



CASA DE LA MEMORIA

Chile Museum of the Disappeared

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Following the Coup d'Etat in Chile on the 11th of September 1973, the families of the thousand of victims started the search for their loved ones. This was initially done individually, by each family, trying to locate their relatives who have been detained by the Security Services of the Military Dictatorship. In this long and painful search we found other families also searching for their loved ones. We were united by our sorrow, impotence and the desperate need to find our loved ones. This led to the creation of an organisation that would co-ordinate and help with the painful work of establishing the whereabouts of our relatives. In this way the "**Agrupacion de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos**" was born.

The initial aim of the Agrupacion was to recover our relatives alive. It was inconceivable to believe that they could have all been murdered. Under the banner "**DONDE ESTAN**" (Where are they) we began our long and painful work to establish the truth and denouncing to the world know what was happening to those that were arrested. For years we protested and demanded to know the whereabouts of our relatives. We demonstrated in the streets, government institutions, outside prisons and known centres of detention. We were always met with brutal repression, persecution and intimidation. The militaries always denied all knowledge of our loved ones.

Our struggle for truth and justice continued throughout the period of the Military Dictatorship, until the restoration of the democratic government in Chile. Our work became central to the report published by the **Commission of Truth and Reconciliation** established by the newly elected government in 1990. This report clearly demonstrated that one of the main objectives of the Military Dictatorship's Security Forces (secret police and paramilitary groups) was the systematic elimination of its political adversaries and the immobilisation of the opposition to the regimen through persecution and terror.

Today, 8 years after the restoration of Democracy in Chile, **WE STILL DO NOT KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF OUR RELATIVES**. Their absence continues to be a reminder of what happened in Chile and may happen again.

Today, as yesterday, we demand to know the fate and whereabouts of our loved ones and we continue our fight to insure that the terrible events that occurred in Chile can **NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN**. With this objective in mind the **Agrupacion de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos** is working towards the creation of permanent space where the relatives and friends of the Desaparecidos (all those that work and care for the defence of Human Rights) can come together and work towards our common goal. This Centre has been

denominated as CASA DE LA MEMORIA

The Agrupacion de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos aims to build this Centre in Santiago de Chile and for it to become a space where we can continue our work to find our relatives and keep their memory alive. We aim to use this Centre to develop activities connected with the Disappeared and to educate the new generations to ensure that the crimes committed against thousand of Chileans are never forgotten and can never again be repeated.

For further information regarding the Project: **Casa de la Memoria** and other work carried out by the **Agrupacion de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos**, please contact:

Chile Museum of the Disappeared Support Group represented in Lund by:

Latinamerikanska Stödgruppen (LAS), orgnr. 845003-2324

Fax: 046 – 37 25 58,
e-post: las.mail@swipnet.se



PROJECT "CASA DE LA MEMORIA"

Main Objective:

The **Agrupacion de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos** aims to build a Centre where we can continue our work to find our loved ones that are still Disappeared and document the fate of all the victims of the Military Dictatorship, by means of exhibitions, seminars and educational workshops.

The Centre:

We are planning to build a Centre (150 m²) which will consist of a permanent library and exhibition rooms (for permanent and temporal exhibitions), seminar rooms, meeting centres and the necessary facilities for the proper running of such Centre, including administrative offices, reception, toilets, kitchens and resting rooms.

Costs:

The costs for the centre has been estimated at about £ 50,000 which will go mainly towards the actual building since rights for the land have already been obtained.

The centre will be situated in:

Avenida Ricardo Cumming No 1161

Santiago, Chile

All contributions to this project are warmly welcome and can be made to:
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