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RECENT TORTURE TESTIMONIES IMPLICATING DOCTORS IN
ABUSES OF MEDICAL ETHICS IN CHILE

Over the past decade Amnesty International has received copies of hundreds of sworn statements (testimonios) of individuals who allege they were arrested by members of the Chilean security forces, held in secret detention centres or police stations and tortured.

Many of the alleged victims of torture have submitted their statements in the form of official complaints (denuncias) to the courts for investigation. Most complaints cite members of the Central Nacional de Informaciones (CNI - Chilean secret police) or Investigaciones (plain clothes police) as being responsible for the alleged torture. Amnesty International is not aware, however, of one instance in which those responsible have been officially identified and prosecuted under the law.

Under interim provision 24 of the Chilean Constitution, political suspects may be held for up to twenty days without charge on the orders of the Ministry of the Interior. It is during this period of incommunicado detention, before the individual is placed at the disposition of the courts, or released without charge, that torture is most often reported.

Included in this document are extracts from the sworn statements (in both the original Spanish and their English translation) of nine people who allege they were subjected to torture in Chile towards the end of 1983: 4 (all University students) were arrested, reportedly by the CNI, in Valparaíso in October 1983; 3 were arrested, reportedly by the CNI, in Concepción in November 1983, and 2 were arrested, reportedly by Investigaciones and the CNI, in Santiago in December 1983.

While Amnesty International is not able to verify each of these testimonies or to confirm that those described therein as doctors were in fact doctors, it notes that these testimonies are consistent with hundreds of similar accounts of torture during detention in Chile and that the role of doctors in CNI centres has previously been consistently reported. (See, for example, Chile: Evidence of Torture, AI publications, 1983)

EXTRACTS FROM SWORN STATEMENTS MADE BY
INDIVIDUALS DETAINED IN CHILE BY MEMBERS OF THE
SECURITY FORCES BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER 1983

(TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH)

I. Arrests in Valparaíso - October 1983

• Testimony of Jeanette JOFRE W.

"... In the numerous interrogation sessions which I underwent, many of which were at intervals of less than five minutes and others at intervals of hours, during which time I was held incommunicado, I was the victim of physical and psychological torture, details of which I give below:

Naked, I was struck and fondled and obscene remarks were made to me; this immediately produces a feeling of total defencelessness and violated dignity which succeeds in destroying for a while one's sense of worth, especially in a woman.

One of the forms of torture was that which they call the 'submarine'; I was submerged repeatedly for several seconds while they asked me questions. While I was under the water one of them pushed his fingers into my vagina; then, when they realised that I could not take any more, they pulled me out half unconscious and took me to another room where they continued the interrogation. I was still naked and they beat me on the body, leaving me with a swollen knee and nose, as well as a large haematoma on my forearm.

In spite of the fact that at the time of my arrest my menstrual period was late by one month and some days, they treated me without consideration; they even beat me on the stomach, which resulted in my having a haemorrhage, or period, on the fourth day. They took me down to the torture room again, made me lie down on a bed and tied my arms; the doctor examined me internally and gave me a pill, and so they left me till the next day when they took me to the Prosecutor's Office.

I wish to make note of the fact that I was constantly beaten and subjected to obscene remarks and sarcastic taunts about my body throughout my interrogation..."

• Testimony of Gustavo ZEPEDA CANETE

"...On our arrival at the detention centre we began to be treated violently (we were pushed and struck and coarse remarks were made to us). We were blindfolded, separated and put into recently constructed cells, 2 metres long by 1.5 metres wide and 2 metres high; these were completely dark and quite damp, with a foam mattress 10 cm. thick and a blanket. We were made to put on heavy overalls and our clothing was taken away - all this in the presence of the agents who had arrested us and of two women who were already there.

We were then taken one by one, amidst blows, to give our particulars to a man who typed them out; we were then locked up again with some violence. At this stage I was able to note that there were some people there whom I knew, colleagues of my wife at the Academia....."

