

Human Rights Trials in Chile and the region

Including summary of court cases for past human rights crimes in Chile to end May 2010

Introduction

The Human Rights Observatory of the Universidad Diego Portales is a joint initiative between the University's Human Rights Centre and Social Science Research Institute, supported by the Ford Foundation and the Heinrich Boell Foundation. It was set up to map current judicial activity in Chile for human rights violations carried out during the 1973 to 1990 military dictatorship, and create a database of cases presently ongoing in national courts. This bulletin provides a summary of case activity and other justice-related developments, based on the Observatory's own database, information supplied by the Human Rights Programme of the Chilean Interior Ministry, and additional research using open sources.

This month's bulletin is published a little later than usual to allow reporting of a major new case verdict, the Prats case (see below).

CASE STATISTICS FOR CHILE

Cases and Victims

Interior Ministry Human Rights Programme data showed 322 investigations (cases) ongoing in Chile at end May 2010 for deaths, disappearances, torture, illegal burial or conspiracy committed between 1973 and 1990. This caseload represents just over a third of known victims of death and disappearance*, while around 60% had no case in progress. Only 6% of victims are recorded as having had legal cases successfully concluded for the crimes committed against them

** Official numbers for deaths and disappearances in Chile between 1973 and 1990 remain at 3,195.*

This total should however be revised downwards, as here, to 3,186, to reflect errors discovered in 2008 and 2009 in official registers

New cases

Relatives' association AFEP (*Asociación de Familiares de Ejecutados Políticos*) took a decision in early 2010 to pursue the initiation of new criminal complaints (*querellas*) for the 1,176 victims of political execution in Chile who they estimate to be without current judicial activity on their behalf. The claims are being represented by human rights lawyer Eduardo Contreras, assisted by a team of qualified junior lawyers and law students from the Universidad de Chile who have volunteered to see the cases through. Working closely with relatives at weekly meetings, the legal team submitted the first 100 new claims in June. The complaints were initially assigned to investigative magistrate Mario Carozza, and have already been transmitted to the relevant investigative police division for initial enquiries to begin. It is unlikely that each of the complaints will in the end generate a wholly new investigation: over

time, many will probably be incorporated into existing cases as it becomes clear in which repressive episode or operation the crime took place. Nonetheless, both the absolute number of criminal cases and the proportion of the official victim universe covered by a case are likely to rise significantly in Chile by year's end as a result. The move is partly designed to head off any suggestion of phasing out or closing down the existing case universe, and so the decision to pursue cases for each and every victim, rather than prioritising those cases with most evident chance of success, was made for a mixture of pragmatic and ethical motives on the part of the AFEP claimbringers.

Programme records for May, which do not yet reflect the new claim activity reported above, show no cases opened or reopened for additional victims in May, and record sentences pronounced in existing cases regarding only 2 victims.**

*** This figure does not include the Prats case verdict, reported below, which was emitted in June.*

Agents (Repressors)

Interior Ministry Human Rights Programme data at end May 2010 showed approx. **782*** former security service agents charged and/or sentenced in Chile for past human rights related crimes (including those with absolutions currently under appeal). **64** of these are serving confirmed custodial sentences, at least **47** in the Punta Peuco military facility.

** One of whom, former general Alejandro Medina Lois, died in June 2010 aged 79. He had been charged but not sentenced, and was accordingly free on bail at the time of his death.*

Sentences

Between 2000 and May 2010, **approx. 291** former security force agents had received a total of 505 condemnatory sentences for dictatorship-era HRV crimes in Chile. At least 210 of these agents have had one or more of their sentences confirmed by the Supreme Court, with almost half (145) receiving some kind of benefit such as sentence reduction or parole.

This figure represents the highest single total of former repressors sentenced for these crimes anywhere in Latin America. In Argentina, where 81 former repressors have to date been sentenced, only three of the 74 presently detained are currently serving confirmed custodial sentences. (*Source CELS Argentina, see www.cels.org.ar/wpblogs*)

TRENDS IN SENTENCING

The Prats case: convictions upheld, sentences reduced

On 8 July the Chilean Supreme Court issued its long-awaited final verdict in the Prats case. The case investigated the double assassination by car bomb of former army commander in chief Carlos Prats and his wife Sofia Cuthbert in Buenos Aires in 1974. The couple had been targeted by the DINA secret police's overseas operations branch because it was feared that Prats, a constitutionalist officer loyal to the deposed Allende government, could emerge as a leader of opposition to the new regime. An earlier investigation in Argentina into the killings

led to the imprisonment there of a Chilean DINA agent and to extradition requests in 1999/2000 for Augusto Pinochet and for 6 other Chilean agents including former DINA director Manuel Contreras. Although the requests were turned down, the Chilean government associated itself to the Argentina prosecution and domestic investigations were subsequently reinvigorated, a victory for the couple's three daughters who had tirelessly pursued legal avenues at home and abroad since their parents' assassination.

