

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI INDEX: AMR 22|70|83
DISTR: SC|CO|GR|PG

COUNTRY DOSSIER	SECTION 3
--------------------	--------------

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
London WC2 7HF
England

July 1983

C H I L E

RECENT ARRESTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS

Amnesty International is seriously concerned that the Chilean Government is continuing to violate the human rights of trade unionists and their leaders. The organization believes that these individuals have been subjected to arbitrary short-term detention, torture, banishment and/or imprisonment for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression.

Amnesty International has for example been concerned at recent reports of the arrest, banishment or committal for trial of the leaders of several of the main trade union confederations. Since May of this year, at least eight trade union leaders have been arrested and formally charged under the Law of Internal State Security, after being accused of "promoting and inciting the suspension of national activities". All of those charged have now been released on bail awaiting their trial. Eight others have been banished for three months on the orders of the Ministry of the Interior after being held in secret detention by the Central Nacional de Informaciones (CNI - Chilean secret police). The arrests resulted from two national days of protest (on 11 May and 14 June) and a call for a general strike. Recent statements by the government had indicated that it would use a "hard hand" against trade union leaders responsible for strikes and stoppages and against those who break the "political recess" which has been in force since September 1973 (all political parties are banned).

Amnesty International has consistently urged the release of trade unionists and workers thought to have been arrested solely on account of their peaceful trade union activities and that banishment orders against such individuals be revoked. It is also concerned at reports that trade unionists have been tortured while held in secret detention.

Background

Although the right to form trade unions "in the manner prescribed by the law" is guaranteed by the Chilean Constitution of 1981, their formation and activities are effectively limited by labour laws and also by the Constitution itself, which states that trade union organizations and their members may not undertake any political activities. Some trade union confederations have been banned altogether. One of the first measures taken by the military junta after it came to power in September 1973 was to ban the main trade union confederation, the Central Unica de Trabajadores (CUT - Central Workers' Confederation). Many of its members and officials were arrested, imprisoned, tortured, exiled or "disappeared" after arrest. In 1978, seven other federations were banned by decree 2346 because they had a "clear marxist orientation" and were "against public order and the security of state". The same year, decree law 2347 was introduced which banned all organizations acting in trade union affairs without the necessary legal accreditation. Although few trade unionists or leaders

have been charged with breaking decree 2347, one exception was the case of Manuel Bustos, president of the Coordinadora Nacional Sindical (CNS - National Trade Union Coordinating Body, not recognized by the government) and nine other members of the CNS executive who were arrested in July 1981. They were charged by an appeals court under decree law 2347 with illegally representing workers after they had presented a petition of workers' demands to the government. Although eight of the CNS leaders were released on bail almost immediately, Manuel Bustos and Alamiro Guzmán were held in prison for six months before being granted bail. In June the following year, the government decided to drop the proceedings against them to give them a chance to "mend their ways".

Amnesty International is concerned that many trade unionists and workers, though not charged under legislation relating to trade unions, have been subjected to short-term detention without charge, banishment within the country (relegación) for three months, or exile from the country particularly as a result of participating in peaceful demonstrations or unauthorized meetings. These measures are usually taken in accordance with interim provision 24 of the Constitution which, during a so-called "state of danger to internal peace", gives the president, through his ministries, the power to order that individuals be detained without charge for up to 20 days, to order their banishment within the national territory for up to three months, or their expulsion from the country, all without formal legal proceedings or specific charges. Under interim provision 24 the president may also prevent individuals from entering the country, as happened in the case of CNS leader Juan Manuel Sepúlveda who was officially barred from returning to Chile on 11 August 1981, after being accused by the government of holding meetings with marxist organizations, denigrating Chile and seeking financial support for his organization while abroad.

