

# Chile Prison Camp Head Says

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SANTIAGO—With concern mounting here and abroad over alleged human rights violations by the ruling military junta, the commander of Chile's main detention camp has charged that vigilantes are executing released prisoners.

Col. Jorge Espinosa, commander of the improvised camp at the Santiago soccer stadium that houses 3,700 detainees, said that more than 50 persons released for lack of evidence against them have disappeared or turned up dead before reaching home.

The question is, who killed them? Espinosa says he has evidence that several were leftist revolutionaries silenced by fellow "extremists" to prevent exposures. He did not produce such evidence, however, and he acknowledged that the killings could just as well have been by rightist vigilantes bent on eliminating known Marxists or suspicious foreigners whom the courts martial found no cause to prosecute.

Circumstances surrounding the deaths of several foreign detainees have provoked spec-

ulation that troops at the stadium were summarily executing defenseless prisoners. Espinosa denied this.

Concern is fed by the military's own announcements of daily executions in scattered locales, said in each case to have been triggered by armed attacks on the troops, or by attempted escape of prisoners.

This is despite apparent tranquility throughout the country, which is under tight military control. The official death toll since the Sept. 11 coup has now climbed above 500, 34 of them police or troops. Unofficial tolls run higher, although little evidence has appeared to substantiate figures running into the thousands.

At least half a dozen of the possible victims of vigilantes were foreigners. The junta has charged that thousands of foreigners were abetting a Marxist plot to seize absolute power.

American graduate student Frank Teruggi's body was delivered to the morgue by a military patrol a day after the authorities say he was released at the stadium. He died Sept. 21, and an autopsy was

delivered to the U.S. Consulate last week showing the cause was multiple gunshot wounds in the head and abdomen. No ballistics report was provided to indicate whether the bullets were of standard military calibre.

Another American, filmmaker Charles Horman has been missing since Sept. 17, when neighbors say he was picked up by men in uniform. One witness says she followed the truck to the stadium, but the authorities show no record of his entering.

Espinosa pointed out that several attacks against troops were carried out by assailants in regulation uniforms. Theft of uniforms has been common here in recent years.

Another case having great impact in church and diplomatic circles is that of a Brazilian who says he was visiting in Santiago when the coup occurred. He was at the home of a Brazilian professor when it was searched.

He charges that both were taken to the stadium, later conducted at gunpoint along with a Uruguayan to a river bank, and gunned down. The

Brazilian says he was wounded in the shoulder and leg, but he revived downstream and reached a nearby house.

Among the places sheltering him in the next days was a Catholic Church. Asylum was arranged in an embassy, where he remains with a bullet in his shoulder to support his allegations. Several bullet-riddled bodies have been found in the river at a point where its flow is impeded.

In response to abuses of search powers invoked by the military the commander of the Santiago area, published a special communique affirming the right of citizens to obtain the name and unit of the officer in charge and to submit claims if the search were not carried out according to fixed rules.

But citizens are also encouraged to denounce suspicious activities and it is on the basis of these often frivolous denunciations that many of the searches are carried out.

There are indications that protests from abroad are registering with the junta. The typical initial reaction was

## Vigilantes Kill Freed Prisoners

that a propaganda program directed by international Communism was seeking to deprecate Chile.

But Air Force Commander Gustavo Leigh granted an interview to the extreme rightist newspaper, *Tribuna* in which he condemned book burnings and made the point, "You do not get rid of Marxism by killing Marxists."

Last Sunday, Pope Paul told worshippers that he was saddened by reports from Chile. In this nation where almost all of the 9.3 million people are at least nominally Catholic, the impact was considerable.

The papers allowed to print here under censorship carried statements that the Pope was misinformed without in some cases reporting what he said. "They will have a time saying the Pope is party to the Communist conspiracy," said a Christian Democrat.

On Tuesday, the junta took the extraordinary step of visiting Raul Cardinal Silva Henríquez, archbishop of Santiago. In a rare press conference afterwards, the cardinal alluded to distorted press coverage

without suggesting that was the source of the Pope's declaration.

A Frenchman sent to report on the situation here, Joe Nordmann of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, has charged that Chile is violating the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Nordmann cited first-hand reports of persons executed who were not participants in the internal civil conflict implied by the junta's proclamation of a state of war.

"People who served a constitutional government . . . are under threat of execution or judgement by courts martial," he said, adding that he had verified a small number of cases of torture.

It is the position of the Junta that it has ordered summary executions only of those attacking the armed forces.

### Jurists Say Prisoners Tortured in Chile

From News Dispatches

SANTIAGO, Oct. 13—A commission made up of three lawyers—two Frenchmen and a Spaniard—said today their

investigation here has revealed confirmed cases of torture and summary execution of prisoners since the armed forces took power last month.

"We have found cases of mistreatment of all kinds," said Leopoldo Torres Boursault, secretary general of the International Movement of Catholic Jurists, at a news conference. "In some cases we have interviewed the victims themselves, and in other cases the information has come from persons of absolute moral integrity, including diplomats and clergies."

Gen. Augusto Pinochet, leader of the military junta, denied in a meeting with the commission Friday that the junta had violated any human rights.

Torres said the junta was enforcing the "law of escape" meaning authorities execute prisoners and then announce that they were killed while trying to escape.

The commission said prisoners were beaten, burned with cigarettes, immersed in water and had electrodes attached to their bodies. It said there was a high incidence of mistreat-

ment of foreign prisoners.

The military junta announced that five men, all identified as members of leftist political organizations, were executed in Pisagua prison camp in northern Chile. They were found guilty of attacking representatives of the armed forces and acts of terrorism.

The government banned publication or broadcasting of any reports of executions, deaths or imprisonments other than the information contained in official press communiqués.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials seized a Soviet merchant ship in the Panama Canal, pending the resolution of Chilean legal claims on its cargo.

Two Chilean companies have sued through the U.S. District Court in the Canal Zone for \$1,298,000 for non-delivery of cargo aboard the Soviet ship, the *William Foster*. The suit says the ship turned back and failed to deliver the cargo after the Sept. 11 coup.