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Chilean Government Frees 129 Political Prisoners

Santiago, Chile

Chile's military government yesterday freed 129 political prisoners as part of its proclaimed program to release all persons held under state of siege laws.

The massive iron doors of the sprawling Tres Alamos political prisoner camp in the southern outskirts of the city swung open and the prisoners surged through, many into the arms of weeping relatives.

For a few, it was their first taste of freedom in three years.

The 129 prisoners, including 18 women, were the first to be released in a program announced Tuesday under which the govern-

ment says it will free all of the more than 300 persons held under state of siege laws.

General Hernan Bejares, government secretary-general, said the released prisoners will be allowed to stay in Chile or leave for exile abroad if they wish.

The prisoners were given medical checks by five doctors before they were released. One doctor said he had found them in good physical shape without signs of torture.

Another 170 prisoners will be brought to Santiago today from the Puchuncavi detention camp on the Pacific coast about 100 miles west of Santiago and officials said they also would be released.

United Press