"... The[se] students then began to be taken out at intervals of about a quarter of an hour. From the cries I knew that they were being tortured, for I could hear piercing screams, weeping, blows and threats. Amongst them I could clearly distinguish those of my wife. Every so often they would open the door of my cell, ask me my name and go away again. They also opened the other cells, where moaning and crying could be heard. All these people were taken out two or three times to be subjected to interrogation. This went on until the morning when I was taken out amid blows and taken somewhere underground.

I was led along blindfolded but could see a certain amount from beneath the blindfold. It was a place where there was a tub containing contaminated water; there was a small bed, a wicker chair, a machine from which electric cables protruded and one corner was padded with polystyrene and foam. I was stripped and laid on the bed where I was examined by someone who appeared to be a doctor and who asked me about previous illnesses. I told him that I had an ulcer and heart murmur for which I was receiving treatment. He asked me about the symptoms, which I described to him as well as the drugs I was taking. He took my blood pressure and pulse, listened through his stethoscope, and asked me if I suffered from asthma, which I told him I did not. Then he called out that I 'could take it'; I was able to see that he made a negative gesture with his hand. They punched and kicked me for a while in the padded corner, where there was fresh blood. Then they put me in the bathtub, which they called a swimming pool; I swallowed quite a lot of water and felt as though my head was going to burst, then I lost consciousness. They brought me round with ammonia and by slapping me. Then they took me to the cell, not without first pointing out that the other person they were interrogating and torturing at that moment was my wife, whose moans I heard, unable to do anything for her. Immediately afterwards I was taken to my cell, to be taken out again subsequently for interrogation.

On this occasion they treated me pleasantly, and asked me to co-operate, because otherwise they would hand me over to the torturers, and besides, if I did not co-operate they would make my wife miscarry in front of me (her period was 20 to 25 days late) ..."

"...They took me back to the cell where every so often they questioned me again and showed me photos; they did not allow me to sleep. By that time I had lost all notion of time and space. Then they put me together with four people who were detained there... I was able to find out from these people that my wife continued to be tortured, and this made me suffer a kind of nervous crisis which produced a severe stomach pain. as a result I was treated again by the doctor whom I believe I could identify as on this occasion I was able to see him; he gave me a drug..."

"... After the first three days, according to my calculations, we began to be given food, the first time while I stood in a corner of the cell without being able to see what I was eating. From that time on we began to be treated in a pseudo-friendly manner and to be given medical examinations quite a lot more frequently..."

● Testimony of Juan ABARCA GONZALEZ

"... During the whole of my stay in the secret detention centre I was kept blindfolded under threat of death if I removed the blindfold, even when I was incommunicado in my cell. My clothing and shoes were also taken away and I was dressed in a badly smelling and torn workman's overall which had several buttons missing. I slept on a mattress with a blanket; because of the pain from the blows I had received to my chest and trunk I had to sleep sitting up for four days. The doctor appeared on three occasions; the last time they took me to the parrilla, when he warned them 'not to give me any more because I was bad'; the other occasions were in my cell and a few hours before I was handed over to the Prosecutor's Office. I informed the doctor on each occasion that I was with him of the physical ill-treatment I had received, and that an ear-ache had returned; he neither replied nor gave me any treatment..."

● Testimony of Ana María PAZO

"... On my arrival they stripped me, leaving me with sanitary towels because I was menstruating, and wrapped me in a blanket.

They took me to an underground room where two men held me by the hands whilst a third punched me in the stomach and insulted me. The other two beat my buttocks with a strap. Then, as they had not managed to get anything out of me, they took me to a tub containing dirty water in which they submerged me repeatedly, bringing me up to the surface only when I could no longer breathe. All this was accompanied by insults and taunts. After that they took me out of the tub, stripped me completely and stretched me out on a mattress where the interrogation continued..."