During the period of detention without charge, individuals are usually held incommunicado, often in secret detention centres run by the CNI where torture is a routine method of interrogation. Among the trade unionists reported to have been tortured during secret detention is José Enrique Nuñez Estrella, a leader of CONSTRAMET, one of the metal workers' confederations. He was arrested by the CNI in the early hours of the morning of 24 March at his home and taken blindfolded to a secret detention centre. He alleged that during the five days he was held there he was subjected to the "submarino" method of torture whereby the victim's head is submerged in a tank of water, usually contaminated, almost to the point of asphyxiation. José Nuñez was reportedly interrogated about his trade union activities and particularly about a journey he made to the construction site of a hydroelectric plant at Colbún-Machicura, some 300km south of Santiago, where construction workers' had been on strike. At the end of the five days, he was banished for three months under interim provision 24 along with 33 others to Pisagua. As is usual in such cases, he was not brought before a judge or allowed access to his family or lawyers before his banishment.

In addition to trade unionists subjected to administrative measures under interim provision 24, others have been charged with offences under the Law of Internal State Security, such as disturbing public order and distributing pamphlets considered "subversive" by the government. On 3 February 1983, Lino Contreras Espinoza, Luis Rafael Caro Molina and Juan Humberto Coñuecar Alvarez were arrested by uniformed police in Santiago while allegedly distributing pamphlets to other workers about the strike by construction workers at the Colbún-Machicura hydroelectric plant and calling for their support. After being held for five days in a police station on the orders of the Ministry of the Interior, they were brought before the Santiago Appeals Court and charged under the Law of Internal State Security with inciting to subvert public order. They were taken to the Cárcel Pública (Public Prison) and held there until 2nd March, when they were released on bail.

Since the end of 1982, strikes and protests against the government's political, social and economic policies organized and/or supported by the trade unions and their confederations have become more widespread. They have resulted in thousands of short-term arrests, torture, banishment by administrative order, expulsions and the committal for trial of at least eight trade union leaders on charges of "promoting or inciting the suspension of national activities". The following is a background summary of the main protests.

2 December 1982: At an unauthorized gathering called by the CNS in Plaza Artesanos, Santiago, to protest at low wages, approximately 42 people were arrested as police broke the meeting up. They were taken to police stations for interrogation and all but five were released without charge after five days in detention. The five remaining detainees were banished under interim provision 24 for three months without trial or charge. After the meeting, CNS leader Manuel Bustos and the president of the Confederación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción (CNTC - National Confederation of Construction Workers), Héctor Cuevas, were arrested and expelled from the country, on 3 December, for an indefinite period.

Several people were reportedly badly injured after being beaten up by a group of non-uniformed individuals apparently working in collusion with uniformed police (carabineros) who did not intervene to prevent them from their activities. Among those injured were three leaders of the Construction Workers' Confederation, José José Luis Figueroa Jorquera, Pedro Gutiérrez Reyes and Efraín Plaza Plaza. Court investigations have so far failed to identify those responsible but human rights groups and other sources believe that they may be part of an unofficial paramilitary unit whose function is to intimidate and injure those participating in demonstrations.

15 December 1982: Demonstrations were called to protest at the human rights situation and in particular against the expulsion of Manuel Bustos and Héctor Cuevas. Some 275 people were reportedly arrested in Santiago, Valparaíso and Concepción, most of whom were released without charge within five days after being held in police stations. 12 others were reportedly transferred to a secret CNI detention centre where they were held until 20 December. A total of 15 people were subsequently banished on 20 December for three months under interim provision 24. Two of those taken to the CNI detention centre and then banished were trade unionists; Guillermo Cisternas Franulic, leader of the teachers' union, the Asociación Gremial de Educadores de Chile (AGECH), and Victor Manuel Oliveros Segal, a leader of an agricultural workers' union, the Unidad Obrero Campesina

On the day of the demonstration in Santiago, José Figueroa Jorquera was reportedly arrested by the CNI at his home and taken to a secret detention centre where he was tortured by electricity. He was released without charge after 33 hours.

8 March 1983: 14 people were arrested in the Plaza Artesanos at a demonstration called by the Women's Section (Departamento femenino) of the CNS to mark International Women's Day. All were released within 24 hours but ordered to appear before a local court accused of "promoting disorders in the public street".