The case has always been particularly sensitive as it involves such a high ranking military official murdered, in effect, by his own former colleagues. From 2002, the army began to offer an uneasy homage to their former commander in chief in the form of a religious ceremony at the military academy on the anniversary of his death. The recent verdict drew a much more unequivocal statement from the institution, in the form of a public declaration 'repudiating all those who were involved in this cowardly act, particularly military personnel' and reaffirming their commitment to modern constitutional principles. The statement was welcomed by many, including the present Communist Party president as conclusive proof of the present-day army's desire to modernise and step away from association with the dictatorship.

The substance of the recent verdict affirmed for the first time that the DINA should be viewed an 'illicit conspiracy' rather than any kind of regular security service, a precedent which is likely to have implications for other pending cases. Sentencing however followed a notable recent pattern of reducing, sometimes dramatically, sentences imposed by lower level (first instance and appeals) courts for human rights crimes. The present reductions generally accumulated the separate sentences previously imposed for each murder into a single tariff, and in three cases also considered the 'irreproachable previous conduct' of the guilty parties despite the fact that some are concurrently sentenced or charged in a string of other repressive crimes. This apparent anomaly, routinely protested by claimbringers and their lawyers, arises because the Chilean penal code allows consideration of a defendant's previous record at the time of the offence, rather than at time of sentencing. The Supreme Court verdict was also a split vote, with one judge in favour of absolving all defendants on the grounds that the killings did not constitute a crime against humanity and ought therefore to be subject to the normal statute of limitations for homicide.

In the event, nine people in total had their sentences confirmed by the final Supreme Court verdict. The lowest sentence, of 541 days, was given to a junior officer treated as an accomplice rather than a direct perpetrator. The highest sentences, of 17 years, were reserved for Manuel Contreras and his former second in command Pedro Espinoza, who are already serving long accumulated sentences for other crimes and for whom these new sentences are accordingly essential symbolic. Four more former military officers were sentenced to serve 15 years apiece. Amongst them was Raúl Iturriaga Neumann, who rose briefly to notoriety in 2007 when he went on the run after being notified of another sentence against him. Iturriaga Neumann, like Contreras and Espinoza, was already in prison for other crimes at the time of the present sentence. Iturriaga Neumann's brother Jorge, together with fellow civilian DINA agent Mariana Callejas, were however given sentences of 5 years with the benefit of parole (*libertad vigilada*), meaning in effect that they will escape serving jail time. Callejas thereby narrowly avoided becoming the first woman to be imprisoned for human rights crimes in the present round of Chilean prosecutions: all 64 current prisoners are male.

The case's many twists and turns have included international ramifications that spread wider than neighbouring Argentina and reached to the US: in 2005 case magistrate Alejandro Solis travelled to US to speak to Michael Townley. Townley, a former DINA operative and US citizen, is under the protection of the US State Department after testifying and serving a 1980s sentence for his part in the 1976 Washington car bomb assassination of Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Moffitt. Townley freely recognised his own participation in both plots, as

he had done in earlier declarations provided to the investigating judge in the Argentinian investigation of the Prats killings. Townley implicated others, including his then-wife Mariana Callejas, now sentenced to 5 years but who will not in fact be jailed (see above). Finger-pointing and mutual incrimination amongst the conspirators has also occurred between the military agents implicated: Juan Morales, who still denies his role in the killings, denounced his former superior Pedro Espinoza as a 'traitor' for having supplied new information in 2007 to investigative magistrate Solís, who had been on the point of closing the case.