"... Generally speaking, they never stopped pressurising us psychologically, playing the radio very loudly, opening the cell doors violently, shouting at us, taking us to the toilet and staying there while we urinated, watching us while we showered, altering the routine so that we lost all sense of time, etc.

One day they took me from one place to another for a whole afternoon; they took me upstairs to a room where they made me listen to a cassette with Allende's last words and songs of Víctor Jara. Then they took me down to the underground room and left me in a cabin there; the doctor arrived and started to talk about my physical debility. They took me upstairs again saying that they did not have a room for me; they took me down, up, down, and finally up again and put me in the room where they left me for the rest of the time..."

II. Arrests in Concepción - November 1983

• Testimony of Etel Paz CEA TORRES

".. After a while I felt my husband next to me. He was shivering with cold and seemed to be soaking wet. I tried to cover him with the blanket but the guards would not let me. I was frightened, thinking that he would die.

Later on a large number of CNI agents began to arrive. When they came near to us I could tell they were all drunk. I heard one say to another "I've got it", and they went out, returning with something that seemed to be a metal box, but which turned out to be a "flipper" game. They played it all the time we were kept in that place.

They strolled by us saying what a good time they would have with us girls and how much they liked women, using unrepeatable language.

I heard the other girl screaming. She was no longer beside me, but was being tortured a few metres away.

After that I again had a feeling of drowsiness and cannot remember at what stage several more detainees arrived. I only remember that they took them out one by one to another room and they screamed and made sounds as if they were vomiting, and the torture continued.

Next we were made to strip naked, one by one, and I, of course, had no idea what for. When it came to my turn I realized that a doctor was examining us; everything took place in full view of the CNI people, who were having a good laugh at us..."

• Testimony of Ramón PEREZ MORENO

"... On the night of the 3 November, I was taken in a van to another torture centre, which must be located in the Playa Blanca district. Before going further, I would like to state that during the period from 4 to 12 November, I do not remember the dates of events, for I was unconscious or semi-conscious for much of this time. I only remember the more important incident and probably not many of those. During the entire period of our abduction or detention we were given no food and it is entirely possible that we were given some kind of drug or hallucinogen, for we experienced hallucinations. I, at any rate, was given pills on several occasions and was also injected in a vein, and given two injections in the right buttock. Furthermore, throughout the period of my enforced internment, we "slept" on the floor or on chairs, constantly handcuffed and/or tied up and were cold, since we were not usually given one single blanket to cover ourselves with..."

• Testimony of Pablo GRAU MASCAYANO

"... From then on I was interrogated without intense physical torture being used; instead, a continuous process of psychological torture began, made up of different persuasion techniques.

At 12.00 midnight on the Thursday, several prisoners and I were taken to an unfamiliar place. It was on the way there that I faced what perhaps was the most difficult experience of my detention. It was when our captors led us to believe we were to be killed while "trying to escape". On arriving at the detention centre which, from information I have collected would appear to be located between Coronel and Playa Blanca, I was made to sit on a chair where I remained for 5 days; I was chained to it all the time apart from certain periods in the day and part of the night. I was blindfolded and was unable to utter a word to anyone, and in a state of uncertainty that had been very skilfully fostered by the CNI. That night they simulated two things: first, that we were to be blown up with dynamite, and second, that an act of sabotage would be carried out on a train, the railway being some 100 metres away, and that we would be killed in the explosions.

From Friday onwards I was interrogated in different ways, in both a "friendly" and violent manner. I was also examined, afterwards, by two doctors, who, apart from seeing how we were, would indicate in pencil which areas were most affected by torture, and in this way guided the flagellators. The rest of the days I was there were somewhat more peaceful, though I was still blindfolded, forced to remain sitting down, handcuffed and lying down at night though without sleeping much since our only covering was the overalls. Only on one or two nights a blanket was provided, for me at least.

After three days we received our first plate of food and a piece of bread. This continued until we were released.