24 March 1983: Nearly 300 people were reported to have been arrested during anti-government demonstrations in Santiago, Valparaíso and Concepción. The majority were released without charge after being held in police stations for up to five days. There were however a number of arrests prior to and immediately after the demonstrations which are believed to have been connected with them. Twelve people were arrested in Santiago in the early hours of the morning of 24 March and taken to a secret detention centre where they were reportedly tortured. (See AMR 22|56|83: Recent Torture Testimonies). They and twenty-two others arrested on 23, 24, and 25 March in connection with the demonstrations were subsequently banished under interim provision 24 to Pisagua in the far north of the country. Included in the group were José Nuñez Estrella and Ramón Avello Soto of CONSTRAMET, and Humberto Fernández Riquelme, regional leader of the Construction Workers' Confederation in Concepción.

1 May 1983: International Labour Day: Seventy-six people were said to have been arrested during an unauthorized demonstration in the Plaza Artesanos in Santiago called by the CNS to mark International Labour Day. All were released within a few hours or days after being held in police stations for interrogation. According to reports from other parts of the country, 19 people were arrested in Concepción when uniformed police broke up a demonstration in the city centre, and six people were arrested in Osorno as they left the San Francisco church where they had attended a mass to mark International Labour Day. All were released shortly afterwards.

In addition to the arrests, several people were badly injured after being beaten up by a group of about fifty civilians armed with stones in slings, and batons. As during the 2 December demonstration, uniformed police present are said to have made no attempt to prevent the armed civilians from beating up demonstrators and bystanders.

The night before, security forces had raided the headquarters of a craft and manual workers' union and arrested 15 people who were present with their families at a cultural event organized to celebrate International Labour Day. The fifteen were taken to a police station where they were interrogated and filmed. After five days in detention, they were released without charge.

11 May 1983: More than three hundred and fifty people are thought to have been arrested during anti-government demonstrations on 11 May. The demonstrations were part of a national Day of Protest called by the Confederación de Trabajadores del Cobre (CTC - Confederation of Copper Workers) during which non-violent forms of protest such as boycotting public transport and government offices, keeping children from school and banging on saucepans were to be undertaken. A 24 hour national strike had been planned by the CTC for the 11 May but was later called off after the government had warned that it would act harshly against the instigators of any strike or work stoppage, and after increased military activity was reported around the main mining areas.

Police used water cannons, tear gas and truncheons to break up demonstrations. A number of injuries were reported and two young people were shot dead, reportedly by police. There were also a number of clashes between police and demonstrators in some areas later on in the evening.

Of the 317 people arrested in Santiago, 85 were charged on 20 May under the Law of Internal State Security. However the charges against all but one were revoked after lawyers had appealed on their behalf. Most had been held in police stations before being released or charged and transferred to prison. Two people are alleged to have been taken from a police station to a secret CNI detention centre where they were tortured.

As a result of the day of protest, four leaders of the CTC, Rodolfo Seguel, Roberto Carvajal, Manuel Rodríguez and José Pérez, were charged under the Law of Internal State Security.

In the early hours of the morning of 14 May, following the funeral the previous day of one of the young people shot dead on 11 May, members of the Air Force, Army, CNI, uniformed and plainclothes police carried out a series of raids in the shanty towns of La Victoria, La Castrina, Joao Goulart, Villa Esmeralda, Dávila and José María Caro. According to reports received by Amnesty International, between 5 and 10,000 males over the age of 14 were ordered out of their homes and taken to local areas such as football grounds and parks where they were held for up to twelve hours for questioning and identity checks. Most were then allowed to go home but some 300, who the government alleged were being held on criminal charges, were taken to local police stations.

Although an official statement indicated that the purpose of the raids had been to detect and arrest "subversives and anti-social elements" and to locate arms and explosives, local church and community leaders condemned them as intimidatory and a direct reprisal for the 11 May protests.

