

APPEAL FOR CHILE

“Over ten years ago on 11 September 1973, democracy was violently overthrown in Chile in a military coup which shocked the world by its bloodiness and brutality. Hundreds were tortured, thousands were arrested and killed and 2,500 ‘disappeared’ following their abduction by the security forces. Thousands of Chileans were forced to live outside their own country in exile and the violation of human rights became systematic. The wounds inflicted on the Chilean people are deep and the scars have marked a whole generation.

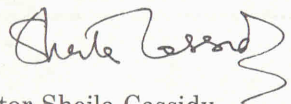
Many of you will remember that I was in Chile working as a doctor at the time of the coup and that I myself was arrested by the secret police and tortured in 1975. Although these events took place several years ago, the present situation in Chile is an extremely serious one. Torture has increased sharply, scores of people have been shot dead in Days of National Protest against the repressive policies of the military government and thousands have been arrested for their beliefs. The regime’s violence against its own people has led human rights workers in Chile to claim that the violation of human rights is at its highest since the early years after the military coup. As well as physical repression, a significant part of the Chilean population suffers from mass poverty and unemployment.

In spite of such intense repression, the courage of the Chilean people means that there is now hope on the horizon: the banned political parties, the church, students, shanty town dwellers and the trade unions have all called for the restoration of human and democratic rights in the country and many of these groups have taken part in recent Days of National Protest to achieve their desire for freedom and social change. In such a context, international support for the Chilean people, as in the past, has a crucial role to play.

In Britain, the Chile Committee for Human Rights has been working since 1974 in defence of human rights in Chile. Working closely with church and human rights organizations in Chile, the Committee has constantly carried out campaigns in support of the imprisoned, the tortured, the disappeared, the homeless and

unemployed as well as informing the British public of the situation in Chile. The present situation in Chile means that the need for our work continues. Unfortunately, the Chile Committee for Human Rights is going through a serious financial crisis and is in grave danger of going under. If you believe in our work against repression in Chile, if you care about Chile and in restoring human rights in the country, PLEASE HELP US."

Many thanks for your support,



Doctor Sheila Cassidy,
President Chile Committee for Human Rights,

AFFILIATE

I would like to affiliate to the Chile Committee for Human Rights, receive my bi-monthly copy of the 'Chile Newsletter' and to participate in CCHR'S campaigns. I enclose £..... (Affiliation fees: £5 individuals, £8 organizations).

Name & Address
.....

MAKE A DONATION

I wish to make a donation of £..... to the work of the Chile Committee for Human Rights (Cheques payable to CCHR).

MAKE A REGULAR CONTRIBUTION

Name	Name and Address of Bank
Address
.....
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I hereby order my bank to transfer £..... to the Chile Committee for Human Rights (Account Number 50424034, Co-op Bank, 1 Islington High St. London N1 9TR). The draft will be made on theday of each month, beginning with the month of 19..... and will continue until

Signature Date

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