Day by day, through interrogation sessions, the CNI were working on my illegal statement. I wish to state quite categorically that I was only questioned about my political affiliations, nothing else. I say this because the part that was added on to my statement implicates me in all the violent acts that have occurred in the region: electricity blackouts, blowing up electricity pylons, the Soprole robbery, and a number of other crimes which I do not remember and which were read out to me by the Military Prosecutor..."

III. Arrests in Santiago - December 1983

• Testimony of Luís Enrique LOPEZ MORA

"... I was tortured systematically from Friday to Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon they hung me up by the wrists half a metre above the ground and applied electric shocks again. Knowing that I have a chronic disorder they went on to apply shocks to the affected area. The marks on my wrists lasted for over a week and they are both weak. So are my legs and I still have difficulty in walking. I have also suffered a partial loss of hearing as a result of the blows, through having electric shocks applied close to my ears, and also because I was kept next to a radio set at full volume from the time of my arrival until the end of my detention there.

I should also add that on Sunday, 11 December, an elderly official arrived - a superintendent - who began to beat me, pull my hair, push me around, and catch me off guard with punches when I wasn't expecting it. This treatment lasted all afternoon until the superintendent, who was drunk, went off to bed.

When we were transferred to the plain clothes police headquarters in the Avenida General McKenna, my belongings were not returned to me. They asked for a doctor, who noted the bruises and my general condition, but did not ask me for, nor made, a statement.

On the same Friday, at approximately 16.00 hours, they searched my home. As nobody was there at the time they gained entry through a neighbour's patio and forced open a window to get inside. When my wife and two-year-old daughter returned home, at around 18.30 hours, they arrested her in front of the child and, after questioning her for twenty minutes, took her to the barracks where I was being held, but I was unable to see her. Later on they let her go, at around 23.00 hours ..."

• Testimony of Gustavo ZEPEDA CAMILLIERI

"... I think the first torture session lasted for about an hour. I was left in an extremely weak state and could not stand up without assistance. I was carried back to my cell by the same agents so that I could 'recover'. I couldn't feel my legs. The dreadful screams I had uttered had hurt my throat. I felt extreme nausea, and pain all over my body.

Besides the interrogator there was someone who punched me, another who held a rag firmly with both hands over my mouth to deaden the terrible screams and according to them, so that "I didn't bite my tongue", another who regulated the intensity of the electric shocks, as well as those who had arrested me and who kept saying that "there were no witnesses" to my arrest, that we "wouldn't get out alive", and that they had "20 days" to work on us, not to mention the obscene things which they said they did to the women.

In the period from the time of my arrest to when they peeled the tape from my eyes on reaching the Calle Gálvez I was examined five times by the staff of the medical room - on three occasions by a couple of men and the other two times by two women. During each of these check-ups they took my blood pressure, pulse, temperature (rectum and armpit), and examined my whole body. Of course on the first four occasions the diagnosis was implacable: fit for torture. I suppose the fifth check-up was to make sure I was fit to be presented to the military prosecutor ..."

(ORIGINAL SPANISH TEXTS)

I. Detenciones practicadas en Valparaíso - Octubre 1983

• Testimonio de Jeanette JOFRE W.

"... En los múltiples interrogatorios que se me hicieron, muchos separados por un espacio de tiempo de menos de 5 minutos, y otros separados a intervalos de horas, en que cumplía incomunicación, fui víctima de tortura física y psicológica que paso a mencionar:

Desnudez de mi cuerpo y groserías acompañadas de golpes y manoseos; esto produce desde ya una impresión de desamparo total, y de la dignidad violada, que logra aniquilar por momentos el valor de la persona, y en especial de la mujer.

Obra de las torturas fue el llamado por ellos 'el submarino'; ahí me sumergieron reiteradas veces, por varios segundos junto con las preguntas que me hacían; cuando me encontraba bajo el agua uno de ellos me introdujo los dedos en la vagina; después cuando se dieron cuenta que ya no aguantaba más, me sacaron semi inconsciente y me llevaron a otra sala donde continuaron con el interrogatorio. Allí continué desnuda y se me propinaron golpes en el cuerpo, producto de lo cual me quedó la rodilla y nariz hinchada, además de un gran hematoma en el antebrazo.

