

# SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA



An action guide for students and student unions



Published jointly by  
Chile Solidarity Campaign/El Salvador Solidarity Campaign/General Association of Salvadorian University  
Students (AGEUS)/National Union of Students.

# WHY SOLIDARITY ?

## Chile

Thirty thousand people were killed, and a million more driven into exile, when the military coup of General Pinochet overthrew the elected socialist government of Salvador Allende and Popular Unity.

Since then the military junta has imposed its fascist ideology and monetarist economic policies on the people of Chile. The effect on the economy has been catastrophic. Bankruptcies and factory closures have skyrocketed, as the flood of imports destroyed the market for local manufacturing. Foreign debt has reached \$17 billion — that's over \$1,500 per person, the highest rate in the world. Interest payments alone total more than the value of the country's exports. Unemployment is around 35%, real wages have been forced down to starvation level.

Welfare has been largely abolished. Education has been privatised in accord with Milton Friedmann's doctrine, so that most working class families have to choose between food and education. Thirty percent of children now receive no schooling at all. Universities, which under Allende were becoming real 'people's colleges', are now restricted to the rich, while subject matter and teaching are also tightly controlled.

*"It is imperative that we change the Chilean's mentality. . . the government of the Armed Forces intends to open a new phase in our national destiny, giving way to new generations of Chileans who have been shaped in the school of healthy civic habits."* (General Pinochet 1974.)

## Central America

The countries of Central America — Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — have long been under the domination of tiny elites of landowners and US multinationals such as United Fruit and Del Monte. *When the working people have tried to change things by legal and peaceful means they have been met with repression from the American-backed armed forces, and from extreme right-wing death squads, linked to the security forces. Mutilation, torture and mass-murder have been the result.*

In 1979, the Nicaraguan people toppled Somoza after a bloody civil war. Now they are trying to reconstruct their country, abolish poverty, malnutrition and illiteracy. But they face 'destabilisation' by the CIA, and now armed invasion by Somoza's ex-troops based in Honduras and financed by Washington.

In El Salvador, the forces of democratic opposition — the FMLN-FDR — control large parts of the country. But massive American aid has propped up the murderous regime, despite the 'election' of the openly fascist d'Aubuisson in the March 1982 poll. Reagan is now trying to persuade Congress that human rights have improved in El Salvador. Meanwhile the death squads' victims continue to turn up in the ravines around San Salvador.

*"Well, that is true", [that bodies are re-appearing on the streets] "but they are getting much harder to find now, aren't they?"* (Dean Hinton, US Ambassador, 1982).

# Britain

Britain too had aided and condoned this repression. In 1982 alone, Britain supplied Chile with two major warships, Hawker Hunter fighters, and Canberra bombers. Military training programmes, spare parts and the delivery of nuclear fuel rods were in addition. Britain also stepped up aid and trade, and loans and lobbied hard for Chile in the UN when the Human Rights vote came up. While Reagan's hands are still tied by Congress, Thatcher is Pinochet's biggest ally.

In Central America too — Britain has supplied Scorpion light tanks — ideal for anti-guerrilla war — to Honduras. Britain alone vetoed EEC aid to revolutionary Nicaragua, but sent observers to lend credibility to the 1982 election farce in El Salvador; observers who hardly left the cocoon of bullet-proof cars and army escorts.

We in Britain have a special duty to challenge our country's actions in Latin America.

Solidarity is not a luxury. The policies of monetarism and repression in Latin America are the same ones that produce mass unemployment, Tebbit Bills and the attacks on the welfare state in the UK.

1. Pass a motion at your student union to affiliate to the Chile Solidarity Campaign and/or El Salvador Student Commission. (Affiliation forms overleaf), and to recognise the FMLN-FDR as the representative of the people of El Salvador. The Campaigns will supply speakers to help put the case. Affiliation will get you regular newsletters to keep you up to date with Latin America and with activities here.
2. Set up a solidarity group of interested people, to invite speakers, arrange film shows, and give direct support to struggles in Latin America by 'twinning' with a resistance project in Chile; or by supporting the clinic for El Salvador (see below).
3. Help us campaign to end British support for repression in Latin America. This includes letterwriting, lobbying, demonstrating, etc. In particular, to end British arms supplies to Chile, and to make Britain recognise the FMLN-FDR as a representative political force (France, Mexico, Holland and others have already done so).
4. Boycott Chilean goods — make sure your college does too.

