

CHILBOM INVESTIGATION

OVERVIEW / UPDATE

On September 21, 1976, Former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier and his co-worker Ronnie Moffitt, were murdered when a bomb which had been placed on the car they were riding in exploded at Sheridan Circle in Washington, DC.

The original investigation led to the indictment of eight (8) individuals in the District of Columbia. [REDACTED]

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The case was tried in January of 1979. All subjects were found guilty of related charges. In 1981, after a retrial, [REDACTED] were convicted of related charges and sentenced.

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[REDACTED] were fugitives at the time of the 1979 trials. Both were apprehended in the early 1990's. [REDACTED] pled guilty to the conspiracy charge and were sentenced to [REDACTED]

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In 1978 the United States Government was unsuccessful in their efforts to extradite

[REDACTED] from Chile. In 1987 [REDACTED] pled guilty to related charges. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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The United States renewed its efforts to extradite [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During the 1990's, after a change of political climate in Chile, [REDACTED] were tried in Chile for the Murder of Orlando Letelier. Both were convicted and sentenced in Chile for the murder. The United States indictments against both defendants remain active.

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In 1998, the [REDACTED] specifically SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were assigned to assist Assistant United States Attorney [REDACTED] of the District of Columbia with a foreign police cooperation case. AUSA [REDACTED] had been named a Special Commissioner of the court [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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In February of 1999, Attorney General Janet Reno authorized the renewed investigation of the Letelier and Moffitt murders. The objective of the renewed investigation is to determine whether sufficient admissible, credible evidence, exists to establish that one or more additional persons, up to and including General Augusto Pinochet was involved in the homicides.

The renewed investigation is being led by a team of investigators from the Washington Field Office, [redacted] (SA [redacted]) SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] along with AUSA [redacted] and Trial Attorney [redacted] of the Terrorism and Violent Crimes section of the Department of Justice. Attorneys from the Department of Justice, Office of International Affairs, the United States Department of State and FBI Legats from Chile and Argentina have also assisted in this matter.

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The investigative team has reviewed thousands of documents related to Chile and the Letelier, Moffitt murders. These documents have been located at the U.S. Department of State, [redacted] National Archives, Library of Congress and FBI. Additionally, the investigative team filed legal documents with Chile, Spain, and Argentina. Chile and Argentina have provided documents for review. The investigative team traveled to Argentina and Chile for the review of hundreds of documents in this matter.

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In September of 1999, the investigative team filed letters rogatory requests for sworn testimony from 46 individuals in Chile. These individuals were mostly high ranking officials from the Pinochet government and the Chilean Military during the Presidency of General Augusto Pinochet.

On March 20 through April 20, 2000, the investigative team traveled to Santiago Chile to assist in the taking of sworn testimony from 38 of the 46 witnesses requested. One subject will be questioned by Chilean court officials in the near future, five (5) of the 46 were found to be deceased, and two (2) are fugitives on unrelated matters. The transcripts of this testimony have been translated and reviewed. The official transcripts will be forwarded to the investigative team by Chilean officials.

In addition to obtaining sworn testimony from the witnesses while in Chile, investigators met with and obtained an interview from [redacted] [redacted] Investigators also interviewed [redacted] outside of the Chilean courts.

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The investigative team also met with Attorney [redacted] Attorney [redacted] has been hired to assist the United States Government on the Letelier investigation. Attorney [redacted] The investigative team assisted Attorney [redacted] in preparing a motion to the Chilean Supreme Court seeking further searches and interviews of keeper of the records as requested in the first letters rogatory.

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Upon return from Chile, [redacted] agents met with and interviewed several persons. Agents interviewed William Rogers, former Assistant Secretary of State for InterAmerican Affairs, Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and Senator Thomas Harkin. Thomas Boyatt Former Charge D' Affairs for the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, was also interviewed related to General

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Pinochet's meeting with President Jimmy Carter on the Panama Canal Treaty in 1977.

In [redacted] the investigative team interviewed [redacted]

[redacted] regarding [redacted]
[redacted]

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Agents are presently attempting to set up interviews with Senator Edward Kennedy, and Former Senator, now Ambassador George McGovern. These interviews are related to meetings that the Senators had with Letelier in 1975 / 1976 regarding Chilean human rights abuses.

In 1981 twenty-five (25) witnesses were called by the government in the Letelier / Moffitt homicide trials. Agents have located witnesses from that trial and obtained new contact information should a need arise for these persons to become witnesses in any related court hearings. In the limited number of cases where persons are deceased, substitute witnesses to cover the testimony will be arranged

Agents have also located the evidence seized in the original investigation. The vast majority of the evidence is held at the Washington Field Office. The evidence introduced in the 1981 trial is held at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

In addition to conducting interviews, reviewing documents, locating witnesses and evidence from the 1981 trial, agents have been meeting with AUSA's almost daily in attempt to

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[redacted]
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Investigation continues at Washington Field Office.