14 June 1983: A second national Day of Protest, called by the Comando Nacional de Trabajadores (CNT - National Workers' Command, formed in May by representatives of five trade union confederations and presided by Rodolfo Seguel) was widely supported throughout the country. Some 1350 people were reportedly arrested in all, mostly in demonstrations broken up by police. Three people were shot dead and more than 15 people were said to have been injured by bullets after being shot by unidentified individuals.

Among those arrested were Mario Márquez Maldonado, lawyer for a copper workers' union in Rancagua and two copper workers' union leaders, Juan Marambio and Enrique Morales. The three men were arrested outside the headquarters of the Sindicato Industrial Sewell y Minas union.

In the early hours of the following morning, 15 June, CTC and CNT leader Rodolfo Seguel Molina was arrested by plainclothes police who are said to have forcibly entered the apartment where he was staying in Santiago.

Events leading up to the General Strike on 23 June

Rodolfo Seguel's arrest sparked off a number of strikes which resulted in the detention of many of the copper union leaders and also of leaders of other unions.

On 15 June, the Copper Workers' Confederation agreed to call a twenty-four hour warning strike for 17 June at the four main copper mines of El Teniente, El Salvador, La Andina and Chuquicamata to protest at Seguel's arrest and that of Mario Márquez, Juan Marambio and Enrique Morales, and to call for the reinstatement of twenty-three workers from the El Salvador mine who were dismissed after arriving ten minutes late for work on the day of protest. Workers at the El Salvador mine agreed to begin the strike a day earlier. More than 1500 copper workers are said to have been sacked for taking part in the strike and several leaders of the unions at El Teniente and El Salvador were arrested. Although they are no longer in detention, a group of them from El Salvador mine still face charges under the Law of Internal State Security. On 18 June, El Salvador and Chuquicamata mines were placed under military control.

On 20 June, the acting president of the Copper Workers' Confederation, Hugo Estivales, and five other CTC leaders were taken to prison after being summoned to court in connection with the copper workers' strike. Shortly afterwards, the same day, Adolfo Quinteros, leader of the National Transport Council, announced that the Council together with the National Workers' Command were calling for an indefinite strike to begin on Thursday 23 June. Two of the reasons given for the strike were the repression used by the government in response to the 14 June day of protest and the arbitrary detention of trade union leaders. (Three more trade union leaders had been arrested by the secret police on 18 June). The following day Quinteros himself was arrested.

On 23 June, the day the strike began, nearly all the copper worker leaders of El Teniente were arrested in Rancagua, and there were some arrests in incidents in Santiago, Valparaíso and Concepción. The strike was called off on 26 June. Two days earlier, the Chilean Bishops' Conference had issued a statement calling for a dialogue, and asserting that individuals "have a right to free association and to live a genuine trade union life, including the right to strike in certain circumstances.."

A further Day of Protest was planned for 12 July, in spite of warnings given by General Pinochet on 27 June that his government would tolerate no more protests and that all existing legal measures, as well as administrative ones such as

banishment and expulsion, would be applied against "agitators" and those who called for protests.

On 7 July, after the CNS had issued a statement indicating that it would support a further national day of protest on 12 July, some 25 armed members of the Chilean secret police are said to have raided the organization's headquarters in Santiago, destroyed furniture and taken away documentation. Five CNS members present in the offices at the time were reportedly arrested and taken away to a secret detention where they were held for five days.

* * * * *

TRADE UNIONISTS ARRESTED IN CHILE IN MAY/JUNE/JULY 1983

The following is a list of trade unionists whom Amnesty International believes to have been arrested for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression.

COPPER WORKER LEADERS

Leaders of the Copper Workers' Confederation

Rodolfo Samuel Seguel Molina, 29 year old president of the Copper Workers' Confederation and of the National Workers' Command, which have been at the forefront of the recent days of protest and strikes.