Further analysis of the Prats case verdict will appear in the next edition of this bulletin. The full text of the verdict is available from the Observatory on request, and/or can be downloaded via www.pjud.cl or www.museodelamemoria.cl Meanwhile, for useful background on general trends in jurisprudence, see Fernández, Karinna (2010) 'Breve análisis de la jurisprudencia chilena en relación a las graves violaciones a los ddhh cometidos durante la dictadura militar' Estudios Constitucionales 8(1) pp. 467-488, Universidad de Talca (Spanish only)

http://www.cecococh.cl/docs/pdf/revista_ano8_1_2010/articulo_17.pdf

Other news from Chile

Identification and recovery of remains

On 15 June, judge Héctor Solís met relatives from the rural community of Paine*** to notify them of the definitive identification of the remains of 9 of their relatives. The remains, discovered in 2007 at a lakeside location miles further south, had been submitted to an Austrian laboratory for DNA analysis. The results confirm initial identifications made by relatives a year ago, based on artefacts and clothing also found at the burial site. Tests continue on four more DNA profiles discovered at the site. The 9 identified victims were part of a group of 22 peasant leaders detained together on 16 October 1973. The relatively small community of Paine was disproportionately targeted during the early days of the dictatorship, losing a total of 70 men and boys to disappearance and political execution. The 70 are commemorated in a recently inaugurated memorial and mosaic project, while over a dozen former military officers and civilian collaborators are currently charged with crimes relating to the deaths.

****Fe de erratum:*

In bulletin 5 we suggested that victims from Paine had at one stage been linked to remains discovered in the 1970s at the Lonquén illegal burial site. In fact, relatives from Paine were amongst those incorrectly notified in 1994 by the state forensic service that their loved ones' remains had been exhumed from Patio 29 of the Santiago General Cemetery. Our thanks to Beatriz Brinkmann for this correction, and our sincere apologies to the families of Paine for perpetuating one of the many historical inaccuracies surrounding this episode.

Investigative magistrate Victor Montiglio to stand down from cases

The Santiago Appeals Court announced in early June that Judge Victor Montiglio would be handing over ongoing human rights investigations to colleagues, in order to take medical leave after being diagnosed with a serious illness. Montiglio at one time oversaw emblematic cases such as the Caravan of Death, Operation Condor and Calle Conferencia, the latter leading in 2006/7 to the discovery of a previously unknown DINA torture and extermination centre where Communist Party officials including Victor Díaz had been murdered. Although Montiglio is one of a dwindling number of magistrates who continue to favour application of the 1978 Amnesty Law to human rights-related cases, his reputation as an implacable and meticulous investigator earned him the respect of relatives and case lawyers. Supreme Court records accordingly show him to be the single judge who has brought most sets of charges

against former regime agents. Montiglio's cases will for the present be taken over by judges Gloria Ana Chevesich and Alejandro Solís. The latter has the distinction of being the judge who has dictated the highest number of final sentences for regime-era human rights crimes.

Interior Ministry's Human Rights Programme in the news

The Human Rights Programme of Chile's Ministry of the Interior has been under pressure from various quarters in recent weeks, with internal tensions increasingly exposed to public view. The decision of new Programme head Rossy Lama to hold a meeting with defence lawyers representing accused perpetrators was criticised by relatives' associations and by former human rights lawyer Hugo Gutierrez, current chair of the human rights commission of the Chilean legislature's lower house. Members of the Programme's legal team expressed sympathy with the relatives' criticism, repeating their support days later when the AFDD became embroiled in a public spat with new President Sebastian Piñera (see below).

The relationship between the Programme's new authorities and its legal team also came under strain as routine witness citations requested by Programme lawyers in the course of their work began to include some now politically sensitive names, such as undersecretary of defence Oscar Izurieta, cited in the Victor Jara case (see bulletin 6 and below). After the citation of Izurieta caused controversy, new programme head Rossy Lama affirmed that she would henceforth be exercising direct personal oversight of similar requests, a measure criticised by some as restricting the perceived independence of Programme lawyers' work and/or heightening their susceptibility to political pressures.

In the most recent instance, involving the citation of present Chilean ambassador to Panama Alberto Labbé (see below), Interior Ministry subsecretary (vice-minister) Rodrigo Ubilla criticised the professionalism of his own employees, holding them responsible for current human rights investigations having dragged on for so long. The criticism seemed at best misplaced as it is judges, rather than Programme lawyers, who oversee investigations. Nor are judges entirely free to set the pace: despite a long history of judicialisation of human rights crimes in Chile, these are complex investigations often hampered by the continuing unwillingness of defendants to break military 'codes of silence' and insistence that no central archive of relevant Armed Forces documentation from the period exists. Case progress is also affected by many other factors, including the vigorous use by defendants and their lawyers of appeal measures, procedural objections and a host of other actions whose practical result is to delay final verdicts and sentencing.

