January by Monica Maldonado, an appeals court official, who also visited a second detainee at the same time. In Manuel Ubilla's case she recorded that he was anxious and tense, and had scars on his chest and wrists, particularly the left wrist. She submitted her findings, together with statements about their treatment by the CNI, to the 20th Criminal Court (Juzgado del Crimen) in the form of an official complaint of torture (querrela) for investigation. Shortly afterwards she began receiving threatening telephone calls in the name of the "Commando 11 September" which last year claimed responsibility for the abduction and murder of four government opponents. The anonymous caller threatened the lives of both herself and her children.

Dr Ubilla was subjected to repeated electric shocks and severe beatings while being interrogated by the CNI. He had been arrested in the street by four armed men and taken blindfold to the CNI centre. The following are extracts from his testimony.

"On arrival they undressed me immediately... I was taken to a freezing room (air conditioned) and there they passed me wires which when I touched them gave me electric shocks; I let them drop immediately and they attached them to my fingers and another to my penis; they beat me on the head and on the legs with sticks prepared so as not to leave clearly patterned marks. This was combined with electric shocks, each time more intense. Because I remained silent my torturers beat me on the head and in the stomach with force; I felt great pain and later a sort of numbness throughout my body; I lost consciousness."

"... two or three men came into the cell talking about the days that I had been unconscious and the fact that I was dehydrated. They beat me on the

face, gagged my mouth and nose to provoke asphyxiation and see how I reacted, and applied current to my nipples; they left later after failing to get any reaction from me; this was repeated on two or three occasions at intervals, I estimate, of four to six hours approximately.

Later I was taken by several people to a kind of metal bed where the one in charge of the torturers told me I would have to respond and reply to their questions; they tied down my feet and hands, placed electric wires on my hands, feet, penis and anus and combined electric shocks with beatings on the ears and testicles; they interrogated me, I gave no answers to their questions and with the pain that I felt I begged them to kill me. As they didn't succeed in making me speak, this torture lasted for several hours.

On 24 December in the morning they transferred me to a room where I was cleaned and they began treatment with a drip for several hours; in this time I recuperated a little. I was attended here by a man (a medical assistant) and a woman...."

"A little before midnight the group of torturers came into the place where I was recuperating; by their breath and what they said [I realized] they were drunk; they were 4-6; they tried to hang me from the hands, but seeing me to be very weak they did this only with my left hand from which I remained semi-suspended, causing a great pain in the arm.they began to give me electric shocks on different parts of my body, and slapped me with open hands on my ears, face and chest; they put a pistol into my mouth so I would kill myself; I made a forward movement with my head so that the gun would go off if it was really loaded, but realized that they were just intimidating me. Then they took me by the hair and beat on my eyes with their fingers; I felt extreme pain and then a dizziness and pain throughout my body; I lost consciousness. From then all I remember is that on 26 December someone was cleaning me [my body] and was speaking in French; I didn't respond; later when I was a little more conscious, in pain all over, especially in the head, spinal column and eyes, I realized that I was with two men from the [International Committee of the] Red Cross..... They attended me, examined me and then left; later a group of torturers arrived and said that they were going to continue with the "treatment", but now they would take care not to kill me.

They left me in the cell for several hours and spoke to me through a little window, saying that all the others had talked; that it wasn't necessary any longer to remain silent, that there were many more detainees and that they knew all that I had done. To all this I replied that they couldn't bother me and that they were liars. At this, they left me in the cell naked and turned up the air conditioning; I felt extremely cold and tried to do exercises but I didn't have the strength; on two or three occasions the torturers came in, beat me with sticks, although they didn't ask questions now, and then left.

On 1 January 1987 I was bathed and taken to a room for filming.... On 2 January I was taken to the Military Prosecutor's Office and handed over by the leader of the torturers (an army colonel) to the Prosecutor... who ordered me held incommunicado for 31 days." (5)

Patricia Beatriz HERRERO MEDIAYVILLA. Aged 29. Midwife.
Detained 18 December 1986,
imprisoned 2 January 1987

According to her testimony, Patricia Herrero was arrested at her home on 18 December 1986 by five heavily armed men. They beat her, made her undress, touched her indecently and started shouting insults at her. After being allowed to dress again, she was handcuffed, blindfolded and continually beaten. She was then taken to a CNI detention centre where she was stripped and given a medical examination. She was made to walk around naked because her interrogators didn't believe she was giving accurate personal details. After being given overalls and lightweight shoes to put on she was taken to another room:

