José Zalaquett, professor of human rights at the University of Chile’s Law School, will be awarded the 2009 Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America at a ceremony in Santiago on November 12. The Notre Dame Prize, presented by one of the premier Catholic universities in the US, honors the efforts of visionary leaders to enhance the region’s welfare.

Zalaquett will be honored for the vital role he played in defending human rights in Chile in the immediate aftermath of the 1973 coup and for the significant leadership he has provided to both victims and those concerned about human rights around the world in the years since. Taking the experience of Chile to the rest of the world, he became a key founder and nurturer of the international human rights community.

“For decades Zalaquett has been an inspiration to so many of us who have worked for human rights in Latin America,” said Paolo Carozza, a current member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and associate professor of law at the University of Notre Dame.

“His combination of practical engagement and intellectual reflection are a model of what is needed in human rights work today. He has been at the forefront of a whole series of issues, diagnosing with foresight what the pressing needs of the continent are, and bringing intelligence and wisdom to bear on them.”

Hailed as “a founder of the modern human rights movement worldwide” by Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, Zalaquett, already a prominent lawyer and professor, was thrust into the human rights arena after the September 11, 1973 military coup that overthrew Chile’s democratically elected government.

Zalaquett organized and headed the legal department of Comité de Coopercación Para La Paz (or Comité Pro Paz), an ecumenical organization sponsored by the Catholic Church. Later renamed the Vicaría de la Solidaridad, the organization became known as one of the most visible opponents of the state policy of terror. Zalaquett was imprisoned for his work and forced to leave Chile in 1976.

During ten years of exile, he served in various positions with Amnesty International, including chairman of the International Executive Committee. He is widely credited with helping the organization to become one of the foremost human rights organizations in the world.
In 1990, in newly democratic Chile, President Patricio Aylwin (later the 2001 winner of the Notre Dame Prize) appointed Zalaquett to the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as the Rettig Commission. Zalaquett played a central role in framing the issues facing the commission, which has been drawn upon extensively by other countries grappling with transitions to democracy. From 1999 to 2000, he was a member of the “Mesa de Diálogo sobre Derechos Humanos,” a government-sponsored roundtable discussion of human rights issues in Chile.

Zalaquett has since served as a member and then president of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and taken part in human rights efforts around the world. Presently, he is a member of the International Commission of Jurists and serves on the board of the International Center for Transitional Justice and the Fundación de Documentación y Archivo de la Vicaría de la Solidaridad as well as other international and Chilean human rights organizations.

As codirector of the Center for Human Rights at the University of Chile, Zalaquett has trained a new generation of human rights advocates for Latin America, in particular through a highly competitive “Diploma de Postítulo” course on democratic governance. Offered in conjunction with the International Center for Transitional Justice, the course draws professionals from across Latin America and a diverse array of fields.

The recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (the so-called genius award given to creative people in a range of fields), the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, among many others, Zalaquett holds honorary degrees from the University of Notre Dame and City University of New York.

Among the previous recipients of the Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America are microfinance pioneer María Otero, president and CEO of ACCIÓN International (recently named US Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs); human rights activists Helen Mack Chang, president of the Myrna Mack Foundation (Guatemala), and Sofía Macher of Peru’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission; four former or sitting presidents, César Gaviria of Colombia, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, and Patricio Aylwin Azócar of Chile; Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, SBD, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras; and Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Established in 2000 by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America is the only award of its kind to recognize the efforts of civic activists and intellectuals as well as leaders in business, religion, government, or the media, to enhance the region’s welfare. The award carries a $15,000 cash prize, with a matching amount donated to a charitable organization recommended by the laureate. The 2009 matching prize will be presented to the University of Chile’s Center for Human Rights.

Founded by the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, the University of Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies brings comparative social science inquiry to bear on
international issues relevant to contemporary society. The Institute’s approach to scholarship and teaching is grounded in an appreciation for the benefits that democratization, economic development, and organized civil society may bring to citizens around the world. Known for its expertise on Latin America, Kellogg has in recent years broadened its focus to Africa, Asia, and beyond.

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INTERVIEW WITH THE 2009 NOTRE DAME PRIZE LAUREATE

PORTRAIT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION: JOSÉ ZALAQUETT

Chilean human rights advocate talks about the Prize, the human rights situation in Chile and worldwide, and its main challenges.