Overall, these discussions point up the somewhat anomalous role played by the Programme in the reinvigoration of the Chilean human rights case universe since 1998. The Programme, which came into being as a followup body to the 1992 'Rettig' truth commission, was originally mandated solely to trace the whereabouts of unlocated victims of disappearance and political execution. It had no authority to initiate legal cases against suspected perpetrators, and despite growing judicial tolerance of its participation in such cases after a 2003 reorganisation, it continues to have no independent investigative mandate or powers. According to the old Chilean criminal justice system, under which these cases continue to be seen, such powers are the exclusive preserve of investigative magistrates operating in concert with a dedicated brigade of the investigative police, PDI.

According to highly placed judicial sources, the new government made recent informal enquiries about the feasibility of having dictatorship-era human rights cases transferred into Chile's new, adversarial, criminal justice system. This system reassigns primary case oversight and prosecutorial discretion to the state prosecutor's office (*Ministerio Público*), and

also sets a strict two year time limit after which charges must be brought or cases dismissed. At around the same time, defence lawyers representing former agents began to argue a similar line. In one case, a petition was submitted alleging that further prolongation of the parallel investigate magistrate system would be unconstitutional. The petition remains pending before the relevant court.

First meeting between relatives' association and the new President ends with mutual recriminations over possible bicentenary pardons

Chilean relatives' association the AFDD (*Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos*) held its first official meeting with new president Sebastian Piñera on 22 June. The audience proved unsatisfactory to both parties, with the AFDD unhappy that Piñera withdrew from the meeting after an hour pleading a prior commitment. Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter later publicly criticised the AFDD as having made the meeting a 'wasted opportunity'. He suggested they refrain from requesting further meetings, and defended the Piñera administration's commitment to human rights. The AFDD however went on to criticise Piñera's unwillingness to make a concrete commitment to exclude convicted perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity from a rumoured bicentenary 'clemency' project. The measure would see some elderly or infirm prisoners pardoned from serving the remainder of their prison terms.

This type of presidential pardon to mark special national occasions, usually made in response to a formal request from the Catholic Church, is a relatively established practice, last carried out in Chile during the Year 2000 Jubilee celebrations. It is widely expected that the Church is preparing to request that the gesture be repeated in 2010 to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Chilean Republic. In the runup to the announcement, while former president Eduardo Frei called for perpetrators of crimes against humanity to be excluded from the measure, UDI parliamentarians José Antonio Kast and Iván Moreira claimed, respectively, that their inclusion was essential for reconciliation and that it would be 'discriminatory' to rule them out.

Vetting and social repudiation

Political appointments made by new right-wing president Sebastian Piñera continue to provoke public debate, as the human rights record and attitudes of preferred candidates comes under scrutiny. The most recent case concerns Alberto Labbé, named at the end of May as Chile's ambassador to Panama. Rumours of Labbé's previous links with the DINA, Chile's repressive Pinochet-era secret police, resurfaced when an investigative magistrate recently summoned him to appear as a possible suspect (*imputado*) in the Operation Condor case. The case investigates the international assassination and rendition network run by Chilean and other Southern Cone military intelligence services during the 1970s and 1980s. Labbé was stationed at the Chilean embassy in Argentina in the early 1970s, a period which saw the assassination or disappearance of dozens of Chilean exiles.

Labbé was eventually questioned only as a witness. Chilean foreign minister (chancellor) Alfredo Moreno nonetheless declared publicly that, were Labbé's links with the DINA to be proven, it would be 'unsuitable' for him to continue in the diplomatic service. This is the fifth in a series of questioned appointments: to date, the new government has had to rescind the appointment of a state governor, re-appoint one ambassador after Brazil refused to approve his credentials, and replace another after he gave an interview to an Argentine newspaper playing down the dictatorship's human rights crimes. A former police intelligence agent invited to take over as head the prison service was also forced to resign before taking up his post. (see Bulletins 5 and 6 for details).

Subsecretary of Defence Oscar Izurieta, whose citation in mid-May to declare as a witness in the Victor Jara case caused a political row (see Bulletin 6), attended court as scheduled at the end of the month. The investigation is ongoing.