Following the first day of protest on 11 May, the Ministry of the Interior presented to the Santiago Appeals Court a formal request (requirimiento) that charges be brought against Seguel and 9 other CTC leaders under the Law of Internal State Security. They appeared in court on 25 May, and Seguel, together with Roberto Carvajal Mieres, José Pérez and Manuel Jesús Rodríguez Echeverry, were formally charged with "promoting and inciting the suspension of national activities" under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security. The judge ruled that there were no grounds to bring charges against the other six men "for the moment".

After being held for about an hour in the Cárcel Pública, Seguel, Carvajal and Rodríguez were taken back to court and released on bail. José Pérez, who had not been taken to prison, was also released on bail.

Both defence lawyers and the Ministry of the Interior appealed against the judge's ruling but the court rejected their appeals.

After the second day of protest on 14 June, Rodolfo Seguel was rearrested at 2.20a.m on the morning of 15 June when five armed plainclothes policemen, who did not identify themselves as such, broke down the door of the apartment of CNS leader Hernán Mery where Seguel was staying. Seguel and his driver, Hernán Garrido Sepúlveda were both taken away to the headquarters of the plainclothes police (Investigaciones). Garrido was released at 9.00a.m. approximately but Seguel was held there until later in the afternoon when he was taken before an appeals court judge. His bail was cancelled and he was transferred to the Cárcel Pública pending further investigations.

On 20 June, further charges were brought against him at the request of the Interior Ministry in connection with the 14 June day of protest under article 4a and c of the Law of Internal State Security which refer to "those who incite the subversion of public order or to revolt against, resist or overthrow the constituted government" and to those who "meet, contrive to or facilitate meetings intended to promote the overthrow of the constituted government or conspire against its stability". Charges under article 4a) were subsequently dropped.

Lawyers working on behalf of Seguel and other trade union leaders arrested in connection with the two days of protest have repeatedly maintained that it is not an offence to organize a protest and that the incidents of violence and disorder which occurred on 11 May and 14 June were not the responsibility of the trade union

leaders, who had made it clear that the protests were to be peaceful. **See below

Roberto Carvajal Mieres, secretary general of the Copper Workers' Confederation

Roberto Carvajal Mieres was first charged on 25 May under the Law of Internal State Security together with Rodolfo Seguel, Manuel Rodríguez and José Pérez and released on bail.

On 20 June, a judge ordered his arrest and that of five other CTC leaders after the Ministry of the Interior had submitted a formal request to the Santiago Appeals Court that charges be brought against them. The arrests came after the CTC leaders had called for a twenty-four hour strike in the copper mines on 17 June to protest at the arrest of Seguel and other trade union leaders. After appearing before the judge, Carvajal, along with Hugo Estivales, who had been acting president of the CTC after Seguel's arrest, Manuel Rodríguez, Leonel Abarca, Roberto Guerra Ugalde and Raúl Montecinos Rosales were all taken to the Santiago Penitentiary. All but Leonel Abarca were formally charged on 24 June under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security for "promoting and inciting the suspension of national activities". Carvajal has now therefore been committed for trial for two separate incidents under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security.

He was released on bail on 12 July.

Manuel Jesús Rodríguez Echeverry

Manuel Jesús Rodríguez Echeverry was charged on 25 May under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security together with Rodolfo Seguel, Roberto Carvajal and José Pérez, and released on bail.

He was arrested on 20 June along with Roberto Carvajal and others and charged for a second time under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security. He was released on bail on 12 July.

José Pérez Ahumada

José Pérez Ahumada was charged on 25 May under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security together with Rodolfo Seguel, Roberto Carvajal and Manuel Rodríguez and released on bail.

On 22 June, he was taken to the Santiago Penitentiary after appearing before an appeals court judge, but he was released on bail on 24 June after the judge ruled that there were no grounds to bring additional charges against him.

Raúl Montecinos Rosales, Roberto Guerra Ugalde

Raúl Montecinos Rosales and Roberto Guerra Ugalde were among the CTC leaders brought before a judge on 20 June and transferred to the Santiago Penitentiary in connection with the 17 June copper workers' strike. They were both charged under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security Law and released on bail on 28 June.