José Zalaquett, professor of human rights at the University of Chile’s Law School, will be awarded the 2009 Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America at a ceremony in Santiago. Professor Zalaquett is one of the most recognized human rights advocates in Chile. He was one of the founders of the Vicaría de la Solidaridad, an organization sponsored by the Catholic Church that fought against human rights abuses after the military coup headed by Augusto Pinochet in 1973. Because of his work with victims, Zalaquett was forced to live in exile for ten years. During that time, he was a member of Amnesty International and chair of its International Executive Committee. After Chile’s return to democracy, Zalaquett was appointed to the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, and later to the Mesa de Diálogo, which aimed to establish what happened and sought justice for the victims.

Zalaquett is widely regarded as one of the founders of the modern human rights movement worldwide. He received us in his office in the Human Rights Center of the University of Chile’s Law School, where he talked about the Prize, the human rights situation in Chile and worldwide, and the people who have most influenced his work, both in practice and through reflection.

How do you feel being honored with the Notre Dame Prize? What is the significance of it?

Well any prize is an occasion for pride and recognition, but it is also a little humbling. Humbling not in the sense of false modesty, but in the sense that the advancement of the cause of human rights is the result of many concerted efforts, many of them anonymous. And sometimes the spotlight is focused on one figure, but this is just the tip of the iceberg, because there are many, many people who contribute to the advancement of this cause. Certainly, coming from the University of Notre Dame and from the Kellogg Institute, which I hold in high regard, it is a special recognition. The academic standards of Notre Dame enjoy a well-deserved reputation. The Kellogg Institute is well known in Latin America, and I was fortunate to have received, in 1995, an honorary doctorate from Notre Dame. So this comes as an added recognition that I accept with joy but also with humility.

How do you think this Prize will be received in the human rights movement in Chile?

The human rights movement as such surged in the 60s. It developed throughout the 70s and 80s, and reached full maturity by the end of the 80s coinciding with the downfall of the Cold War structures. As a result, academic fields have been developed; grassroots movements and non-
governmental organizations, as well as treaties and courts, have multiplied; and the number of institutional recognitions or prizes have increased as well. The latter are received in the international community as an acknowledgment both of the importance of the cause and of the particular person being recognized. In Chile, I have received my share of honors, and I’m very pleased by that, although I would say that they’re undeserved. But certainly I believe that somehow one tends to monopolize more attention than others who should receive recognition. In that sense I have received many prizes and recognitions over the years that have not have much resonance in Chile. In Chile, there is a certain insularity regarding these international events. At least, I think those who are in the know would be happy; I hope they are, as I am.

**Can you tell us why did you decide to give the Matching Prize to the Human Rights Center of the Law School of the University of Chile?**

Actually, it is a little bit self-servin, not in a personal sense but in an institutional one. I co-direct the Center with Cecilia Medina. Cecilia is an eminent jurist, who at present is the chair of the Inter-American Human Rights Court. And we both founded this Center with the idea of serving the Latin American region by means of a Center with high academic quality that could train activists and people who are working either in government or in civil society trying to make a difference by advancing human rights and making an impact in their own societies. We devote ourselves to this service in Latin America and we are very proud of what we have achieved with the people who work together with us. For me it was very difficult to say let’s contribute to the Center to advance our own programs.

**Who are the people that you admire and have most influenced your work as a human rights promoter in the law field?**

First of all, I have great admiration for the late Bishop Fernando Ariztía, who was auxiliary bishop to the Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez. He was actually the driving force, although not the visible head, of the *Comité Pro Paz* (Peace Committee), that effort created in 1973 to defend the human rights and the victims of the human rights violations in Chile, which later on turned into the *Vicaría de la Solidaridad*. So I have the greatest respect for him because he was behind the scenes, unassuming, detached, but very effective and very generous. He even received his terminal illness with a great dignity and serenity. He’s a person I’m very fond of.

Then I greatly admire an international figure, also deceased, the late Nial McDermott, who was the Executive Secretary of the International Commission of Jurists. He had been a Labour Party cabinet minister of the British Government, and later devoted his life to the advancement of human rights with a great sense of purpose, and clarity, and direction. He was a major figure when the field was emerging in the 70s and 80s. He was another source of great inspiration. I could name many others, but I would single out these two.