Echoes of the past in local mayor's declaration of war on drug traffickers

Two right-wing politicians at lower levels of government have recently made controversial statements strongly charged with echoes of Chile's repressive past. Municipal mayor Luis Plaza declared in late June that drug traffickers in his district would be 'fed to the fishes with stones tied round their necks', adding 'We're already preparing the boats'. Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter refused to issue any public reproof, claiming that people in Plaza's district 'understand his personal style'. On 9 July it transpired that Fernando González, a town councillor for the UDI party in the southern city of Concepción, sent a Twitter message to a colleague saying that remaining Allende sympathisers in local government posts should be rooted out 'at gunpoint' [...] 'a couple of soldiers would be all it takes'.

Museum of Memory and Human Rights budget cuts

On 20 June, press reports suggested likely cuts of 200 million pesos (US\$370,000) to the 2010 budget of Chile's national Museum of Memory and Human Rights. The Museum was inaugurated by outgoing president Michelle Bachelet in one of her final acts in office in early 2010. The cuts would represent a 14% reduction on the initial 2010 budget of 1,406 million pesos, and would claw back just over two-thirds of the amount of an additional 280 million peso grant made by the outgoing Concertación government days before it handed over power. According to museum director and former Minister Romy Schmidt the cuts will, if confirmed, restrict the Museum's planned educational outreach and regional activity programme. Earthquake damage estimated at a further 400 million pesos represents a further setback to the Museum, whose permanent collection remains closed while repairs are made.

Reparations scholarship investigation advances

The ongoing criminal investigation into allegedly substandard or nonexistent training provided by private universities under a scholarship scheme for recognised survivors of torture and political imprisonment (see bulletin 6) led to the seizing of computer records from a division of the Ministry of Education on 22 June. The allegations affect two universities: Universidad Bolivariana and UNIACC, whose rector was dismissed in early June over the affair.

Case continues in Italy against former Chilean military prosecutor

A witness travelled from Santiago to Rome in mid-June to testify against Alfonso Podlech, a former Chilean military prosecutor. Podlech was arrested while on a visit to Madrid in 2008 and later extradited to Italy to stand trial in connection with the disappearance of a priest of joint Italian and Chilean nationality. The trial continues.

NEWS FROM THE REST OF THE REGION

Argentina

In June, a third defendant joined the existing two whose sentences have been finally confirmed by Argentina's Supreme Court. Christian von Wernich, a Catholic priest was

originally found guilty in 2007 of involvement in 7 murders, 41 disappearances and 31 cases of torture dating back to his time as a police chaplain during the 1976-83 dictatorship. Von Wernich, who in the years before his arrest travelled regularly to Chile to perform duties as chaplain in a popular family holiday resort, wore a bulletproof vest throughout his original trial after claiming he had received death threats.

On 2 July former Junta member Jorge Videla went on trial for human rights crimes for the first time since pardons were issued to him and his fellow junta members by then-president Carlos Menem in 1990. Videla is now accused of additional offences, as part of Argentina's wider reinvigoration of criminal prosecutions after the 2003 overturning of amnesty provisions. The case, in the province of Córdoba, has 31 defendants, amongst them Luciano Menéndez, the notorious former army commander now facing his 5th trial for human rights crimes. In the fourth, recently concluded, Menéndez received his second life sentence, this one for his role in the disappearance of 22 people in the province of Tucumán.

Statistics for the numbers of former perpetrators currently on trial in Argentina vary between sources, with the state Special Prosecutor's Unit and leading litigant NGO CELS providing different figures. CELS detail 81 agents with guilty verdicts against them, while the state prosecutorial unit estimates the total at closer to 110. Both however agree that just over 650 individuals are under active investigation in around 320 open investigations, 10 of which are at the (final) oral trial stage. A third version of current figures, together with a map of the geographical distribution of trials in 2010, was published by national newspaper *Página 12* on 21 June and can be viewed at

<http://www.pagina12.com.ar/diario/elpais/subnotas/148009-47509-2010-06-21.html>

Brazil

Legislative project PL 7376, which will create Brazil's first ever official Truth Commission into 1964-85 dirty war crimes, was submitted to Congress on the final day of April and is under consideration. The draft text is available on request from the Observatory (address below)

El Salvador

A longstanding wartime debt to survivors in El Salvador should finally begin to be paid after president Mauricio Funes's FMLN government earmarked almost US\$20 million for the purpose. Many elements of the reparations package stipulated by the country's UN-sponsored 1992 peace process simply failed to materialise, with civilian victims particularly likely to be overlooked as attention focused on demobilised combatants on both sides.