"They made me get onto a bedframe, stripped me, spreadeagled my legs and arms and tied them down with rubber [straps]. I don't know how many people were there but I had the impression that the wolf was waiting for its captive. They were laughing, singing and mocking my appearance. They immediately began to put electrodes on my breasts, legs, arms, genitals and nostrils. Without asking me anything they began to give me strong electric shocks. They were laughing a lot and told me to lift my finger if I wanted to talk. One of them was holding my head firmly and my mouth was gagged to prevent me from shouting. I don't know how long I was given the shocks. When they finished, I felt very strange, confused, dazed, with muscular fatigue which prevented me from moving. Then the interrogations began, in an aggressive, insistent and rough manner. I was still tied to the bedframe and one of them continually moved one of the electrodes through my vagina."

After being allowed to sleep in a cell for a while she was then taken back to the bedframe where she was stripped, tied up and given electric shocks as before. She began to lose consciousness:

"After coming round again I realised they were giving me a cardiac massage. Some of them were shouting at me and moving me, telling me to relax and breathe, at the same time swearing and insulting me. The interrogations continued relentlessly. "

At one point later on she heard one of her captors say "Give it to this shit until she dies."

"They gave me more electric shocks. It is very difficult to express what I was feeling at the time. I only remember that my biggest fear was of going mad because I felt my toes and fingers beginning to open and being torn apart. My muscles became rigid all over again and I completely lost consciousness.

I felt them giving me cardiac massage again and heard many voices insisting that I opened my eyes and that I should talk but I couldn't. One of the voices, apparently that of a doctor, gave the order not to carry on "giving" it to me because I was hypertensive. I was taken to back to my cell.

I felt really afraid, I was shivering, and tried to coordinate my thoughts. I was sweating too much and felt weak and nauseous. I had a strong bronchial spasm which made me desperate as I felt I couldn't breathe. They called a doctor who prescribed bronchodilators. During the first six days when I was in this state of health I was repeatedly interrogated, but the manner in which the interrogations were handled changed radically. They didn't torture me physically again although on several occasions when they took me to the bathroom they made me bang into walls, which provoked much laughter. On around the eighth day The International Red Cross delegate came to see me and I discovered that I was in calle Borgoño. [A CNI detention centre.] The doctor took note of the marks left by the electric

shocks."

During the fifteen days she was held by the CNI, she said also that she was subjected to two mock executions and that she was continually threatened that she would be given more electric shocks.

On 2 January, she was taken to the Military Prosecutor's Office:

"I would like to make it clear that when I was taken to the Military Prosecutor's Office I felt more tortured psychologically than in the CNI as I had long waits of between 5 and 8 hours before being attended to during which time I was not allowed to go to the bathroom or have a glass of water. On several occasions there I was subjected to interrogations using the "good and bad" technique. That is; sometimes the method of interrogation was very paternalistic, always trying to make me repent, and on other occasions I was directly threatened and ordered to talk." (6)

After transfer to prison Patricia Herrera remained initially in incommunicado detention, thus spending a total of 40 days incommunicado before being allowed access to lawyers and her family.

Olga Miriam BERGHOLZ. Aged 36. Nurse. Detained 15 January 1986,
imprisoned 5 January 1987

Olga Miriam Bergholz was arrested on 15 January 1987 in the street by a civilian agent and forced into a car. She heard a shot and was told a friend of hers had been killed, she learnt later that this was not true. She was taken to a CNI detention centre where, after being made to change into overalls and lightweight shoes, she was subjected to numerous interrogation sessions throughout the 5 days she was held there:

"After a while they said that as I wasn't cooperating they would try other means. They blindfolded me and gave me electric shocks through some keys they made me hold. I was taken to another room for further interrogation. One of them became very angry and beat me several times around the head and body and then made me lie down on a mattress. There they half undressed me, placed tape on my thighs and breasts and applied shocks using the cattle prod." (7)

She says she was given further electric shocks later on because she refused to change her answers, and when back in her cell again could hear the shouts of her friends being tortured.

Dr Pedro Raul MARIN HERNANDEZ. Detained 15 February 1986,
imprisoned 19 February 1987

In a statement to the San Miguel Appeals Court on 18 February 1987, Dr Marin gave the following account of his detention by the CNI between 15 and 19 January. During his arrest by a group of unidentified civilians, he sustained a head injury causing him to lose consciousness.

