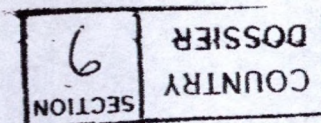




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International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England
Telephone: 01-836 7788 Telegrams: Amnesty London Telex: 28502



EXTERNAL

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HISTORICAL FILE

URUGUAY : 2 SICK PRISONERS

RELEASED

Medical professionals are asked to write letters to the Uruguayan authorities for two women prisoners, who are reportedly in need of medical attention.

Irma LEITES DALTO is a 32-year-old textile worker who completed an eight-year prison sentence in November 1981. However, she is still being detained by the Uruguayan authorities, in spite of a court order for her release. She is at present held with three other women political prisoners, all of whom have completed prison sentences, at the barracks of Infantry Battalion No. 1 in Montevideo.

According to reports from reliable sources, Irma Leites Dalto suffers from a congenital foot malformation (club foot), has had many operations as a child and has to wear orthopaedic shoes. During interrogation after her arrest she was reportedly forced to stand in containers full of water, and since then has had difficulty in walking due to both her legs being swollen. She was operated on twice in the Military Hospital, but both operations were unsuccessful. She is said to have constant pain in her legs. Her condition has worsened with general fluid retention, possibly due to chronic kidney disease not as yet investigated. She is also said to suffer from difficulties in passing water, and has unspecified heart problems.

In May 1982 Amnesty International received reports that she was being denied medical attention at the Infantry Battalion No. 1, Montevideo, to which she was transferred on 24 April 1982 from Punta de Rieles prison. Conditions at the barracks are reported to be worse than at the prison - no visits or recreation periods have been allowed.

Irma Leites Dalto has been granted a visa to travel to Sweden upon her release.

Although she has not been adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International, it is appealing for her release on grounds that she has served her sentence in full, and that her release has been ordered by the court, and there are no new or outstanding charges against her. Amnesty International

also believes that her continued detention violates Article 9 (1-4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, since her detention has not been authorized by a court, no charges have been made against her, and she has no effective means of legal redress. Also the reports that she is not receiving medical attention give Amnesty International cause for grave concern.

Carmen RINALDI LUSICH is a 25-year-old factory worker and adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. She was arrested on 23 September 1977 and charged with "subversive association". After completion of her four-year prison sentence in September 1981, she was detained by the authorities. In spite of a court order for her release she remains in detention.

Carmen Rinaldi's husband, Fredy Borroni Silvera, was arrested with her in 1977 and is currently serving a six-year sentence in Libertad prison. He has also been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience.

According to reports recently received by Amnesty International, Carmen Rinaldi is ill. She has developed a heart murmur with fast heart action. This has been investigated at the Military Hospital, and a valvular disease is suspected. She has reportedly been having frequent fainting fits recently. She also suffers from gastritis, and has a spinal problem which was revealed by an X-ray. According to information from reliable sources, she has recently been receiving no medical care.

Carmen Rinaldi Lusich does not have a visa to travel abroad upon her release and, as far as is known, does not wish to leave Uruguay.

Background: Release Procedures

Upon expiry of their final sentence as determined by the Supreme Military Tribunal, the military court normally issues a paper authorizing the release of the prisoner, signed by the competent judge, but the decision to proceed with the release rests with the military authorities. Amnesty International believes that the decision is based in many cases on intelligence information, consisting partly in reports submitted by the prison authorities on the prisoner's "behaviour" while serving his/her sentence. It is at this stage, not normally at the stage of the issue by the court of the order for release, that substantial delays may occur. (The military authorities will also decide under what restrictions the prisoner will be placed, if released, including restrictions on movement within the country, the frequency of reporting to military barracks, etc., including in some cases making release conditional on the prisoner agreeing to leave the country.) In legal terms, the status of the prisoner changes from that of a sentenced prisoner to that of being detained indefinitely in administrative detention under Medidas Prontas de Seguridad, Emergency Security Measures without charges or sentence. The Medidas Prontas de Seguridad (MPS) were first used extensively in 1968, when the government of Jorge Pacheco Areco was faced with mounting labour unrest. During this period the widespread torture of political detainees was used. MPS were also used during the suppression of the armed urban guerrilla movement in 1971/72. Although the government has claimed since 1974/75 to have effectively surmounted the threat of armed opposition, the MPS have remained in force to this day, and have been routinely used to justify arrest and detention without trial of peaceful opponents of the government.

COPIES TO:

Any one (or more) of the following commanders of the four military regions into which Uruguay is divided:

Gral. Julio César Rapela
Comandante de la División de Ejército I
Av. Libertador Brig. Gral Lavalleja 3451
Montevideo, Uruguay

Gral. Julio César Bonelli
Comandante de la División de Ejército II
18 de Julio 660
San José, Uruguay

Gral. Hugo Medina
Comandante de la División de Ejército III
Av. 18 de Julio
Paso de los Toros
Tacuarembó, Uruguay

Gral. José María Siquiera
Jefe de la División de Ejército IV
Minas, Lavalleja
Uruguay

and to Uruguayan diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the
International Secretariat if sending appeals after 16 November 1982.