Guatemala

Conrado Reyes, the intended state attorney whose appointment caused Spanish prosecutor and UN impunity czar Carlos Castresana to resign in protest, was himself finally forced to step down from his post at the head of the country's prosecution service. Castresana, the former Pinochet case litigant who went to Guatemala to head the UN-Guatemalan government anti-impunity commission known as 'CICIG', linked Reyes with precisely the kinds of high level organised corruption and crime that his office is sworn to combat.

On 21 June, a date officially set aside since 2004 to mark forced disappearance in Guatemala, the Guatemalan Working Group on Forced Disappearance issued a statement denouncing the continued failure to trace the missing. They demanded the reactivation of 2006 draft legislation that would have created a national commission for this purpose, but which seems to be stagnating in the country's parliament.

Peru

The thorny issue of reparations continues to be debated in Peru. Collective (community) reparation measures for victims of political violence are due to begin in the southern city of

Ica shortly, while Justice Minister Victor García was keen to stress in a recent public announcement that 'no reparations have been paid to terrorists'. La polémica sobre la clasificación de militantes de la guerrilla maoista Sendero Luminoso como víctimas a su vez de violaciones de ddhh cometidos por las fuerzas de seguridad estatales pu víctimas of state human rights violations who were also proven or suspected militants of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group should be considered 'legitimate' victims has arisen regularly and with some force in Peru in recent years. Peru is the only country in the region to date whose official truth commission report found a nonstate armed group, rather than state forces, to be responsible for the majority of fatal political violence.

The future of Lori Berenson, a US citizen jailed in 1995 for connections with another left wing armed group the MRTA, has also drawn unwelcome recent attention. Berenson's case became something of an international cause-celebre, due in part to the harsh conditions in which she was to serve her 20 year prison sentence for terrorist activities. On 25 May, having been granted a form of conditional release after serving three quarters of her sentence, Berenson was transferred to a private Lima residence. She is not, however, free to leave the country, and the move created unfavourable publicity for current authorities for whom Berenson's continued notoriety is something of a millstone.

Uruguay

On 22 June, former Uruguayan junta chief Gregorio Alvarez and dictatorship-era foreign minister Juan Carlos Blanco were due in court in ongoing proceedings over the kidnapping of sisters Victoria and Anatole Julien in Argentina in 1976. The pair have already been charged and/or sentenced in similar cases, with Alvarez handed a 25 year sentence in 2009 for a total of 37 counts of aggravated homicide. Blanco is also accused, together with former de facto president Juan Maria Bordaberry, of a different string of assassinations and disappearances with an Argentine connection.

In a separate case, also involving Bordaberry, earlier in the month, Uruguay's Procurator General, Rafael Ubiria, sent a strong signal to the Supreme Court when he recommended for the second time that Uruguay's existing amnesty law be regarded as unconstitutional. If the Court follows his advice, they may repeat a verdict earlier in the year that ruled the measure inapplicable to the 1974 death of activist Nibia Sabalsagaray. These decisions however only apply to the case for which they are made, and do not constitute a wholesale overturning of the amnesty law such as was attempted, unsuccessfully, by NGOs in a recent plebiscite vote. Additionally, Ubiria was careful to state that to his mind state prosecutors do not strictly have the faculties to submit challenges to constitutionality in this way. The finding of unconstitutionality moreover refers to some specific procedural aspects of the amnesty law – such as its failure to respect separation of powers, through allowing the country's president to make final decisions about applicability. The recommendation is however a definitive advance. The Supreme Court will now have to rule on the case, which investigates the disappearance or murder of 20 individuals between 1973 and 1976.

Sources for this month's bulletin include: Press reports; the Human Rights Programme of the Chilean Ministry of the Interior; CELS Argentina; Chilean lawyers Karinna Fernández and Eduardo Contreras; and the International Center for Transitional Justice's daily Spanish language news bulletins. (Contact MRivera@ictj.org for more information or to sign up).

Contributions to this bulletin: Organisations with information relevant for future editions of this bulletin are invited to contact us at the mails below. Please include contact and/ or citation details.

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