The two men had been questioned by the courts in May in relation to the 11 May day of protest but no charges were brought against them at the time.

Hugo Estivales, acting president of the Copper Workers' Confederation

Hugo Estivales was taken to the Santiago Penitentiary on 20 June after a judge had ordered his arrest and that of five other CTC leaders. On 24 June he was charged under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security, reportedly in connection with the 17 June copper workers' strike. He was released on bail on 28 June.

** Rodolfo Seguel was released on bail on 19 July, a few days after he had been informed that he had been dismissed from his job for calling an illegal work stoppage.

Leonel Abarca Quinteros

Leonel Abarca Quinteros was also arrested on 20 June and taken to the Santiago Penitentiary. No charges were brought against him and he was released on 25 June.

Luis Morgado Pizarro, Carlos Ogalde Cortés, treasurer

Both men appeared before a judge on 25 May in connection with the 11 May day of protest and on 20 June in connection with the copper workers' strike but it is believed that no charges were brought against them on either occasion.

Ruben Rivera Suárez

Ruben Rivera Suárez appeared before a judge on 25 May with Rodolfo Seguel and others but no charges were brought against him at the time.

He was arrested, however, on 21 June in Copiapó on the orders of the Regional Military Commander at the same time as four leaders from the El Salvador mine. He was charged under the Law of Internal State Security and released on bail on 24 June.

Leaders of copper worker unions at the El Salvador mine, in the north of Chile

Sabino Paéz Castillo, leader of an El Salvador copper workers' union

He was reportedly arrested on 20 June in El Salvador during a meeting being held in the annex of a local church. After being held in a police station he was transferred to Copiapó. He was charged under the Law of Internal State Security and released on bail on 24 June.

José Escobar Rojas, Avelino Alvarez Olivares, Egidio Macías Herrera, leaders of an El Salvador copper workers' union.

José Escobar Rojas, Avelino Alvarez Olivares and Egidio Macías Herrera were reportedly arrested on 20 or 21 June and taken to Copiapó on the orders of the Regional Military Commander.

They were released on bail on 24 June after being charged under the Law of Internal State Security.

Leaders of/Individuals linked to Copper Worker Unions in the El Teniente Mining Zone, near Rancagua

Marcos Molina Catalán, director of the Sindicato Industrial Caletones (a copper workers' union) and Arturo Vera Mauro, leader of the Sindicato Sewell y Minas (also a copper workers' union; both unions are based in the El Teniente area)

Marcos Molina Catalán and Arturo Vera Mauro were reportedly arrested by plainclothes police on 11 June in Rancagua, where they were distributing leaflets about the 14 June day of protest. They were released the same day but told to appear in court on possible charges under the Law of Internal State Security.

Marcos Molina was rearrested in Rancagua on 23 June, the day an indefinite general strike was due to begin, but was released without charge on 24 or 25 June.

Mario Márquez Maldonado, lawyer for the Sindicato Sewell y Minas who also works in collaboration with the Vicaría de la Solidaridad, a church human rights organization. He was also defending CTC leaders in Rancagua against whom the state copper company CODELCO had brought a court action in an attempt to have them removed from their union positions.

Mario Márquez was arrested during the evening of 14 June in Rancagua near the headquarters of the Sindicato Sewell y Minas by uniformed police. He was released without charge on 16 June, reportedly after being beaten up.

Juan Marambio, Enrique Morales, leaders of unions in the El Teniente mining zone

Juan Marambio and Enrique Morales were arrested on 14 June with lawyer Mario Márquez. They were held for about a week before being released without charge.

On 23 June, Juan Marambio was rearrested by plainclothes police in Rancagua and placed at the disposition of the Regional Military Commander. He, like Marcos Molina, was released unconditionally on 24 or 25 June.