A pesar que yo tenía a la fecha de caer detenida un atraso menstrual de un mes y días, no tuvieron ninguna consideración conmigo, me golpearon inclusive en el estómago, lo que produjo que al cuarto día me viniera una hemorragia o regla. Ellos me bajaron nuevamente a la sala de torturas, me acostaron en una cama y me ataron los brazos; el médico me hizo un examen interno y se me dio una pastilla, y así me dejaron hasta el otro día en que fui llevada a la Fiscalía.

Hago notar que los golpes estaban presentes en todo momento en que fui interrogada, así como groserías y burlas sarcásticas sobre mi persona..."

• Testimonio de Gustavo ZEPEDA CANETE

"... Al llegar al recinto de detención se nos empezó a dar un trato violento (empujones, golpes y garabatos). Se nos puso una venda en los ojos, se nos separó e introdujo en celdas de construcción reciente, de 2 metros de largo por 1,5 de ancho, y 2 de alto, absolutamente oscuras y bastante húmedas, con un colchón de espuma de diez centímetros y una frazada. Se nos obligó a ponernos un buzo de mezclilla y se nos quitó la ropa, todo esto en presencia de nuestros aprehensores y dos mujeres que se encontraban en dicho recinto.

A continuación se nos llevó a golpes y de a uno por uno a entregar nuestros datos a un tipo que iba traspasándolos a máquina, para luego encerrarnos nuevamente con bastante violencia. En esta fase pude darme cuenta que habían algunas personas que conocía y que pertenecían al Pedagógico, compañeros de mi esposa ..."

"... Luego empezaron a sacar a los estudiantes antes mencionados con una frecuencia aproximada de un cuarto de hora. Pude, por los gritos, darme cuenta que se les estaba torturando, ya que se escuchaban alaridos desgarradores, llantos, golpes y amenazas. Pude, entre éstos, distinguir claramente los de mi esposa. Cada cierto tiempo abrían la puerta de mi celda, me preguntaban el nombre y se marchaban. También abrían las otras celdas, donde se escuchaban gemidos y llantos. A todas estas personas los sacaron dos o tres veces para someterlos a estos interrogatorios. Durante todo este proceso, hasta la mañana, cuando se me sacó a mí, golpeándome, cuando me llevaban a un lugar ubicado en el subterráneo.

Se me condujo vendado, pero algo podía ver por la parte inferior de la venda. Era un lugar donde había una tina con aguas servidas, había una camilla, un sillón de mimbre, un aparato del cual sobresalían unos cables eléctricos y un rincón que estaba acolchado con plumavit y esponja. Se me desnudó y tendió en la camilla, donde me examinó quien al parecer era un médico, el cual me preguntó sobre enfermedades anteriores, yo le respondí que tenía una úlcera nerviosa y soplo al corazón, por el cual estaba en tratamiento, me preguntó por los síntomas, los cuales describí, como asimismo los medicamentos que tomaba. Me tomó la presión, el pulso, me puso estetoscopio y me preguntó si padecía de asma, cosa que contesté negativamente; luego en voz alta dijo que 'podía aguantar', pude darme cuenta que con la mano hacía un gesto negativo. Me golpearon un poco con pies y manos, en el rincón acolchado, el que estaba con sangre fresca. Después me introdujeron en la tina de baño que ellos llamaban piscina, tragué bastante agua y parecía que la cabeza me iba a estallar, luego perdí el conocimiento. Me despertaron con amoníaco y cachetadas. Luego me llevaron a la celda no sin antes señalarme que la otra persona que estaban interrogando y torturando en ese momento era mi esposa, a la que yo con impotencia escuchaba quejarse. Acto seguido me llevaron a mi celda para sacarme nuevamente a interrogarme.

