

## PRESS RELEASE

Issued by Memoria Viva  
Friday 25 January 2008

### **CHILE: Sydney Women Plead for Life of Mapuche Activist**

A number of Sydney women will be approaching the Chilean Government to plead for the life of the Mapuche activist and political prisoner Patricia Troncoso, who started her fourth month on a hunger strike.



**They will be visiting:  
The Chilean Consul  
Time: 11am  
When: Friday 25 January  
Where: Level 18, 44 Market St, Sydney**

Ms Troncoso, a former Valparaiso Catholic University Professor and well known pro-Mapuche rights activist, was convicted under an Augusto Pinochet-era anti-terrorism law for her alleged involvement in burning nearly 250 acres of pine plantations belonging to the Chilean Mininco Company.

On October 10 last year, Ms Troncoso and four other Angol prisoners – Jose Huenchunao, Juan Millalen, Jaime Marileo and Hector Llaitul – who are serving long-term imprisonment launched a hunger strike in an attempt to draw attention to their plight.

Four prisoners ended their hunger strike in December while Ms Troncoso continued. She has decided to do so until her demands are met – freedom for the Mapuche prisoners.

Ms Troncoso is reported to be in an extremely delicate condition.

Ms Maria Pilar....., spokesperson for the group, said: 'The Chilean Government's use of Pinochet's anti-terrorism law against Mapuche valid land claims is a travesty of justice.

"A testimony that the Government of Michelle Bachelet not only upholds the dictatorship's measures but also condones the genocide of the Indigenous people of Chile' Ms... added.

The Sydney group will be led by well known Aboriginal Human Rights Activist, Ms Jenny Munro; Greens MLC for NSW, Ms Sylvia Hale; and Ximena Manquela, Marta Olea and Maria Pilar ..., former political prisoners under the Chilean dictatorship.

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