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Pinochet's legacy

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AUGUSTO PINOCHET, one of the most brutal dictators of the last century, [has died](#). For almost two decades Chileans have been working toward rebuilding a democratic country again. Yet despite the efforts of many progressive forces, Pinochet died without having been judged and convicted for human rights violations.

Many Chileans living abroad were marked by the legacy of violence that the dictator imposed. For those of us who have embraced new citizenships abroad, including in the United States, this is a day to remember not Pinochet but all those who died just because they thought that constructing a progressive, democratic society was what countries deserved in Latin America.

The United States has often supported and paid attention to Latin America when there is crisis or devastation, but we read little about present Latin American successes at securing more democratic and just societies.

Despite the failure of the Chilean institutions to judge Pinochet, most Chileans will sleep better knowing that the dictator is dead.

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