En esta ocasión me trataron con amabilidad y me pidieron que cooperara, porque de lo contrario me iban a entregar a los torturadores, y además, si no cooperaba, ellos iban a hacer abortar a mi esposa delante mío (tenía un atraso de 20 a 25 días) ..."

"...Me llevaron nuevamente a la celda, donde cada cierto tiempo se me interrogaba nuevamente; se me mostraban fotos; no se me dejaba dormir, habiendo a estas alturas perdido toda noción de espacio y tiempo. Luego se me juntó con cuatro personas que se hallaban detenidas.....Por estas personas pude enterarme que a mi esposa la seguían torturando, por lo que sufrí una especie de crisis nerviosa, que se tradujo en un fuerte dolor de estómago, por lo que me atendió nuevamente el médico, al que creo poder identificar, ya que en esta ocasión le alcancé a ver; se me administró un medicamento..."

"...Después de, calculo los tres primeros días, se nos empezó a dar alimentación, la primera vez de pie, y en un rincón de la celda, sin poder ver lo que estaba comiendo. A partir de este momento se nos empezó a dar un trato pseudo amistoso, paralelamente se nos comenzó a hacer exámenes médicos con una frecuencia bastante mayor..."

• Testimonio de Juan ABARCA GONZALEZ

"... Durante toda la estadía en ese lugar secreto de detención, fui mantenido con la vista vendada, bajo amenaza de muerte si me sacaba la venda, incluso cuando me hallase incomunicado en mi celda. También se me despojó de mi ropa y zapatos y se me puso un overol de obrero mal oliente, roto y falto de varios botones. Dormí en una colchoneta con una frazada; por los dolores de los golpes en el pecho y tronco debí dormir cuatro días sentado. El médico apareció en tres ocasiones: en la última vez que me llevaron a la 'parrilla', en que advirtió 'que no me diesen más porque estaba mal'; las otras oportunidades fueron en mi celda y cuando faltaban pocas horas para entregarme a la Fiscalía. Le advertí al médico en cada ocasión que estuve con él, acerca de los apremios físicos recibidos y de que se me había reactivado una otitis, no me dio respuesta ni remedios..."

• Testimonio de Ana María PAZO

"... Al llegar me desnudaron dejándome con cuadros por encontrarme con la regla y me envolvieron en una frazada.

Me llevaron a una sala en un subterráneo donde dos tipos me tomaron de las manos mientras un tercero me daba golpes de puño en el estómago y me insultaba. Los otros dos me golpeaban las nalgas con correa. Luego como no consiguieron sacar nada, me llevaron a una tina con agua sucia donde me sumergieron repetidas veces; sacándome a la superficie solo cuando ya no podía respirar. Todo esto acompañado de insultos y burlas. Posteriormente me sacaron de la tina desnudándome por completo y me tendieron en una colchoneta donde siguió el interrogatorio ..."

"... En general psicológicamente nunca dejaban de molestarnos; poniendo radio muy fuerte, abriendo las puertas de las celdas violentamente, gritándonos, llevándonos al baño y quedándose allí cuando orinábamos, mirándonos cuando nos duchábamos, cambiándonos las horas (perdíamos la noción del tiempo), etc.

Un día me llevaron de un lugar a otro durante toda una tarde: me subían a una pieza donde me hicieron escuchar un cassette con las últimas palabras de Allende y canciones de Víctor Jara; luego me bajaron al subterráneo dejándome en un camarote, llegó el médico y comenzó a conversar de mi debilidad física, me subieron nuevamente diciendo que no había cuarto para mí, me bajaron, me subieron, me bajaron, y finalmente me subieron para ponerme en el cuartucho en que me dejaron el resto del tiempo..."

