

Free Trade Unions (CIOSL), accused of political subordination.

There are others that work on the fringe of the government and which frequently suffer from repression, such as the Christian Workers Confederation (CCT) which groups together mainly peasants under the name of Agrarian Leagues.

In 1978, the CCT, together with other trades, formed the National Workers Coordination (CNT) affiliated to the Latinamerican Confederation of Workers (CLAT). These organizations and some others belong to the Inter Union Workers Movement (MIT), which, in spite of repression, has become more and more active.

The Colorado party is the party in power in Paraguay. Officially there are one million and a half members, practically half of the entire population. The only officially recognised opposition group is the February Revolution Party, with social-democratic tendencies.

Paraguay, which at present is considered, along with Bolivia, to be the poorest and most backward of the Latinamerican countries, is beginning to see changes.

The Authentic Liberal-Radical Party, the Demochristian Party and a break-away party from the official one, the Popular Colorado Movement (Mopoco), all part of the National Agreement, have become the major opposition to the dictatorial regime of Alfredo Stroessner.

On the 21st and 22nd of June, in spite of threats and prohibitions, they managed to gather together more than 50 thousand people in demonstrations of protest against the dictatorship.

A month and a half previously, the MIT, managed, for the first time in many years, to stage an independent demonstration in commemoration of International Workers Day.

New Winds

The next elections are to take place in 1988. At the moment, the National Agreement announced on June 21st that it will not take part in the elections. According to the Demochristian leader, Luis Andrade Noguez, to participate would be to legitimize the dictatorship. "This is suicide for a serious and responsible political party. We are not electoralists."

The new winds are not just tousling hair. Depending on their force, they could even remove apparently solid structures. The opposition is confident that it will attract more and more followers and calculate that groups such as the Mopoco that have broken with Stroessner may well join the democratic cause and interrupt General Alfredo Stroessner's tired pace towards the record as longest in power.

E.V.A.

Chilean Political Prisoners Denounce Torture

Files containing evidence of human rights violations in Chile's prisons pile up in the courts

In Chile there are more than 500 political prisoners. Fifty are accused of introducing and distributing arms in the country or of involvement in the attempt last year against General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, who has held power since the fateful 11th of September, 1973. The rest are detained for "infringements" to the Law of State Security.

Nevertheless, and in spite of the difference in charges against them, 98% of the political prisoners claim that they have been submitted to physical and mental torture.

The accusation of the prisoners is against the National Investigation Center (CNI) that, together with the 220 thousand elements that form the military, police and paramilitary forces, constitutes the basis of permanence in power of General Pinochet's *de facto* regime.

It is estimated that, since 1973, more than half a million Chileans have been detained, tortured, and jailed, for political reasons. According to the Chilean Commission for Human Rights, in 1986 alone there were 21,287 detentions,

Political leaders from left to right share the misgivings about the judicial system.

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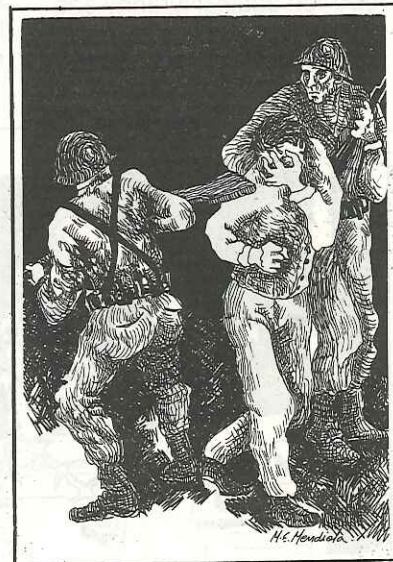
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256 charges of torture, 252 cases of failed homicide and 50 political killings.

The files containing convincing proof of the violation of human rights in Chilean jails are piled up and gathering dust in the archives of the courts that attend to these cases, in particular Crime Court 20. The legal process against the elements of the CNI has had to choose among the obstacles provided by representatives of the so-called "military justice" that have pressed on repeated occasions for the civil judges to be declared incompetent, so that they themselves can deal with the prisoners' complaints.

Rebellion Against Tyranny

One of the political prisoners, Claudio Molino Donoso, who was detained on September 4th, 1986, identified two of his torturers who, in spite of the descriptions and proofs against them, remain unpunished. Molina Donoso is clearly identified as a member of the Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front (MRPF), a group that takes political-military action against the military regime of Pinochet.

Molina Donoso states: "We have made no attempts against the stability of any legitimate government. What we are doing is making use of the law deriving from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that makes it a patriotic duty for us to use the ultimate resource of rebellion against tyranny and oppression, when these rights are stamped upon by the dic-

tatorship imposed since 1973."

In a damp, dark cell in a Santiago jail, this man, his worn face illustrating the continual interrogations, pressures and tortures to which he has been subjected, spoke to *Voices of Mexico*. "Our Penal Code establishes that one is considered free from crime if one is fulfilling a duty or exercising a right, or if one is acting in legitimate defense. Our actions, therefore, are the expression of a legal right and an imperative duty. We are innocent and we do not recognise the legitimacy of a military justice that has been imposed through the use of arms."

Molina Donoso's testimony can be found in the file on ill-treatment received by the political prisoners. In the document. A leaf 146, the prisoner

states that after his arrest he was taken to a room in the CNI quarters, where, he states, "they strapped me down on a bunk, and applied an electric current through electrodes placed on my feet, penis, mouth and hands."

