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Inter-american Society Requests That Chilean Government Terminate Persecution Of Journalists

by John Neagle

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In a communique made public on Feb. 15, the Inter-American Press Society requested that the Chilean government terminate persecution of Chilean journalists. Specifically, the government was asked to suspend prosecution in military tribunals of journalists accused of supposed infractions against state security. A recent case involved a suit against Marcelo Contreras, director of the magazine, Apsi. According to sources in Santiago, Contreras is facing prosecution via military court because he informed reachers that Gen. Augusto Pinochet owns a mansion in Asuncion, capital of Paraguay. The Society has repeatedly requested that the Chilean government cease prosecution of journalists in military tribunals. According to the ISP, this practice and others represent pressures which prevent the free functioning of the press. (Basic data from AFP, 02/15/89)

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