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# Latin America Review

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FOR THE RECORD [REDACTED]

**CHILE:** Santiago remains insensitive to human rights issues. Despite mounting evidence that the 18 bodies recently discovered in a mass grave are those of suspected extremists secretly executed while under detention by the carabineros (national police) after the 1973 coup, no executive branch investigation has been announced. Government sources say this is a judicial matter only; the carabineros deny responsibility, claiming that the 18 were transferred to another authority soon after their arrest. [REDACTED]

The role of the civilian courts remains uncertain. Stung by public criticism after a suspect died in custody last August, some courts increased their monitoring of the rights of detainees. The judge in charge is willing to pursue the current case, but he may be stymied by the Chilean legal system's practice of putting many carabinero actions outside the jurisdiction of civilian courts. In any event, the carabineros probably would be pardoned under a sweeping 1978 amnesty law. In a similar case earlier this year, carabineros were pardoned for the deaths of 15 men whose bodies were found in an abandoned mine. [REDACTED]

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