

U.S. 'Witnesses' to 400 Executions

Miami

An American couple held prisoner for a week in Chile said yesterday they had witnessed the execution of 400 to 500 persons since the military took control of Chile.

Patricia and Adam Garrett Schesch, who returned to this country yesterday, also accused Chile's new military leaders of "conducting a pogrom against foreigners."

The Scheschs, graduate students at the University of Wisconsin, were released Friday and expelled from Chile. They arrived in Miami aboard one of the first flights permitted to leave Santiago.

"We personally saw the shooting of 400 to 500 prisoners, in groups of 30 to 40, at the National Stadium where we were being held," said Schesch, 31. He said the shootings were carried out by the military and occurred in the stadium.

In Santiago, the military junta termed the Schesch allegations "absolutely baseless. I can assure you that not even one person, let alone 400 or 500, has been executed," a spokesman said.

Mrs. Schesch, 30, said the couple had also seen and heard beatings administered to prisoners, many of them foreigners.

Weary and nervous, the Scheschs told newsmen at the Miami airport that they had been in Chile 2½ years, conducting research for their doctoral degrees in history and sociology.

Schesch said he was beaten on the night he was arrested. "They told me I would be shot," Schesch said.



AP Wirephotos

ADAM SCHESCH

PATRICIA SCHESCH

They said they saw killings in the stadium

The two said they were arrested September 14 when Chilean troops burst into their home and found news clippings, books and other material considered Marxist

and subversive.

"It was virtually impossible to live in Chile and not have had contact with people now considered subversive."

Associated Press