The El Salvador Student Commission hopes that solidarity groups will help:—

- (i) the AGEUS/NUS sponsored Medical Care project for Salvadorean refugees in Nicaragua. More information from AGEUS, c/o Carila, address below.
- (ii) the Matriculation Project, sponsored by the El Salvador University, which raises money to run courses outside the military-occupied campus. Information from Friends of University of El Salvador, c/o WUS, 20 Compton Terrace, London N1.
- (iii) the demands of AGEUS and the University, to re-open the University free from military control.

*The cover photographs, from the film "El Salvador, Another Vietnam", show students at the University of El Salvador being shot dead by security forces in 1980.*

# Resources for Solidarity

## FILMS (FOR HIRE INFO., CONTACT CSC or ELSSOC)

- Introduction to Chile (1972)
- Companero Victor Jara (1974)
- The Spiral (Chile) (1976)
- When the people awake (1973)
- Chile, the Reckoning (1973)
- Chilean September (1974)
- The Patchworks of Santiago (1978)
- The Battle of Chile
- El Salvador — Portrait of a Liberated Zone (1981)
- Revolution or Death (1980)
- El Salvador — The People will win (1980)
- El Salvador — Another Vietnam (1981)
- Decision to Win — First Fruits (1981)
- Bullets and Ballots (1982)

## CARDS

- Chile 1982 patchwork cards (set of 8 folding cards) 1.50
- Chile 'Work For All' cards (set of 10 folding cards) 1.50
- El Salvador women postcards (set) .50
- El Salvador colour postcards (set) 1.00
- 1983 Venceremos cards (Chile) (set of 6 folding cards) 1.50

## POSTERS

- 'The Tide has turned. . it is unstoppable' (FMLN-FDR) 1.00
- El Salvador, Reagan-style democracy .60
- El Salvador — Solidarity with FDR-FMLN .50
- El Salvador — the People will win .40
- El Salvador — Decision to win .30
- Solidarity with Chile and Latin America (CSC) .25
- No Arms Sales to Dictators (CSC) .30

## PAMPHLETS AND BOOKS

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| Pinochet's Chile                        | £ 1.20 |
| Education and Repression in El Salvador | 0.75   |
| Education and Repression in Chile       | 1.95   |
| Under the Eagle                         | 3.50   |
| Monetarism means Repression (CSC)       | .25    |

## MAGAZINES

- Chile Fights (quarterly) (subscription £1.50) .30
- El Salvador News Bulletin (monthly) .20
- El Salvador Report (human rights committee, bi-monthly) .20

## BADGES

- 3 different designs on El Salvador each .30
- Support the People of Chile .20
- New Chile Solidarity badge (Ten Years of resistance) .20

The above materials are available as appropriate from the Chile Solidarity Campaign or El Salvador Solidarity Campaign (addresses below).

### Other useful addresses:

- Chile Committee for Human Rights, 266 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JY.
- El Salvador Human Rights Committee, 20 Compton Terrace N1.
- Guatemala Working Group, c/o LAB.
- Latin American Bureau (LAB) (an information and resource agency),  
1 Amwell Street, London EC1R 1UL.

## AFFILIATE NOW

I/We wish to affiliate to the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE.....

£1.50 for individuals, £5.00 for societies, £15.00 for student unions.

Send to:— Student Commission, ELSSOC, 29 Islington Park Street, London N1.

Tel.: 01-359 2270.

I/We wish to affiliate to the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE.....

£3.00 for students and unwaged, £7.50 for waged, £7.00 for societies and small student unions, £20.00 for larger (over 1,000) unions.

Send to:— Chile Solidarity Campaign, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 7QG.

Tel.: 01-272 4298.