"I woke up, wearing blue overalls and worn lightweight shoes, in a room which appeared to be a sick room. They interrogated me and beat me at the same time. ... Someone who said he was a doctor examined me. Because of my serious condition, he sent for a specialist who examined me more extensively and recommended medication. Then they took me to another

building where they held me up to take photographs. They took me to a cell where I was kept for short periods of two to three hours. In between, I was taken to a torture table, a sort of bed with straps, covered in a blanket nailed to the bed. They stripped me naked and different people applied electricity from a small machine, increasing the voltage until I lost consciousness."

Later,

"while I was tied down, one of them raped me, causing rectal bleeding for several days, during which time I was given no medication."

He alleged that while held by the CNI he was interrogated constantly under the effects of drugs (believed to be Pentothal) and beaten, particularly on the hands (his interrogators told him that this was to prevent him carrying out any further operations). He was also threatened with death and told that his mother and brother would be attacked.

As a result of the torture, Dr Marin said: *I am suffering from partial amnesia, pains in the head caused by the trauma and my psychological state has deteriorated greatly." (8)*



Demonstrators protest the detention and torture by the CNI of Dr Ubilla and others. The posters read: "The CNI is torturing. We? What are we doing?" "Dr Manuel Ubilla. In a grave state after CNI torture. Let us defend his life" ...

ORIGINAL QUOTATIONS

1. "impartido de inmediato las instrucciones correspondientes a los ministros del Interior y de Defensa Nacional para que...reiteran a ese servicio las ordenes en cuanto a que se ha de proceder con estricta sujecion a la Constitución y a las leyes..."

2. "Desaparece definitivamente el argumento de que en Chile existe la tortura."

3. [Dr Elba Salinas]

"Fui nuevamente interrogada...En varias oportunidades fui golpeada en la cara y se me tiraba el pelo. Además se me daban constantes golpes en las costillas ininterrumpidos. Se me amenazaban diciendo que a pesar de estar embarazada iba a ser torturada y también con matarme, ya que nadie sabía que estaba en Chile y por lo tanto no les costaba nada hacerme desaparecer. Después me llevaron donde un médico. Allí me llevó una mujer que me dijo que se me sacaría mi guagua para matarla y luego me matarían a mí. Llegué donde el médico quién me atestiguó el tiempo real de mi embarazo (7 meses), pues los interrogadores no me creían. Además pudo corroborar los problemas de salud que me aquejaban...La misma mujer muy grosera y sin escrúpulos, siempre amenazandome con matar a mi guagua, me llevó nuevamente al interrogatorio..."

"El 1 de enero del 87, me sacaron de mi celda temprano, me hicieron vestirme y me llevaron a una sala que tenía una mesa y muchas luces. Allí de una manera muy brusca y amenazante me filmaron. Tenía mucha sed y estaba muy cansada. Yo estaba sola en la pieza y se me interrogaba desde arriba. Esto duró cerca de dos horas. Después continuaron interrogando todo el día y la noche. En la madrugada del día dos de enero, nuevamente me llevaron a la sala de filmación. Allí vi al interrogador...En algunas ocasiones era muy educado o otras veces muy grosero y sarcástico. Esto duró cerca de tres horas. Posteriormente siguieron interrogándome hasta media mañana."

"Debo aclarar que en la CNI bajé 6 kilos de peso y empecé con manifestaciones de colestasis intrahepática, tuve dos crisis de asma y el 31 de diciembre del 86, estuve con síntomas de parto."

4. [Gina Cerda]

"Durante este tiempo fui maltratado física y psicológicamente. Recibí varios golpes y tirones de pelo mientras se me interrogaba. Además fui permanentemente torturada síquicamente ya que se me hablaba sobre mi compañero (que tenía un paro cardíaco por la corriente que le habían aplicado, que lo matarían pronto, que el pedía que se me castigara a mí pero no a él, que le habían pegado un tiro etc.)"