• Testimonio de Ramón PEREZ MORENO

"... En la noche del día 3 me trasladan en un furgón a otro centro de tortura, el cual debe estar localizado en el sector de Playa Blanca. Antes de continuar quiero manifestar que el período va del 4 al 12 de noviembre; no recuerdo los acontecimientos por fechas, ya que gran parte lo pasé en la inconsciencia o semiinconsciencia. Sólo recuerdo los acontecimientos más importantes y es muy posible que sólo algunos. En todo el período del rapto o retención prácticamente no nos daban comida y es muy probable que nos dieran algún tipo de droga y alucinógeno, ya que sufríamos alucinaciones de todo tipo. Por lo menos a mí me dieron varias veces pastillas a tomar, como asimismo, me inyectaron algo a las venas y me colocaron dos inyecciones en la nalga derecha. Por otro lado, en todo el tiempo que duró la retención obligada, "dormíamos" en el suelo o sillas, siempre esposados y/o amarrados al frío ya que la mayor parte de las veces no nos daban ni una mísera frazada para cubrirnos..."

• Testimonio de Juan Pablo GRAU MASCAYANO

"... Desde ese momento en adelante se me interrogó sin tortura física intensa, iniciándose una tortura psicológica permanente, combinando distintas formas de presión.

A las 24 horas de ese día jueves, fuimos conducidos, varios detenidos, a un lugar desconocido; en el trayecto es donde experimenté tal vez, la mayor de las situaciones difíciles de mi detención, al jugar con nuestras vidas con la aplicación de la ley de la fuga que fue insinuada y simulada. Al llegar al lugar de detención que al parecer, por los datos recogidos es entre Coronel y Playa Blanca. Se me sentó en una silla y así estuve durante 5 días, encadenado a ella salvo algunos ratos del día y parte de la noche, vendado y sin poder hablar palabra alguna bajo una incertidumbre muy bien preparada por C.N.I. Esa noche se simularon 2 cosas: la primera que seríamos volados con dinamita y la segunda la preparación de un atentado al tren, ya que la línea estaba a unos 100 metros, en donde nosotros seríamos alcanzados por las detonaciones.

Desde el viernes en adelante fui interrogado de distintas maneras, amable y violenta, incluso en los días posteriores fui examinado por 2 médicos que fuera de saber como estábamos, señalaban con lápiz las zonas más afectadas por la tortura y orientan así a los flageladores. Los días restantes fueron algo más calmados, siempre con la vista vendada, sentados, encadenados, recostándome en las noches, si es que lograba dormir, ya que el buzo era nuestra única cubierta, salvo una noche o dos que nos tiraron una frazada, al menos a mí.

Después de tres días recibimos el primer plato de comida y un pedazo de pan, lo que se mantuvo hasta nuestra liberación.

Con el correr de los días, la C.N.I., me fue preparando a través de interrogatorios, la declaración extra judicial; debo ser muy explícito que sólo se me interrogó sobre mi militancia, nada más y digo nada más porque el parte agregado al expediente se me involucra en todos los atentados producidos en la zona, cortes de luz, explosión de torres de alta tensión, robo a Soprole y unas cuantas otras gabelas que no recuerdo y que leyó el fiscal..."

• Testimonio de Etel Paz CEA TORRES

"... Luego de un rato sentí a mi esposo al lado mío, tiritaba de frío, al parecer estaba todo mojado, era lo que yo pensaba y traté de pasarle la frazada pero los guardias no me lo permitieron, estaba asustada y pensaba que se iba a morir.

Más tarde comenzaron a llegar un buen número de agentes de la C.N.I., todos bebidos, se les notaba al acercarse a nosotros. Pude escuchar que al llegar uno de éstos le dijo al otro "ya lo tengo" y salieron para luego regresar con algo que parecía una caja metálica, ésta resultó ser un flipper, estuvieron jugando todo el tiempo que permanecimos en el lugar.

Se paseaban por el lado nuestro comentando que lo pasarían muy bien con nosotras y de cómo le gustaban las mujeres, usando para ello términos difíciles de repetir.

Sentí a mi otra compañera que gritaba y ya no estaba a mi lado, la estaban torturando unos metros más allá.

