

# Chile Solidarity Campaign

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9TH NOVEMBER 1984

## SPECIAL BULLETIN

# STATE OF SIEGE

PINOCHET RETURNS TO 1973, AS THE OPPOSITION REACHES  
NEW HEIGHTS.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT !

- \* Repression mounted in the last week of October, in a bid to intimidate the opposition before the planned strike. Hundreds of people were arrested, and 300 sent to the re-opened concentration camp at Pisagua.
- \* The Protest and strike on October 29 & 30 surprised even its supporters by its strength. Large parts of industry and commerce, and almost all transport and education, was halted. Demonstrations took place up and down the country, and in middle class areas as well as shanty towns. Many sections of the population were involved for the first time.
- \* In Rome meanwhile, the Catholic Bishops of Chile met with hundreds of opposition figures in exile, and new calls for unity were made.
- \* A wave of sabotage bombings swept Santiago during the protest, and a few days later bomb attacks killed six policemen.
- \* Using this as a pretext, the Cabinet resigned on November 5th, not in protest at the junta, but as a clear sign that any glimmer of liberalisation was now extinguished. The protest and strike had made it clear to the regime that they had only two choices - repress or resign.
- \* With a new Cabinet, and with Jarpa still as Interior Minister, Pinochet has declared a State of Siege - the most stringent form of control, much heavier than the state of emergency that was lifted in August '83, and re-imposed in March '84.
- \* Under this state of siege, the junta has banned six opposition magazines, banned all political meetings, and imposed midnight-to-5am curfews in Santiago and Concepcion. On the first night of curfew, over 200 people were arrested.
- \* The offices of the MDP have been raided twice, and on the second occasion fifteen people arrested, and equipment destroyed. Five officials of the Socialist Block have also been arrested.
- \* The Head of the Catholic human rights organization, the Vicaria of Solidarity, Father Ignacio Gutierrez, who had left Chile to go to the meeting in Rome, has been refused re-entry to Chile.

THE REGIME JUSTIFIES ALL THIS by reference to the increase in bomb attacks. But the State of Emergency and the Anti-Terrorist Law were already more than adequate for dealing with 'terrorists'. It is clear ( even to today's Financial Times ! ) that the State of Siege is not directed at armed groups but at the whole opposition movement.

On November 8th Judith Hart MP led a CSC delegation to see Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, to tell him about the findings of the delegation to Chile, and to stress to him that recent events made a change in British policy towards Chile long overdue; in particular, arms supplies must be halted; human rights resolutions on Chile at the United Nations must be supported; and the British Embassy in Santiago must do more to press for human rights.

ACTION \* ACTION \* ACTION \* ACTION \* ACTION \* ACTION \* ACTION \* ACTION \* ACTION \*

1. PROTESTS MUST FLOOD THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES. All the acts of repression of the last weeks must be condemned by hundreds and thousands of letters and telegrams from all over Britain and the world. In particular, the State of Siege, the re-opening of Pisagua, the raids on the MDP office, and the arrests of opposition leaders; plus the banning of magazines.

Write to : Sr. Francisco Orrego Vicuna  
Chilean Ambassador,  
12 Devonshire Street,  
London W.1

Sr. Sergio Onofre Jarpa  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Palacio La Moneda  
Santiago  
CHILE

2. PRESSURE ALSO MUST BE KEPT UP ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. Please write to:

Sir Geoffrey Howe,  
Foreign Secretary  
F.C.O.  
King Charles Street  
London SW.1

demanding that British arms sales are halted; that Britain supports votes on human rights in Chile at the United Nations; and that the British Government makes a strong public condemnation of the imposition of the state of siege.

3. BUILD THE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN !

This is an excellent time to help us build up the work and strength of the Campaign. Can you ask your trade union branch/Labour Party or any other organisation you belong to to join ? Can you ask a friend to join ? Can you help distribute and sell CSC materials ? If you live in London, could you lend a few hours to help the work of the Campaign ? If you live outside, could you start a local group doing things together, if there is not a local CSC committee already ?

Membership fees are £7.00 for a TU or party branch; £7.50 for a working person; and £3.00 for unwaged people.

Ring the Campaign for any other details.

4. ORDER OUR PATCHWORK DESIGN GREETINGS CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS !

Eight bright, colourful and topical designs, blank inside and suitable for Christmas or any other occasion. Send cheque or postal order for £1.70 including postage (£1.50 direct) for each pack, complete with envelopes.

5. COMING SOON .....

The next mailing will include issue 47 of CHILE FIGHTS, and should be out in early December. There will be a concert in the Camden Centre, London, on December 19th, with the groups WORKING WEEK and SONIDO DE LONDRES.

The CSC AGM (Annual General Meeting) has been provisionally fixed for Saturday 23rd February.

Many thanks for your support at this crucial time.

Quentin Given, Secretary