

The Places



Since the prisoners were blindfolded when they were taken to the torture centers and remained also blindfolded throughout their captivity, they could only identify their whereabouts on the basis of other sensory impressions.

But nevertheless: the texture and shape of the ground buried itself deep in their memories due to the occasional gap in their blindfolds. Thus some of the former places of torture could later be identified.

"3 y 4 Álamos" in the district San Joaquín of Santiago de Chile



Until 1974 the camp, consisting of 4 pavilions, was a state-run children's home. From 1974 to 1976 the police (*carabineros*) maintained here the camp "3 Álamos". Part of it was called "4 Álamos" and run by the secret service *DINA*. About 5000 people were at one point detained here, 108 of whom were murdered.

Today one part of the camp is a memorial, the other still serves as a juvenile prison.

"Casa Pedro Donoso 582", Santiago de Chile



On 15 and 16 June 1987 twelve members of the *Patriotic Manuel Rodríguez Front (FPMR)* were killed in four different places, seven of these members alone in this empty house in the district of *Recoleta* in *Santiago*. Because the *CNI* secret service suspected here to be an occasional safe house of the *FPMR* the seven arrested members of the *FPMR* were brought here blindfolded and with their hands tied behind their backs. Eventually they were executed in a kind of staged battle.

"Ex-Clinica Santa Lucia", Santiago de Chile



The four-storey house in the center of Santiago was originally the regional headquarters of the *Movimiento de Acción Popular (MAPU)*. Between 1973 and 1977 the building served as a clinic for the personnel of the secret service *DINA*, but also for prisoners who were brought here from other places of torture and back. However, prisoners were also tortured here, twelve of whom were actually murdered. Today the building serves a memorial site in which exhibitions on human rights violations in Chile are shown.

"Cuartel Borgoño", Santiago de Chile



"Borgoño 1470" was a building and an area in the municipality of *Independencia of Santiago*. It was part of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of *Santiago* before it became the headquarters of the Secret Service (*CNI***) from 1977 to 1990. From 1980 to 1987 it was a secret prison and torture site. The highest number of prisoners was recorded between 1984 and 1986.

"Estadio Nacional", Santiago de Chile



Immediately after the coup on 11 September 1973 arrests took place in political parties, trade unions, universities and factories. In many instances all people arrested were instantaneously lead away and incarcerated in temporary prisons the best known of which is the national stadium in *Santiago*, where around 40,000 people were kept prisoners, 40 to 50 of whom were shot there. At the beginning of November the camp was closed since a qualifying soccer game for the world championship in Germany was to take place on 21 September 1973. However, the team from the USSR, Chile's opponent, did not eventually turn up.

"José Domingo Cañas 1367" (Cuartel Ollagüe)*, Santiago de Chile



This house in *Santiago's* district *Ñuñoa* was the former residence of a Brazilian sociologist and political scientist, who went into exile after the coup. The secret service *DINA* used it as a secret prison, torture centre and killing site from August to November 1974. Its successor, the *CNI*, used it from 1977 to 1987. After that the house stood empty and became dilapidated. On 27 December 2001 it was entirely destroyed by its private owner in order to prevent the creation of a memorial. However, on 2 January 2002 the site on which it was located was declared a memorial. About 250 people were tortured here, 57 of whom are considered missing to the present day.

"Londres 38" (Cuartel Yucatán)*, Santiago de Chile



The house is located in the centre of *Santiago*. Originally it was the communal party headquarters of the Socialist Party of Chile (*PS*). From 1973 to March 1975 the house served as a secret prison, torture and extermination camp to the secret service *DINA*. Around 2000 people were incarcerated here for different lengths of time. 84 men and 14 women are still unaccounted for until today. The house number was changed to 40 at the end of the seventies in order to make it more difficult to relate it to the former torture site. Today "*Londres 38*" is a memorial site.

"Nido 20", Santiago de Chile



The house in the district of *La Cisterna* in *Santiago* was originally a house belonging to the *Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria* (*MIR* - Movement of the revolutionary left), where among others José Bordas Páz lived, a leading member of the *MIR*. In December 1974 he died in a gun battle, after members of the Air Force Secret Service (*SIFA*) had

tracked him down. In April 1975 the *SIFA* occupied the house. Until 1978 it served as a secret prison to the "*Comando Conjunto*" ("Joint Command") of the intelligence services of the Air Force and police. It is certain that at least 75 people were imprisoned and consequently tortured here during this period. At least six people were murdered.

