

What is behind the Pinochet arrest

by Cynthia R. Rush

On Oct. 17, British police acted on an international extradition warrant issued by Spanish magistrate Baltasar Garzón and arrested former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet. The warrant for the 82-year-old Pinochet, who was recovering from back surgery in a London clinic, initially charged him with involvement in the murder, torture, and “genocide” of 79 Spanish citizens in Chile during his reign in power. Garzón subsequently widened the accusation to include charges of genocide, torture, and murder of 94 people, including citizens of Argentina, Britain, Chile, and the United States. Swiss authorities have indicated that they will seek Pinochet’s extradition to that country, and individuals in Sweden and France have filed criminal complaints against him.

Pinochet’s arrest has unleashed an international furor. The Chilean government filed a formal protest with the British government, arguing that because the general is a senator-for-life and carries a diplomatic passport, he enjoys diplomatic immunity. President Eduardo Frei also cancelled a private visit to Madrid, where he had been scheduled to meet with King Juan Carlos. Adm. Jorge Arancibia, head of the Chilean Navy, similarly cancelled two trips to London planned for the purchase of weapons. Gen. Rafael Villarroel, Pinochet’s former second-in-command, warned that if Pinochet is not released, the military would push for breaking diplomatic relations with both Spain and Britain.

The international human rights mob, including Amnesty International and George Soros’s Human Rights Watch, hailed the arrest and demanded that the “brutal dictator” be immediately extradited to Madrid. Not content with that, some British parliamentarians are reportedly even calling for General Pinochet to be tried in London, under a European covenant on torture.

Setting a precedent

As of this writing, Britain’s High Court has ruled that General Pinochet cannot be tried or held for extradition in Britain for anything done while he was President of Chile. The three-judge panel which made the ruling said that it could be appealed in the House of Lords. Until that occurs, Pinochet cannot leave the country.

Regardless of the outcome, the point is that General Pinochet’s arrest in the first place had nothing to do with what he

did, or did not do, during the 17 years he presided over Chile’s military junta (1973-90). It is rather an attempt by a *London*-directed supranational apparatus, Prince Philip’s Transparency International (TI), to step up its assault on the institutions of the sovereign nation-state. At a time when global financial disintegration demands that those institutions be strengthened, the international financial oligarchy is organizing *supranational* agencies, such as the United Nations’ proposed world criminal court, to supplant national sovereignty and plunge the world into chaos.

As numerous media outlets for the British view have cheerfully reported, Pinochet’s arrest is intended to set a precedent for extraterritorial jurisdiction. If the arrest is allowed to stand, then heads-of-state or military leaders can be arrested for anything, any time they might travel outside their countries. Suppose Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo were to travel to the United States for medical treatment: Would he be arrested on charges stemming from allegations by the human rights mafia, that his government violated human rights in Chiapas? Or, what about Peru’s President Alberto Fujimori, who waged a successful war against the Shining Path narco-terrorists?

Pinochet has given long years of service to the British—yet not even this has protected him. He may have allied with the Queen against Argentina in the 1982 Malvinas War, and faithfully imposed in Chile the same free market and globalization policies which his friend Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher implemented in Britain. It is on the basis of Pinochet’s valuable assistance to the British during the Malvinas War that Thatcher has also called for Pinochet’s immediate release.

But from the standpoint of the British Crown, Pinochet is expendable. If the Blair government were really interested in halting human rights violations, it would have already arrested the numerous Arab, Ibero-American, and other hardcore terrorists who have for years directed their murderous activities around the world *from London*, and against whom, the British police or government authorities have never lifted a finger.

Garzón and Transparency

Founded in May 1993, Transparency International is a powerful international organization, officially dedicated to “fighting corruption nationally and internationally.” This is just a facade, however. TI is a political partner of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, committed to the same worldview and policy direction, under a different guise. It is staffed by “former” employees of both those institutions—its current president is former World Bank executive Peter Eigen—and has operations in more than 60 countries, with 70,000 members and apparently unlimited funds. One source of Transparency’s funds is global speculator George Soros, the financier of drug legalization campaigns and narco-insurgencies in Ibero-America. Michel Camdessus, the IMF’s

managing director, is a frequent speaker at Transparency conferences.

As Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi wrote in the April 18, 1997 Italian daily *Il Giornale*, “close to Transparency, we find some very prominent characters of the British world” — Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh for starters. Nuzzi reported that Transparency International’s “moral-theological foundations” derived from a series of meetings which Philip promoted, beginning in 1984, and which were later reflected in the 1993 “Interfaith Code of Ethics” which identifies corruption as synonymous with sovereign governments and industrialists. Its propaganda repeatedly emphasizes the need to establish an “Anti-Corruption Authority” which is independent of governments, and empowered to fight the corruption of “politicians.”

Transparency International’s coordination with the Italian magistrates of the “Clean Hands” team, which began a rampage against that country’s national institutions more than six years ago, succeeded in destroying a large part of the political and industrial elite still committed (at least to an extent) to the idea of economic and national sovereignty. Gherardo Colombo was one of three Clean Hands magistrates to attend the founding meeting of Transparency International’s Italian chapter.

Baltasar Garzón is one of a group of European magistrates who have coordinated closely with the Clean Hands offensive in Italy, while pursuing targets in their own countries as well as internationally. In Spain, he was involved in promoting numerous “anti-corruption” scandals during Felipe González’s Socialist administration, including charges that government officials were involved in financing death squad activity and carrying out a “dirty war” against the Basque separatist terrorist ETA. The political chaos which ensued, combined with González’s commitment to globalization, contributed to the Socialists losing the elections in 1996. The ability of the security apparatus to fight the ETA was also significantly weakened.

Garzón and Italian Clean Hands magistrate Colombo, were also among seven European magistrates who issued a declaration on Oct. 1, 1996 in Geneva, announcing the creation of “Euro-justice.” To wage war against “Europe of the shadows” where corruption is the “main engine of our economies,” the declaration demanded that “the outdated protectionism on judicial and political matters” be abolished, and that magistrates across Europe be allowed to meddle in judicial matters of other countries “without interference from the executive power,” and without the subjects of investigation having “recourse to diplomatic immunity.”

Just the beginning

Garzón has made clear that the scope of his investigation goes far beyond the arrest of General Pinochet. He is targeting military officers across South America’s Southern Cone — Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil — despite the fact that

many were tried and served time in prison, or were amnestied by their governments to avoid politically destabilizing internal conflict.

Outside of the Pinochet case, Garzón has issued an international arrest warrant for Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri (ret.), the head of the Argentine junta which went to war against the British in 1982, and for 115 other Argentine Army officers, policemen, and civilians charged with human rights violations. Spanish magistrate Carlos Castresana, one of Garzón’s collaborators, arrogantly warned on Oct. 19 that if any of those Argentines on Garzón’s list travelled abroad, they would suffer the same fate as Pinochet.

In pursuit of these cases, Garzón works closely with the president of Transparency International for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, former Argentine prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo. Moreno Ocampo, who helped prosecute former military junta members in 1985, runs the Citizen Power Foundation, a “grassroots” organization intent on replacing national institutions with the jacobinism of “civil society.”

At the center of Garzón’s offensive is the charge that the Southern Cone military governments of the 1970s used “Operation Condor,” an anti-terror intelligence-sharing and coordination program, as the vehicle for “state terrorism” against innocent, or perhaps “misguided,” “leftist opponents” in these countries.

A glaring omission

The glaring omission in these arguments is the truth of what happened in the region beginning in the late 1960s. Cuban- and Soviet-backed narco-terrorists threatened the very existence of several Ibero-American nations. These communist forces *began* and waged irregular warfare against the nation-state — and continue to do so today in Colombia, for example. This reality has been lost in the Big Lie campaign orchestrated by Garzón and his ilk, which asserts that the armed forces of the region are, *institutionally*, Nazis, and should be punished by Nuremberg-style trials.

In the wake of General Pinochet’s arrest on Oct. 17, military unrest across the Southern Cone has noticeably increased. In Chile, the Armed Forces have been confined to quarters — a sign that they are on alert status.

Garzón has not yet named any Brazilian officer, but sentiment among the Brazilian Armed Forces’ general staff is that, if that happens, it would wreak havoc with diplomatic relations between Spain and Brazil. In a letter to Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Suzana Lisboa of the Brazilian Relatives of the Dead and Disappeared demanded that he provide Judge Garzón with the names of five Brazilians who were killed in Chile during Pinochet’s rule, for which deaths, she said, Pinochet should also be held accountable. Lisboa requested that Amnesty International take up the case of the dead Brazilians. Amnesty’s investigator, Virginia Shoppe, warned from London that all Southern Cone militaries, “including Brazilians,” are fair game for attack.