Eugenio López López, president of the El Teniente copper workers union, Eduardo Díaz, leader of the Sindicato Industrial Sewell y Minas, Juan Meneses, president of the same union

Like Marcos Molina and Juan Marambio, Eugenio López, Eduardo Díaz and Juan Meneses were arrested on 23 June in Rancagua and placed at the disposition of the Regional Military Commander. They were released without charge after being held at the headquarters of Investigaciones (plainclothes police) on 24 or 25 June. Security forces are also said to have raided the homes of Juan Meneses and Eduardo Díaz.

Benito Limardo Casanovas, correspondent for Radio Cooperativa in Rancagua and public relations officer for the Sindicato Sewell y Minas

Benito Limardo Casanovas was reportedly arrested on 20 June in Rancagua by plainclothes police, and accused of spreading "false, tendentious and alarmist" information. His arrest came after several moves by the government to censor information about the day of protest on 14 June and the subsequent copper workers' strike. Limardo was released without charge on 23 June after the Rancagua Appeals Court accepted a petition for amparo (similar to habeas corpus) presented on his behalf. During the period of detention he was held at the headquarters of Investigaciones.

OTHER TRADE UNION LEADERS CHARGED UNDER THE LAW OF INTERNAL STATE SECURITY

Adolfo Quinteros, leader of the National Transport Council

Adolfo Quinteros was arrested on the orders of the Ministry of the Interior by plainclothes police as he arrived at his office on 21 June. The previous day he had headed a press conference at which he announced the joint decision of Transport Council and the National Workers' Command to call for an indefinite general strike on 23 June.

After appearing before an appeal court judge on 23 June, he was charged under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security, and released on bail immediately. Federico Mujica, leader of the Confederación Nacional de Empleados Particulares de Chile (CEPCH - a confederation of PRIVATE sector employees which is represented in the National Workers' Command) was also cited but released "for the time being" without charge.

Hernol Flores, president of the Asociación Nacional de Empleados Fiscales (ANEF - National Association of Public Sector Employees)

Hernol Flores was charged on 23 June under article 11.2 of the Law of Internal State Security and released immediately on bail after appearing in court to hear the charges.

TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION LEADERS BANISHED

Sergio Troncoso, acting president of the Construction Workers' Confederation Carlos Opazo Bascuñan, president of the Confederación "El Surco", an agricultural workers' confederation, José Oróstica Palma, leader of the same confederation.

Sergio Troncoso, Carlos Opazo and José Oróstica were reportedly arrested on 18 June when armed civilians thought to be members of the CNI raided their homes in the early hours of the morning. They were taken to a secret CNI detention centre. In his testimony, Sergio Troncoso alleged that he was held blindfold, and made to put on lightweight shoes and overalls. He also said that he was undressed in front of a nurse and doctor, who asked him about his medical history and took his blood pressure and temperature. CNI agents interrogated him about his trade union activities and he was tortured by electricity which was applied to his hands, feet and testicles.

The three men were held in secret detention until 24 June when they were banished for three months to villages in the south of Chile, Sergio Troncoso to Maullín, Carlos Opazo to Chile Chico and José Oróstica to Puerto Cisnes.

Arrest warrants were also reportedly issued on 20 June for Luis Avendaño Atenas and Luis Peña Robles, vice-president and secretary general of the "El Surco" Confederation respectively, but it is believed they have not been arrested so far.

Manuel Caro Castro, president of the Confederación de Sindicatos de Trabajadores Gastronómicos y Hoteleros (Confederation of Hotel and Catering Workers' Unions)

Manuel Caro Castro was reportedly arrested at home on 21 June by approximately ten members of the CNI and taken to a secret detention centre. On 25 June, he was banished under interim provision 24 for three months to Quemchí on the island of Chiloé.

Valentín Osorno, leader of a construction workers' federation

Valentín Osorno was arrested on 22 June as he was leaving the headquarters of the Comisión de Derechos Juveniles (CODEJU - Young People's Rights Commission) and taken to a secret CNI detention centre. He was banished after several days to Quellón, Chiloé for three months after being accused of inciting workers to stop their activities by the Ministry of the Interior.

