

MSS. 21/1239

Chile Solidarity Campaign



Mrs. Allende, widow of Chile's Popular Unity President, speaking at the Trafalgar Square rally on September 15 1974, organised by the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

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CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Founded in September 1973, the **Chile Solidarity Campaign** has grown by encouraging the affiliation of labour movement organisations, and by the formation of more than 60 local groups throughout the country.

It is a united campaign which brings together the efforts of all people in Britain who are concerned about the situation in Chile. It cooperates closely with the **Chile Committee for Human Rights** and with the **Joint Working Group for Refugees from Chile in Britain**.

It shares the aims of the vast international solidarity movement:

- * to isolate the military Junta in Chile, by cutting off all its aid, trade, military and diplomatic links with the outside world;
- * to give concrete and material support to the Chilean Resistance and all popular and democratic forces in their fight against the Junta;

Campaigns undertaken in Britain include:

- * for an end to British trading links with the present Chilean regime. And in particular for an end to the supply of arms and military contracts.
- * for the economic isolation of the Junta in international financial institutions, and for Britain to oppose World Bank and IMF loans to Chile.
- * for a complete boycott of Chile in education, culture and sport.
- * for the continued admission of Chilean refugees to Britain, for much more rapid granting of visas to those in prison or in danger in Chile and Argentina, and for improved facilities for them on arrival in Britain.
- * for the 'adoption' of Chilean political detainees and prisoners, and those who have disappeared, by trade union branches, trades councils, churches, and other organisations in Britain, in order to protect their lives and to press for their release.
- * for support for the Catholic Church's *Vicaria de Solidaridad*, for the Children's Dining Rooms and other projects in Chile supplying assistance to prisoners and their families, to the unemployed and to children.

CHILE

Democracy destroyed: On September 11th, 1973, a fascist military junta deposed and murdered the elected President of Chile, Dr. Salvador Allende, and seized power. The Chilean Congress and Senate were dissolved, the electoral registers burned, and all political activity outlawed. CUT, the Chilean Trade Union Congress, was declared an illegal organisation, and strikes and wage claims were forbidden. Today Chile remains under a State of Siege, with a nightly curfew throughout the territory. The Junta's will is law.

Torture, death and disappearance: 40,000 of Dr. Allende's Popular Unity supporters and sympathisers were killed. Sports stadia, abandoned mines and holiday camps became the sites of concentration camps. Tens of thousands were forced into exile. With the passage of time since the military coup, the violence has become more selective. Prisoners, as **Dr. Sheila Cassidy** described, are tortured with drugs and electricity. More and more simply disappear. Their arrests are denied; the courts and Junta spokesmen deny all knowledge of their whereabouts. These are the victims of DINA, Chile's Gestapo. Some, like school-teacher, Marta Ugarte, are later found dead, their mutilated bodies abandoned on beaches or in rivers.

Popular Unity's 'Crimes': Allende's Popular Unity government had carried through the major portion of its programme - to nationalise Chile's natural resources and monopoly industries, accelerate the land-reform, boost production, redistribute wealth and make services such as health, housing and education available to all. This threatened not only Chilean land-owners and industrialists, but multi-national corporations such as **ITT**, **Kennecott** and **Anaconda**. The United States government perceived a challenge to its dominance, and the CIA and Pentagon were set to work to destabilise democracy and prepare the coup.

Economic genocide: The Chilean people's gains under Popular Unity and in the preceding decades have been reversed. Following the advice of American economist **Milton Friedman**, the Junta has inaugurated the 'free market economy'. While wages are restrained at gun-point, all price controls have been removed, and unemployment allowed to reach 25%. Bread costs today more than 400 times as much as it did in 1973 before the coup. Thousands of children suffering from undernourishment are kept alive by scant meals provided in soup-kitchens run by local volunteers with the protection of the church. Chile, in the words of **The Economist**, has become the prize exhibit in the capitalist chamber of horrors.

The growing opposition: despite its near monopoly of wealth and arms the Junta has been unable to impose its will. The trade unions have resisted fascist attempts to strangle them financially, destroy their leadership and set up parallel, corporatist structures. The economic crisis and the persistent violations of human rights have alienated ever wider sections of the middle classes. Today more than 90% of the Chilean population opposes Junta rule. In March 1977 the generals felt it necessary to decree the banning of all remaining political organisations (Popular Unity and its constituent parties had long since been declared illegal). As the Junta's isolation becomes more complete, the forces of resistance improve their unity and organisation.

International solidarity: Abroad, the Junta is as isolated as at home. Even the United States government in 1977 sponsored a United Nations Human Rights Commission resolution condemning the continued violation of human rights in Chile. In almost every country of the world, campaigns have fought for the freedom of Chilean prisoners, assisted refugees and brought pressure to bear upon governments to cut off aid, trade and military assistance to the fascist regime.

AFFILIATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS
AND RETURN TO:

Chile Solidarity Campaign, 129 ~~Seven Sisters~~ ^{40 Binley Road}
Road, London N7 7QG.

(Please make all cheques payable to the ^{Country} Chile
Solidarity Campaign.)

Name of Organisation
or individual

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Secretary's Name

Mailing Address

.

.

Phone Number

Fee enclosed*

Signed Date

* Fees (for 12 months)

Trade union branches, Trades Councils, smaller District Committees, CLP's and local political branches	£5.00
Individuals	£5.50
Student Unions	£10.00
Regional organisations, larger District Committees and local CSCs	£12.50
National Bodies	£25.00

(Bodies unable to affiliate because of financial difficulties may apply to CSC for a reduced rate.)

OFFICERS

JOINT CHAIRMEN:

Brian Nicholson

George Anthony

HON. TREASURER:

Alex Kitson (Executive Officer, T&GWU)

JOINT SECRETARIES:

Mike Gatehouse

Colin Henfrey

National Unions affiliated to the Campaign and/or represented on the National Executive Committee include:

ACTT	NALGO	NUSheet Metal
ASLEF	NATFHE	Workers
ASTMS	NATSOPA	NUStudents
AUEW	NGA	POEU
AUEW-TASS	NUDBTW	SCPS
COHSE	NUGSAT	SLADE
CPSA	NUM	SOGAT
FTAT	NUR	Tobacco Workers
G&MWU	NUTGW	T&GWU
ISTC	NUSeamen	USDAW

Local Committees of the Campaign exist in:

Aberdeen, Accrington, Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Colchester, Coventry, Cumbernauld, Darlington, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow, Greenwich, Guildford, Halifax, Humberside, Ilford, Ipswich, Keighley, Kent, Lancaster, Leeds, Leicester, Leigh, Lewisham, London North/South/East and West, Luton, Manchester, Merseyside, Northampton, North Staffs, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Preston, Redditch, Rochdale, Rotherham, Sheffield, Skelmersdale, Southampton, Stirling, St. Albans, Stockport, Swansea, Swindon, Tyneside, West Middlesex, Wolverhampton, York.

Associated Organisations:

Joint Working Group for Chilean Refugees, 21 Star St., London W2 1QB. Tel: 01-262-4926.
Chile Committee for Human Rights, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1. Tel: 01-935-5953

Campaign Publications: **CHILE FIGHTS** and **CHILE MONITOR** (both quarterly). Subscription Rates: £1.00 per year for either, £1.50 for both.