5. [Dr Manuel Ubilla]

"Al llegar al lugar de inmediato me desnudan..... luego me trasladan tirándome del pelo a una habitación helada (aire acondicionado) y allí me pasan unos cables, al tomarlos estos conducían electricidad, los suelto de inmediato y los amarran a mis dedos y otro cable en el pene, allí me golpean en la cabeza, piernas, con palos preparados para no dejar huellas

"tableados", combinados estos con golpes cada vez más intensos de electricidad, al mantenerme en silencio mis torturadores me golpean con fuerza en la cabeza y en el estómago, siento un gran dolor y después como adormecimiento en todo el cuerpo, pierdo el conocimiento...."

"... entran en la celda 2 ó 3 hombres los que comentan los días que estoy inconciente y que estoy deshidratado. Me golpean en la cara, me tapan la boca y nariz para provocar asfixia y ver mi reacción y me aplican corriente en las tetillas y luego se fueron al no ver reacción en mí, esto se repite por 2 ó 3 ocasiones con intervalos de 4 a 6 horas calculo aproximadamente.

Soy conducido luego por varios individuos a una especie de camilla metálica, allí el jefe de los torturadores señala que es necesario que yo reaccione y dé respuestas a sus preguntas, me engrillan de pies y manos, se me ponen cables de electricidad en manos, pies, pene y ano, combinando golpes de electricidad y golpes en oídos, testiculos, se me interroga, no doy respuesta a sus preguntas, yo con el dolor que sentía pedí que me mataran, además que no me hacen hablar, esta tortura dura varias horas.

El día 24 de diciembre por la mañana me trasladan a una habitación donde me limpian e inician un tratamiento con sueros por varias horas, en estas horas me recupero un poco, allí me atendió un hombre (practicante) y una mujer..."

"Poco antes de medianoche entraron al lugar donde me recuperaba el grupo de torturadores, los que por el aliento y lo que decían estaban borrachos, eran 4 - 6, tratan de colgarme de las manos pero al verme muy débil sólo lo hacen de mi mano izquierda, de la cual quedo semisuspendido, sintiendo un gran dolor en el brazo..... dieron inicio a golpes eléctricos por diversas partes del cuerpo, golpes con manos abiertas en oídos, cara, pecho, me pusieron una pistola en la boca para que yo me matara, hice un movimiento con fuerza con la cabeza hacia adelante para provocar el disparo si era verdad que el arma estaba cargada, pero me di cuenta que era sólo intimidación. Luego me tomaron con fuerza por el pelo y me golpearon varias veces en los ojos con los dedos, sentía un fuerte dolor y luego un mareo con dolor en todo el cuerpo, pierdo el conocimiento, de allí me recuerdo solo el 26 de diciembre que una persona me estaba limpiando y que hablaba francés, yo no respondo nada, más tarde un poco más conciente, pero con fuertes dolores en el cuerpo y en especial la cabeza, columna y ojos, reconozco que me acompañaban dos hombres de la Cruz Roja..... Me cuidaron y me examinaron un rato y se retiraron, luego llegó el grupo de torturas, los que me dicen que igual van a seguir con el "tratamiento", pero ahora con la precaución de no matarme.

Me dejaron en la celda varias horas, me hablaron por una ventanilla donde decían: "que todos los demás habían hablado, que ya no era necesario mi silencio, que existían muchos más detenidos y que conocían todo lo que yo hacía. A todo lo cual respondí que no me molestaran y que eran mentiras. A esta reacción mía me dejan en la celda desnudo e intensifican el aire acondicionado, senti gran frío, hacia esfuerzos para hacer ejercicios pero no tenía fuerza, en dos o tres ocasiones entraron los torturadores, me golpeaban con palos, ya no hacían preguntas y se retiraban.

El día 1^o de enero de 1987 me bañan y trasladan a una sala de filmación.... y me señala que seré trasladado a la Fiscalía Militar. El día 2 de enero soy trasladado a la Fiscalía Militar y entregado por el jefe de tortura (un mayor de ejército)... el cual me incomunica por 31 días..."

6. [Patricia Herrero]

"Al llegar, me suben a una camilla, me desnudan, me amarran los brazos y las piernas separadas con una especie de gomas. No sé cuanta gente habría allí, sólo se que la sensación que me dió era el lobo esperando su presa. Se reían, cantaban, se burlaban de mi aspecto. Inmediatamente comienzan a ponerme electrodos en mamas, piernas, brazos, genitales, y fosas nasales. Sin preguntarme nada comienzan a darme fuertes golpes de corriente. Se rien mucho y me dicen que cuando quiera hablar levante un dedo. Un tipo me tenía tomada fuertemente la cabeza y la boca amordazada para evitar que gritara. Yo no puedo precisar el tiempo que duró el schock de corriente. Cuando este cesó, me sentía muy extraña, confundida, obnubilada, con fatiga muscular, lo que no me permitía moverme. Entonces comienzan en forma insistente, agresiva y grosera los interrogatorios, siempre amarrada a la camilla y uno de los individuos no cesó de arrastrar uno de los electrodos por mi vagina."

