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QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO
ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR:

(c) QUESTION OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Letter, dated 24 February 1986, to the Chairman of
the Commission on Human Rights from the Permanent
Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations
Office at Geneva

I have the honour to write to you to request that the text of the note addressed to Mr. Ivan Toševski, Chairman of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, which met in Buenos Aires in June 1985, be circulated as a document of the Commission so that the note is taken into consideration for the purposes of the agenda item as the final reply by the Government of the Republic of Paraguay.

(Signed) E. González Alsina
Head of the Delegation of Paraguay

Annex

In conformity with what was established at the hearing on 10 June 1985 in the Working Group chaired by you, only the cases of alleged disappearances, which constitute a list of 23 names with regard to Paraguay, are examined.

We have obtained a copy of this list with the co-operation of the Working Group and the following comments relating thereto largely confirm those already made in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

1. (Name of the person supplied). He was arrested in the Argentine Republic (Clorinda), but was never transferred to Paraguay, nor was a request made for him to be extradited.
2. (Name of the person supplied). There is no record of his being arrested nor is he known to engage in any political or trade union activity.
3. (Names of four persons supplied). They were detained for inquiries along with other members of the same family in Santa Rosa (Misiones) and were all subsequently released.
4. (Name of the person supplied). He was never arrested by the police authorities and he is not known to engage in any political or trade union activity.
5. (Names of four persons supplied). They were arrested in November 1974 and deported to Brazil in March 1975.
6. (Name of the person supplied). He died in Misiones in a clash with the forces of law and order. The case was widely reported in the newspapers in Paraguay.
7. (Name of the person supplied). He died in a public battle with the forces of law and order in April 1976 on the outskirts of Asunción. The armed clash was widely reported in the newspapers and General Superintendent Gustavo Giménez was seriously wounded in the clash.
8. (Name of the person supplied). As reported previously, this person was known to have lived abroad for many years. It was heard that he went from Montevideo to Moscow; he did not return to Paraguay nor was he held prisoner in any police or military unit. The confusion lies in the fact that a person with the same surname was in prison and was subsequently released.
9. (Name of the person supplied). He was imprisoned in 1972 and was released shortly after. The record shows that he went to Montevideo and Moscow and has never returned to Paraguay.
10. (Name of the person supplied). His father notified the Paraguayan authorities that his son had been arrested by the Argentine authorities. This person was never transferred to Paraguay nor was a request made for him to be extradited. According to inquiries, he was arrested by the Mountain Infantry Regiment in Formosa, Argentina.
11. (Names of three persons supplied). They are Uruguayan citizens and not, as stated in the report, Paraguayan citizens. They were arrested in March 1977 and deported to the Argentine Republic because they did not have legal papers or residence in Paraguay.

12. (Name of the person supplied). Nothing is known about him entering Paraguay, and hence, about any activity in Paraguay. He is not on any police records.

13. (Name of the person supplied). He was arrested together with other Argentine citizens and expelled from Paraguay because he had no papers or residence in Paraguay.

14. (Name of the person supplied). As reported previously, he was arrested in Asunción with two other persons. On 27 January 1977 they were released and went to Sweden at the expense of the Swedish Government after a brief stay in the Mexican Embassy as asylees. It was learned that they later went to Moscow and the German Democratic Republic. Photocopies of documentary evidence are attached. None of the three returned to Paraguay.

15. (Name of the person supplied). He was arrested in Paraguay a long time ago and, after being released, went abroad, so far as is known, he has never returned.

COMMENT

It is impossible to control all movement of persons across the frontiers, which are very long and easily accessible. Argentina borders on Paraguay along the Pilcomayo River, the Lower Paraguay River and the Paraná River, from Corrientes as far as the frontier with Brazil, from where the same river is the frontier with that country as far as Salto del Guairá. All the rest consists of a land frontier, except the northern stretch of the Paraguay River, from the Apa River to Bahía Negra. There is a great deal of movement along the frontier, where there are many clandestine routes.

(Signed) Ezequiel González Alsina
Delegate of Paraguay

Miguel Bestard
Delegate of Paraguay