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## UD Professor Available to Comment on Augusto Pinochet Trial

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## NEWS TIPS

### UD PROFESSOR AVAILABLE TO COMMENT ON AUGUSTO PINOCHET TRIAL

As Augusto Pinochet, 83, awaits a British high court's decision on Monday, Sept. 27, about whether or not he should be extradited to Spain, Mark Ensalaco, University of Dayton associate professor of political science and author of the soon-to-be-released book *Chile Under Pinochet: Recovering the Truth*, waits too.

Ensalaco's book, scheduled for release in October by the University of Pennsylvania Press, is based on five years of research that he performed while serving as a visiting professor in Chile. According to Ensalaco, it's the only book to focus exclusively on the repression of Pinochet's regime. "In it, I demonstrated that Pinochet had knowledge of serious crimes such as disappearances, torture and international terrorism."

Pinochet's regime is allegedly responsible for the injuries and deaths of nearly 4,000 Chilean citizens during the 1970s and '80s — offenses for which those involved were granted immunity in their country.

Pinochet, who was arrested Oct. 16, 1998, in London while vacationing, is being pursued by a Spanish judge seeking the military ruler's blame in the torture and murder of Spanish citizens during his 17-year reign. The decision on Monday will determine if Pinochet will be extradited to Spain for prosecution.

Ensalaco said it's possible the panel of judges will rule against extradition for humanitarian reasons. "He's elderly and appears to be in failing health and the confinement (in a mansion) seems to have taken a toll," Ensalaco said. "However, the international human rights committee is strongly in favor of his extradition — an opinion which I share," he said.

"It's crucial that his guilt or innocence be established in a court of law, through a just and due process," said Ensalaco, executive director of the Inter-American Forum on Human Rights, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization dedicated to human rights in South America. Regardless of the decision, Ensalaco said he has no doubt that Pinochet "exercised total control of subordinates who we know were guilty of these crimes."

"Here's a man who led a military coup in violation of the country's constitution, presided over a bloody regime and who operated completely outside the rule of law," explained Ensalaco, who is also the director of UD's international studies and human rights program. "The efforts against him are not persecution under the law but prosecution under the law. He should be tried as a war criminal."

For media interviews, contact **Mark Ensalaco** at (937) 229-2761 or at home at (937) 432-6772.