"Después comienzo a volver en si y siento que me estan haciendo masaje cardiaco externo y unos tipos me gritan y me mueven diciéndome que me relaje y respire, todo esto con groserías. Continuaron incansablemente los interrogatorios."

"Uno de estos individuos dice textualmente "denle a esta mierda hasta que se muera."

"Vuelven a darme fuertes golpes de corriente. Es muy difícil relatar lo que se esta sintiendo en ese momento. Sólo sé que mi mayor temor era quedar decerebrada puesto que sentía que los dedos de manos y pies se me empezaban a abrir y a desarmar. Vuelvo a tener rigidez muscular generalizada y pierdo totalmente el conocimiento."

Siento que me hacen masajes cardiacos nuevamente y muchas voces a lo lejos que insistían que abriera los ojos y que hablara, pero yo no podía. Una de las voces, al paracer un médico, da la orden de que no se me siga "dando" porque estaba hipertensa. Entonces me llevaron a mi celda."

"Sentía mucho temor, tiritaba, trataba de coordinar mis ideas, sudaba demasiado, me sentía débil y mareada y con un gran bronco espasmo que me desesperaba muchísimo al sentir que no podía respirar. Llamaron a un médico el cual me receta broncodilatadores. En estas condiciones de salud estuve los 6 primeros días. Nunca cesaron de interrogarme, pero la forma de esos interrogatorios cambió radicalmente. No me volvieron a torturar físicamente a pesar de que en varias ocasiones cuando me llevaban al baño me hacían chocar con las paredes, lo que provocaba mucha risa. Alrededor del octavo día fue la Cruz Roja Internacional a verme y supe que estaba en Borgoño. El médico constató las huellas dejada por la electricidad."

"Quiero dejar en claro que cuando pasé a la Fiscalía Militar me sentí más torturada psicológicamente que en la CNI, puesto que las largas esperas de 5 a 8 horas antes de ser atendida, sin oportunidad de ir al baño o de tomar un vaso de agua. En varias ocasiones en la Fiscalía se dio el interrogatorio del bueno y del malo. Me explico. A veces la forma de interrogarme era muy paternalista, tratando siempre de que declarara mi arrepentimiento de los hechos y en otras ocasiones se me decía directamente que hablara todo con amenazas."

7. [Olga Miriam Bergholz]

"Después de un rato me dijeron que como no cooperaba, iban a tratarme de

otra manera, me vendaron y me aplicaron corriente a través de unas llaves que tenía que tomar. Luego vinieron nuevos cambios de pieza, interrogatorios. Uno de ellos bastante enojado me golpeó varias veces en la cabeza y en el cuerpo y después me ordenó que me acostara en una colchoneta. Allí me semi desnudaron, me colocaron scotch en las ingles y en los senos y procedieron a interrogarme mientras me aplicaban la picana."

8. (Dr Pedro Marin)

"Desperté luego en un lugar que al parecer era una enfermería, vestido con un buzo de color azul, y unas zapatillas usadas. Me interrogaban y golpeaban al mismo tiempo. ... Una persona que se hizo pasar por médico me examinó. Por mi estado grave, mandó a llamar a otro médico especialista, el que me examinó en forma más completa y me recomendó medicamentos. Luego me llevaron a otra dependencia donde me sostuvieron para tomarme fotografías. Me llevaron a la celda, donde permaneci por periodos breves de dos o tres horas aproximadamente, para ser llevado intermitentemente a una mesa de torturas, tipo camilla con correas, cubierta de una frazada remachada al mueble. Me desnudaron y aplicaron corriente con una máquina pequeña, diferentes personas que iban aumentando el voltaje hasta que yo perdiera el conocimiento.."

"y estando yo amarrado, un sujeto me violó, quedando con un sangramiento rectal por varios días, no dándose ningún medicamento."

"Sufro de una amnesia parcial, cefalea traumática y un gran detrimento psicológico."