**And scholarly?**

Scholarly, I have great reverence for certain thinkers that have combined action with reflection. Just like in the late 18th Century, when the great early theorists in the field of economics, like David Ricardo or Adam Smith, and so forth, were people actively involved in public policy. I’m not suggesting that academics should go and get involved in politics. But they are too much enclosed in the ivory towers and may turn in shallow speculation. On the other hand, mere
activity can resume into pure agitation. The combination of both aspects in fields still emerging, like the human rights field, is especially fruitful I believe. In that sense I respect the Canadian David Ignatieff. To emphasize his public policy commitment, he has become a Member of Parliament in Canada. I admire also people who have broken new ground in the thinking of political ethics in our times, starting with the late John Rawls, Ronald Dworkin (by the way he’s member of the advisory committee of our Center, and we’re very proud of it), and Thomas Nagel. All of them have laid the foundation of the thinking of human rights and political ethics.

**In your work you also have combined reflection with practical activity. Do you think the Notre Dame Prize is also recognizing that?**

I feel proud because the Prize makes especially explicit the fact that they acknowledge the value of both reflection and practical action. I’ve been striving in these two areas throughout of my life. As I’ve said, one without the other is impoverished.

**What will be your legacy in the reflection of the human rights field?**

What I would like to see as my legacy is twofold. First, to emphasize that human rights, despite the fact that they have their own identity and contours, both theoretical and normative, are part of the larger field of political ethics, and democratic political ethics, together with other fields of political ethics that have come to the fore in the last few decades, like environmental protection, anti-corruption, and promotion of transparency and accountability, among others. Human rights represent also the attempt to make true the dictum coined in the 18th Century that sovereignty resides in the people, and that the people should exercise sovereignty by promoting the common good and overseeing the authorities and making them accountable. A second point is my own contribution to the theory and practice of the reconstruction of post-conflict societies, transitions to democracy after a major breakdown of a society marked by a dictatorship, a civil war, or other such man-made disasters.

**You were a member of the Rettig Commission on Truth and Reconciliation and later of the Mesa de Diálogo, which sought to establish truth and bring justice with respect to the human rights abuses committed in Chile during Pinochet’s government. Are satisfied with their results?**

I’m more satisfied with the work of the Rettig Commission. First, in these kinds of exercises there are no perfect results, there are better or worse results. Comparing the exercise done by the Rettig Commission and the work done by other 25 countries, our Truth Commission is the one that produced the most tangible results. In Chile, no one denies that there were 3,000 plus disappeared and killed people. In some other countries they are still disputing that. The work was done very scrupulously and over 18 years only six cases out of 3,000 proved to be mistaken. Regarding the *Mesa de Diálogo*, its purpose was twofold. The first one was to generate an acknowledgment on part of the military of what had happened. It was the only major sector of society that still refused to acknowledge the abuses, while Pinochet was still in charge of them. However his younger successors in command of the army and the other armed forces came to acknowledge those findings. And the second purpose was to make every possible human effort to find the whereabouts of the disappeared. Not find them alive, because we know they are dead, but to know how they died or recover their remains. In that regard the effort was half failed.
Although the army recognized they had thrown them into the sea, they didn’t reveal precisely how this came to happen. And in many cases there was no recognition at all. That was a frustration. But the acknowledgment opened the way for the military to incorporate human rights into their training and normative framework.

**You’re being honored with a Prize given by a very prestigious university both in the US and internationally. How do you see Notre Dame’s contributions to Latin America, especially in promoting democratization?**