"Villa Grimaldi" (Cuartel Terranova)*, Santiago de Chile



On this site on the outskirts of Santiago there was a restaurant until 1973. After the owner was expropriated by the military, it became the headquarters of the local intelligence service responsible for *Santiago*. Until 1977 the area was under the control of the *CNI*, the successor organization of the secret service *DINA*. In 1988 the site was almost entirely destroyed. Later on, some buildings were restored and the site was declared the memorial site "*Parque por la Paz Villa Grimaldi*". Around 4500 people were imprisoned here. 18 people were murdered here, 226 are still considered missing.

"Venda Sexy" (Cuartel Tacora)*, Santiago de Chile



The private house in the street *Irán 3037* was confiscated and served up until November 1975 as a prison, torture and extermination site to the *DINA*. Around 100 people were imprisoned here, 32 of whom are considered missing to this day.

The term "*Venda Sexy*" refers to the fact that both women and men were sexually tortured, humiliated and abused. The place was also called "*La Discothèque*" because quite often loud music was played to drown out the prisoners' cries.

Since the prisoners were brought here blindfolded, as was also the case in other places, and stayed blindfolded throughout their imprisonment too, they could often only find their former whereabouts on the basis of very different, specific memories, such as the very long, wide and curved staircase to the first floor or the round window in the bathroom.

After the *DINA* had given up the house, it became a kindergarten for some time. Today it is back in private hands.

"Colonia Dignidad", Parral



The 300 square kilometer large so-called "colony of dignity" is located about 400 km south of *Santiago*. The fact was known in Germany early on that the "charity and educational community", founded by a paedophile sect leader in the 60s, continuously committed countless crimes and human rights violations. Nevertheless it was able to use of customs privileges in order to smuggle weapons and ammunition from Germany to Chile and to provide the military and right-wing extremist groups such as *Patria y Libertad* with them. In 1973 the *Colonia Dignidad* became the operational base of the secret service *DINA*.

On the occasion of his official visit to Chile in 2016 Federal President Joachim Gauck said that "German diplomats looked the other way for many years while people were disenfranchised, brutally oppressed and tortured by the German sect at the *Colonia Dignidad* and that even the Chilean secret service could torture there and murder people. Therefore we are greatly alarmed and appalled - also by what democrats were able to repress and to keep secret.

It is not known how many people were tortured in the "*Colonia Dignidad*". However, immediately after the coup 22 were tortured and then executed, as Gerhard Mücke, a leading member of the *Colonia* confessed in 2006.

Although the *Colonia* was formally dissolved as early as 1991, it kept on functioning for a long time without being impeded due to the many entanglements with government organizations and the local police. As late as after the turn of the century some of those responsible, including the founder of the sect, were tried and sentenced. Today there is a hotel Bavarian style on the grounds, an old people's home and a now closed hospital for the Colony's elderly residents.

"Cuartel Almirante Silva Palma", Valparaíso



The Admiral *Silva Palma* Barracks are part of the coastal defence system for the port of *Valparaíso*. At the beginning of the 20th century the navy was in charge of the area using it as a military prison and as its headquarters. Between 1973 and 1976 people were held captive and tortured. Only a few cases are known after that period. Today the area is still in the hands of the Navy. Access is not granted.

"El Palacio de las Sonrisas", Punta Arenas



In the 50s the house in the street *Cristobal Colón 636* in the city center of *Punta Arenas* was the headquarters of the Chilean Red Cross and a temporary naval hospital. From 1973 to 1976 it was the central administration of the military intelligence service and the biggest secret prison and torture center in the south of Chile. 1200 to 1500 people were imprisoned and tortured here. The house is supposed to be restored and to be reopened as a memorial.

For further information ...

* The DINA designations for these locations are shown in brackets.

DINA - Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional, later renamed *Central Nacional de Informaciones*

** *Central Nacional de Informaciones*