Después de esto nuevamente me sentí como adormecida y no me acuerdo en qué momento llegaron varios detenidos más. Sólo recuerdo que los sacaban de a uno y los llevaban a otra pieza, éstos gritaban y como que vomitaban, siguieron torturándolos.

Enseguida nos hicieron desnudarnos de a uno, por supuesto no sabía para qué. Cuando me tocó a mí me dí cuenta que nos estaba viendo un médico, todo esto delante de todos los agentes de la C.N.I., ellos se reían cualquier cantidad de nosotros..."

III. Detenciones practicadas en Santiago - Diciembre 1983

• Testimonio de Luís Enrique LOPEZ MORA

"...Fueron torturas sistemáticas desde el viernes hasta el sábado en la mañana. El sábado en la tarde me cuelgan de las muñecas a medio metro del suelo y me aplican corriente nuevamente. Sabiendo que tenía una afección crónica proceden a ponerme corriente en esa zona. Las lesiones en las muñecas duraron más de una semana y quedé con un esquince en ellas, igual cosa en las piernas, por lo que aún camino con dificultad. También he perdido parcialmente la audición por los golpes recibidos y fundamentalmente por la aplicación de corriente cerca de los oídos y de permanecer al lado de un aparato de radio puesto a todo volúmen desde la llegada hasta el final.

Hay que agregar que el día domingo llegó un funcionario (comisario) de edad que empezó a golpearme, tirarme el pelo, cambiarme de asiento y sorprenderme con golpes. Esto duró toda la tarde, hasta que el comisario, que estaba borracho, se retiró a dormir.

Al trasladarnos al cuartel de General Mackenna, no me entregaron mis pertenencias. Allí solicitaron un médico. Este constató las erosiones y mi estado, pero no preguntó ni dejó constancia.

El mismo día viernes, a las 16.00 hrs. aproximadamente, allanan mi domicilio. Como en la casa no había gente en ese momento, entraron por el patio de una vecina y descerrajan una ventana para penetrar en la casa. Cuando mi esposa e hija de dos años de edad regresan a la casa, alrededor de las 18.30 hrs., la toman detenida junto a la niña y después de 20 minutos de interrogatorio, se la llevan al mismo cuartel en donde yo estaba, pero sin que la lograra ver. Posteriormente la dejan en libertad alrededor de las 23.00 hrs ..."

• Testimonio de Gustavo ZEPEDA CAMILLIERI

"... La primera vez estimo haber estado alrededor de una hora bajo el tormento de la tortura. Quedé en un estado de extrema debilidad que no permitió ponerme en pié por mis propios medios, siendo llevado a mi celda por los mismos agentes para que "me recupere". Yo no sentía las piernas; los horribles gritos que se me escapaban de la garganta me la lastimaron; sentía un gran mareo y un dolor en todo el cuerpo.

Junto al interrogador hay alguien que da golpes de puño, otro que sostiene firmemente un trapo con ambas manos sobre la boca para apagar los horribles gritos que se dan y que, según ellos, era para que "no me mordiera la lengua", otro que regula la intensidad de los golpes de corriente, además de los que fueron mis aprehensores, los que permanentemente hablaban de que la detención "se hizo sin testigos", de que "no saldremos vivos", de que tienen "20 días" para trabajarnos, aparte de obscenidades que dicen cometer con las mujeres.

En el período comprendido entre el día y la hora de mi detención y el día y la hora en que se me sacó el scotch de los ojos al llegar a la Calle Gálvez fui examinado cinco veces por personal de la enfermería. En tres oportunidades por una pareja de hombres y en las otras dos por una pareja de mujeres.

En cada uno de estos chequeos se me tomaba la presión, el pulso, la temperatura rectal y axilar, y se me revisaba completamente el cuerpo. Claro que en las primeras cuatro ocasiones el diagnóstico fue implacable: apto para la tortura. Supongo que el quinto chequeo fue diagnosticar que estaba 'presentable' al Fiscal..."

