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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
File Number(s): Communication No. 1689  
Session: Twenty-Sixth Session (October-November 1971)  
Title/Style of Cause: Political and Common Prisoners v. Chile  
Doc. Type: Decision  
Dated: October – November 1971  
Citation: Prisoners v. Chile, Comm. 1689, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OAS/Ser.L/V/II/.27, doc. 11 rev. (1971)

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[1] Communication No. 1689, dated August 17, 1970, denouncing injury and torture of political and common prisoners in Chile, alleged to have occurred between 1967 and 1970, which caused 101 members of the Bar Association of Santiago to initiate a protest before the Supreme Court of Justice of Chile. The petitioner also requested that the Commission examine his own individual case, since he had been unjustly sentenced to imprisonment and had been serving his sentence.

[2] At its Twenty-fourth Session (October 1970), the Commission took note of the background of the particular case of the complainant, who had requested the Commission, on May 3, 1967 to examine a communication that was substantially the same as part of case 1689; accordingly, the Commission decided to declare the new denunciation inadmissible as regards the particular case of the petitioner, pursuant to Article 39 b) and c) of its Regulations, and to postpone study of the matter with respect to the situation of political and common prisoners until it could obtain the necessary information.

[3] At its Twenty-fifth Session (March 1971), on the basis of the report presented by the rapporteur of the case, Dr. Justino Jiménez de Aréchaga, the Commission sent a note to the Government of Chile (May 10, 1971), requesting a copy of the statement of protest made by the lawyers before the Supreme Court.

[4] Since the Government of Chile had not replied to this request of the Commission, another request was made to that Government in a note dated November 17, 1971, in accordance with the decisions taken at its Twenty-sixth Session (October-November 1971).