

Chile Denies Torture Charges by Doctor

Santiago

Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal has told the British Foreign Office that allegations by Dr. Sheila Cassidy that she was tortured by Chilean authorities are "totally unfounded and malicious."

In a note to the Foreign Office made public yesterday, Carvajal said that in making the accusations of torture, Cassidy has joined a "campaign of slander against Chile that is directed by Soviet Communism and its allies."

The diplomatic note added: "It is surprising and lamentable that the British government has given credit to these injurious accusations."

Cassidy, a physician from England, was held for 59 days by Chilean authorities, who accused her of aiding leftist guerrillas. After repeated complaints by the British government that she was being held without formal charges, the Chilean military government released her on December 29.

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