The file A leaf 147 relates: "They took me out of this room to another where there was a kind of bath. My hands were tied, and they submerged me in this, they grabbed me by the hair and forced me in. The bath was

through the defense lawyer Hugo Pavez Lazo, the prisoner reports, "I was stripped and they began to beat me and ask questions. They connected me to an (electric) current on the testicles and the penis. I realized that they had broken my testicles; my penis was also broken and bloody. Afterwards they connected the electric current to my teeth and my ears."

In order to force a statement from him they brought

The prisoners' families have also been a target of ill-treatment.

full of excrement and other things. I was held there for a long time. They only took me out when I began to lose consciousness and was moving my arms in desperation. On other occasions, they threatened me, beat me, they stood me against a wall and staged a sham execution."

Another of the political prisoners, José Abelardo Moya Toro, also accused of arms-dealing for the FPMR, states that he was connected to an electric current of 200 volts. In a testimony made

his sister-in-law to him: "At first I didn't believe it was her, until they forced her to speak and then I recognised my sister-in-law, Viviana Ortega. She had been badly treated and was drugged. I realized that because she became tongue-twisted and the words didn't come out properly."

Sergio Buchman Silva, also a political prisoner, states that for 12 days he was hung upside down and five members of the CNI beat him constantly. Buchman Silva records: "After some time had

A Severe Economic Crisis Burdens Chileans

Fifteen years after the military coup that removed the constitutional president Salvador Allende, Chile offers a sharp contrast between opulence and poverty. Santiago's apparent calm, with its sumptuous governmental buildings and the aristocratic window displays in the main avenues giving it a European touch, is broken frequently by the shouts of "it's going to fall", "democracy now", "down with Pinochet", from the thousands of demonstrators that are harassed by vehicles hosing water and tear gas.

Aside from the suppression of political liberties, the severe economic crisis is wearing down the Chileans. With a population total of 12 millions, 40% of the economically active population is unemployed or under-employed. The real salary in 1987 is worth one third less than in 1972. Unofficially, it is calculated that some four million

people—30 percent of the total population—live in conditions of extreme poverty and have a monthly income equivalent to 15 to 45 U.S. dollars.

The contrast between militarism and social welfare is more than evident: there is one doctor for each 1,925 inhabitants, while there is a soldier or policeman for every 55 Chileans.

There are two kinds of press in the country: the official or so-called "uniformed" press and the independent; the latter (represented by journals such as *Apsi*, *Cauce*, *Análisis*, *Hoy*; the dailies *Fortín Mapocho* and *La Epoca*) is constantly persecuted and censored. Nevertheless General Pinochet congratulates himself on having done away with the "communist threat" and declares that he will not rest until he has accomplished "the development that Chile merits".



passed I would feel something warm dripping from my nose and ears. It was blood. When I had bled a lot and lost consciousness they would take me down. They let me fall to the floor and waited for the bleeding to stop before hanging me upside down again".

The prisoner states that on other occasions they put live rats in his mouth and all over his body. "They put an incredible amount of rats in my shirt and trousers. They tightened my collar and closed the bottom of my trousers with socks, so that the rats could not get out. It was a horrible sensation, as the rats bit me and I still have many scars from their bites."

Trials by Law

Hugo Pavez Lazo, a defense lawyer for 25 political prisoners states that the prisoners' families have also been the target of ill-treatment. "I have counted the people who have had to leave the country because of persecution and they number 15 complete family groups".

This 47 year old, grey-haired lawyer, who was jailed one day after the military coup in 1973, tortured, and then spent two years of exile in Sweden, states: "We are lodging a complaint stating the application of tortures, in-

juries, illegal detentions, deprivation of communication by what are no more than a band of criminals acting against the interests of the political prisoners".

Faced with these facts and evidence against the CNI the question in Chile now is whether the Courts will take up the subject and apply the necessary justice. Political leaders, from left to right, share the misgivings about the Courts, whom they accuse of having become an entity that shares responsibility for the crimes and misdemeanors of the armed forces' intelligence service.

But their complicity goes deeper than merely evading a trial of the CNI subordinates.

If the trial comes to court a large part of the military intelligence machine would be revealed, the curtain covering their illegal methods would be lifted, and the existence of systematic violation of human rights in Chile would come out into the open. In other similar cases, the so-called military justice has lodged an appeal of incompetence on the part of the civil authorities and the trials have passed into their jurisdiction.

Of the crimes and the criminals of the CNI, no more mention has been made.

Haroldo Shetemul in Santiago

ly recent, and has been a brutal process involving the creation of immense zones of spontaneous and precarious settlements inhabited by millions of people. The United Nations says that during 1987, the year of Shelter for the Homeless, 20 million children and youths in Latin America be living and sleeping in the streets. Almost one

that continues today. Since the 1950's, millions have abandoned the countryside seeking work, food, money and other social satisfactions in the cities. It is estimated that one million new residents arrive in Mexico City each year, part of a pattern that is repeated all over Latin America. Between 1950 and 1980 Mexico City, Lima, La Paz and

Experts estimate that by the year 2,000 Mexico City and Sao Paulo will each have over 20 million inhabitants.

fourth of the world's population —1,250 million people— lacks adequate housing. In addition, there are 100 million people who have no dwelling whatsoever.

Latin America's attempts in the 1950's to increase industrial production were accompanied by a lack of attention to rural development, a trend

Guayaquil tripled their population, and experts estimate that by the year 2,000 Mexico City and Sao Paulo will have over 20 million inhabitants each.

Newsprint and Cardboard Housing

As a result of this rapid and

Latin American Cities Are Problem-Ridden

Rapidly expanding populations and large-scale immigration were not foreseen by early city planners



View of Mexico City.

Photo from Unomasuno Archive

Urbanization in the de-veloping countries is relative-