

- **Working for Human Rights**
- **Fighting Against Impunity**
- **Gathering and archiving material of human rights violations, to make these freely available**
- **Support and facilitate the bringing to justice of Human Rights Abusers**
- **Development of medium and long term projects in remembrance of the victims of the military dictatorship.**
- **Development and use of the existing Human Rights international network to work against the violations of Human Rights.**

If you would like to participate in the work of the organization, or want further information about our activities, please write/phone or join our email list

Human Rights International Project
 37-39 Great Guildford Street
 London SE1
 e-mail: hhrr_project@hotmail.com

The *Human Rights International Project* is funded solely by voluntary contributions. We need financial help to carry out both short and long term projects. If you would like to help, please send a cheque, made payable to *Human Rights International Project*, or credit the money directly into our Bank account:

HSBC
 Southwark Branch
 28 Borough High Street
 London SE1 1YB
 Account name: Human Rights International Project
 Account number: (40-06-21) 214 762 89

We produce a Human Rights in Chile News Bulletin, in Spanish and English, approximately every ten days, subscription is free by email. Please write to us at hhrr_project@hotmail.com. Hard copy subscription by post within the United Kingdom is £15 per six months, and £25 per year

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 (Northern Line)

Buses: **10, 21, 35, 40, 95, 133**

HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

working against impunity



37-39 Great Guilford Street,
 London SE1 OES
 e-mail: hhrr_project@hotmail.com
www.memoriaviva.com
 Tel: 07957 214768/07957 650209/
 07944 713778

Human Rights International Project

This **Project** was established to work for human rights and towards an end to impunity in Chile, Latin America and around the world. Central to its work is the process of gathering, archiving and making available all information concerning human rights violations during the military dictatorship in Chile; to support the prosecution of human right violators; to develop, by means of national and international projects, awareness about human rights, and to work for the rescue of the historical memory and the remembrance of the victims.

Historical Perspective:

The military, lead by General Augusto Pinochet, overthrew the democratically elected government of Chile in 1973 and imposed a military dictatorship, which lasted until 1990. Thousands of people were killed and “disappeared”; hundreds of thousands more were persecuted and tortured for opposing his brutal regime. The power of Pinochet’s security forces, through *Operation Condor*, in coordination with other military regimes in the region expanded their rule of terror across continents. Pinochet stepped down from power in 1990 but not before appointing himself Senator for Life, a position that retains not only power but also immunity from prosecution. Today, after more than 25

years there are still more than one thousand people disappeared in Chile, and hundreds of thousands across Latin America.

Institutionalised immunity has been established in many South American countries after civilian governments have taken over, including Chile. If this process is not reversed the “culture of impunity” will be perpetuated across the continent, compromising fundamental human rights and undermining democracy.

The detention of General Pinochet in London has become a milestone in the struggle for human rights and justice. The central issue was always whether one person, irrespective of his politics or position of power, is to be made answerable for his crimes. Although the British Government gave way to pressures and allowed the ex-Dictator to return to Chile, his arrest sent a clear signal to the world that a new era of human rights enforcement is within reach. There is however much still to be done if we are to bring to justice all those involved in human right violation in Chile, Latin America and around the world. With this purpose in mind and to ensure that these crimes can never be committed again, individuals who have been actively involved in human rights work, have come together to work for human rights and to put an end to impunity.

Our main programmes are:

• Action for Human Rights

➤ The implementation of local actions and the establishment of a transcontinental network of communication to campaign against Human Rights abuses in Chile and Latin America.

• Archive Vivo

➤ A Resource Centre that documents human rights violations during the Chilean military dictatorship with a particular focus on disappeared and executed political prisoners.

➤ A website that collate and make globally available information on human rights violations and human rights abusers with the aim of bringing the latter to justice, either in Chile or the international courts.

➤ Topical and thematic publications, workshops and Internet web pages and discussion groups on human rights.

• Humans Rights Bulletin - Chile

➤ Provide up-to-date information on Human Rights issues in Chile by means of a free electronic newsletter produced fortnightly.

• Initiative 503

➤ To document the 503 days that Pinochet spent under arrest in London and the lessons learned from this, by means of essays, analysis and personal accounts.

• Eco-Memory

➤ The creation of a “living memorial”, in the form of a forest of native trees, in remembrance of all the victims of the Chilean dictatorship.

**TRUTH AND JUSTICE
NO TO IMPUNITY**