Segundo Antonio Cancino Fernández, leader of the Confederación "El Surco"

Segundo Cancino Fernández was reportedly arrested by the CNI between 23 and 26 June and banished on 28 June to Chonchí, Chiloé, for three months under interim provision 24.

Sergio Villalobos, also a leader of the Confederación "El Surco"

Sergio Villalobos was arrested late on 19 or in the early hours of 20 June. After being taken to a secret detention centre, he was banished on 29 June to a village on the island of Chiloé for three months under interim provision 24.

Hector Solís, a construction workers' leader

Hector Solís was reportedly arrested by plainclothes police on 21 June in Osorno and taken to Santiago where he was handed over to the CNI. In the early hours of the morning of 29 June, he was banished to Curáco de Vélez, Chiloé.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TRADE UNION COORDINATING BODY

Muriel Cornejo Bustamente, Patricia Miranda Verdejo, María Rozas Velásquez, José Anselmo Navarrete Pino and Luis Fuentealba Reyes

Muriel Cornejo, Patricia Miranda, María Rozas, José Navarrete and Luis Fuentealba were reportedly arrested by members of the CNI who raided the headquarters of the Coordinadora Nacional Sindical in Santiago on 7 July and destroyed property as well as taking away documentation. The raid came only hours after the CNS had issued a statement saying that it would support a third day of protest planned for 12 July.

The five were taken to a secret detention centre run by the CNI where they were held until 11 July. They were then brought before an appeals court judge who ordered their transfer to prison. They were released without charge on 16 July.

STOP PRESS:

Amnesty International has received reports that the seven trade union confederation leaders who, with Sergio Troncoso, were banished for three months during the last week of June, were subjected to ill-treatment and/or torture during the period they were held by the CNI at a secret detention centre. It is also alleged that individuals taken to be doctors monitored the condition of the detainees and advised on the suitability of different torture methods. The reports came after a group of trade union leaders, doctors and lawyers travelled to visit the victims at their places of banishment.

Carlos Opazo Bascuñan alleged that he underwent intense interrogation accompanied by punches and the application of electricity while tied to a bed-frame, known as the "parrilla" technique. He was made to listen to the voice of a woman screaming in an adjacent room and told that it was his wife.

Sergio Villalobos, a diabetic, was reportedly on the point of losing consciousness while being transferred to Santiago. At the CNI detention centre, a man he took to be a doctor reportedly advised his interrogators not to apply electricity. Since being held in CNI detention, his diabetic condition is said to have deteriorated and he is now undergoing treatment at a clinic.

Segundo Cancino is reported to have difficulties walking after his interrogators beat the soles of his feet with a mallet.

José Oróstica is said to have problems with his digestive tract as a result of severe tension, and his body is covered in burn marks caused by the application of electricity.

AI Index: AMR 22|70|83

Distrib : SC/PG/CO/GR

EXTERNAL

22 July 1983

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
London WC2 7HF
EnglandRECENT ARRESTS OF TRADE UNIONISTSGLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

CNI	<u>Central Nacional de Informaciones</u> (Chilean secret police)
CUT	<u>Central Unica de Trabajadores</u> (Central Workers' Confederation)
CNS	<u>Coordinadora Nacional Sindical</u> (national trade union coordinating body, not recognized by the government)
CONSTRAMET	One of the Chilean metal workers' confederations
CNTC	<u>Confederación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción</u> (National Confederation of Construction Workers)
CTC	<u>Confederación de Trabajadores del Cobre</u> (Confederation of Copper Workers)
CNT	<u>Comando Nacional de Trabajadores</u> (National Workers' Command, formed May 1983 by representatives of 5 trade union confederations and presided by Rodolfo Seguel)
CEPCH	<u>Confederación Nacional de Empleados Particulares de Chile</u> (a confederation of PRIVATE sector employees which is represented in the National Workers' Command)
ANEF	<u>Asociación Nacional de Empleados Fiscales</u> (National Association of Public Sector Employees)

