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June 23, 1977

General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte
President of Chile
Edificio Diego Portales
Santiago
Chile

Your Excellency:

I am writing to you as one of many Americans gravely disturbed about the long term and continuing disappearance of over 1500 men and women arrested without trial since 1973. Their disappearance has been confirmed in the Report of the United Nations Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile and other non-partisan religious and humanitarian organizations. Only yesterday the Organization of American States has reiterated the urgent need for the protection of human rights which are violated by prolonged detention. The release of a few individuals in recent months does not compensate for the continuing disappearance and the still growing number of arrests.

You and the members of your Government alone are in a position to remedy this situation and to assure immediate trial or release in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the recommendations of the Organization of American States and certainly also Chilean law. I herewith appeal to you to exercise the authority at your disposal before more anguish and misery befalls these unfortunate people and their families.

Respectfully,

Gitta Meier

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