

Two Assert Chilean Junta Is Killing Many Prisoners

By Terri Shaw

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An American graduate student taken prisoner after the Chilean coup said yesterday that he was stripped, beaten, interrogated with a rifle at his head and threatened with being put before a firing squad during the week that he and his wife were held prisoner by the new military government.

Adam Garrett-Schesch, 31, and his wife Patricia, 30, gave newsmen a detailed description of their experiences as prisoners in Santiago's National Stadium where the military junta has said 7,000 persons are being held. The two had been in Chile nearly three years doing research to earn doctorates at the University of Wisconsin.

When they arrived in Miami from Santiago Sunday night, the couple told newsmen that they saw 400 to 500 persons executed in the stadium. Yesterday, they said they had not actually witnessed executions, but had seen that number of prisoners marched onto the playing field from the dressing rooms where prisoners were held, and then heard bursts of gunfire from the playing field. They said none of the prisoners taken away under those circumstances returned.

"We are firmly convinced that these people were executed there," Garrett-Schesch said.

Other foreigners who have been released from the stadium have also reported hearing gunfire within it.

The military leaders who overthrew the leftist government of President Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, said that no one has been executed in the stadium. The junta has announced a few executions of persons resisting the military takeover.

The couple, still tense after their ordeal, told newsmen they had decided to describe only things they had seen personally—"no rumors, no hearsay." They emphasized that as trained scholars, they had tried to make careful and exact observations while they were inside the stadium, taking particular care to make accurate estimates of the number of people they saw being led off to the playing field.

Mrs. Garrett-Schesch said hearing the sounds of beatings in neighboring cells and watching the people being led onto the playing field was "the most horrible experience I have had in my life."

She said one of the first people she saw taken onto the playing field was a Chilean friend who was arrested with the Garrett-Schesches at their home four days after the coup. His hands were tied behind his back and a guard put a cigarette in his mouth, she said.

"The group walked out singing the 'Internationale,' then the shooting began . . . heavy, sustained automatic weapons fire . . . It lasted a minute or two," she said.

"I heard fewer and fewer voices singing. And then the singing stopped."

Her husband, who was stud-

ying agrarian reform under the Allende government for his doctoral dissertation in history, said he was interrogated for hours about his research, particularly two maps found in their apartment—one showing working class districts of Santiago and one with symbols indicating a breakdown of election results around the country.

The Garrett-Schesches said they were arrested when neighbors complained to police after they had tried to organize orderly lines at a small food store which was being mobbed by customers.

Asked about their politics, Garrett-Schesch described himself and his wife as "progressive people" who were "sympathetic" to the Allende government.

A friend of the couple in Madison, Wis., said that Garrett-Schesch was a founder of the Wisconsin Alliance, a radical political party, and once ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Madison "on a radical program."

Mrs. Garrett-Schesch, a sociologist, was doing research on the changing status of women in Chile, and was affiliated with the University of Wisconsin's Land Tenure Center there.

The couple has an 18-month-old son, Aaron, who was born in Chile. He was staying with the maid's family when they were arrested, and returned to the United States with them.



Photos by Larry Morris—The Washington Post

Adam Garrett-Schesch draws diagram of their Santiago neighborhood as his wife, Patricia, looks on.