Notre Dame is distinguished in its relations with Latin America by two traits. One is the Kellogg Institute itself. The other is the commitment of the community of the University of Notre Dame with human rights and with Chile. In Chile it was the Holy Cross congregation that ran the Saint Georges high school, it was the only high school in the country that was intervened by the military, besides the universities. The Holy Cross fathers, led by Father Ted Hesburgh, at that time the president of Notre Dame, fought arduously to recover the administration of the Saint Georges school, and in a couple of years they succeeded. After that, they supported the Solidarity Vicary by microfilming all the documentary archives, and safeguarding a copy. And then, after the country regained democracy, when the Chilean Truth and Reconciliation Commission known as Rettig Commission, of which I was a member, produced its report they translated it to English, contributing to its worldwide dissemination. They asked me to oversee the translation and also to write an introduction, which I did. So they have a longstanding concern with Latin America, and particularly with Chile. But there is also a major contribution, because Notre Dame is continually receiving Latin American students for post graduate studies. Some of our leading political figures have studied there, including people like our former Minister Alejandro Ferreiro, and many, many others. I understand the same is true for other countries in Latin America. Notre Dame counted among its most distinguished professors Guillermo O’Donnell, an Argentinean who’s widely acknowledged as one of the top political scientists internationally.

**How do you see the current international human rights situation 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War? Do we have a better world?**

I would say that the wave of democratization that followed the fall of the Soviet system in 1991, in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and so forth, that wave gave impetus to an initial feeling of enthusiasm but then it was tempered by the fact that the new democratic systems weren’t delivering. So some of the main problems and challenges are the social and political exclusion of large sectors of society – whether on the grounds of gender, ethnic origins, immigrant status or other such grounds – and the overcoming of dire poverty. So these are one large bloc of problems: large sectors of society are not invited to the banquet of democracy, so to speak, because they don’t have the ways to participate actively in society. Then there’s a genuine problem of security. Security has become a bad word for the human rights movement because in the name of national security so many abuses were committed. But that is not to deny that there is a true concern, not only about global security but citizen’s security. In Latin America organized crime is a major problem. There urban areas such as in Rio or Sao Paulo where you cannot simply exert the jurisdiction of the state. How do we tackle that problem without producing human rights abuses? Human rights are not an instrument to soften security concerns and neither to validate abuses. Security can be reinforced by a proper use of guarantees to people
and also by enhancing the legitimacy of police work. And the third major problem has to do with
the quality of governance, particularly accountability, transparency, and anti-corruption. This is a
developing field in its own right, but it has many bridges and overlapping points with human
rights. For instance, freedom of expression that involves not only the freedom to disseminate
your thoughts or information, but also to search and receive information, is linked to the freedom
of access to information, which is linked to transparency and accountability as well. These three
major topics, together with the protection of the common nest from being fouled or dilapidated,
are some of the chief concerns nowadays. In other words, how to make society work for all
rather than just for some privileged people, security in an enlightened sense, good governance
and overcoming corruption and promoting accountability and transparency, and the protection of
the environment.
José Zalaquett is professor of human rights and codirector of the Center for Human Rights at the University of Chile’s Law School, where he received his undergraduate and professional law degrees.

After serving in the Allende administration, Zalaquett was the Deputy Vice President for Academic Affairs at Catholic University of Chile when a military coup overthrew Chile’s democratically elected government on September 11, 1973. His university position soon terminated, he became active in the movement to aid victims of the coup.

Zalaquett organized and headed the legal department of Comité de Cooperación Para La Paz (or Comité Pro Paz), an ecumenical organization sponsored by the Catholic Church. Later renamed the Vicaría de la Solidaridad, the organization became known as one of the most visible opponents of the state policy of terror. Zalaquett was imprisoned for his work and forced to leave Chile in 1976.

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The recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (the so-called genius award given to creative people in a range of fields), the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, among many others, Zalaquett holds honorary degrees from the University of Notre Dame and City University of New York.

Zalaquett was profiled by Kerry Kennedy Cuomo in her book *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World.*
About the Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America

The Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America was created in 2000 to honor Latin Americans whose work and commitment to public service has substantially furthered the interests and well-being of people in one or more countries in Latin America. The Prize recognizes the efforts of visionary leaders in business, religion, government, or the media, as well as civic activists and intellectuals, to promote the ideals of democracy, economic growth, and a just, stable society. Funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Prize is awarded by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and carries a cash award of $15,000.

Another $15,000 is awarded to a Latin American charitable organization recommended by the laureate, thus advancing the work the Prize honors.

The distinguished selection committee for the 2009 Prize included:

- Rev. Luis Ugalde, SJ, rector of Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas;
- Ignacio Walker, Research Fellow, CIEPLAN (Corporación de Estudios para América Latina), and former foreign minister of Chile;
- Rodrigo Calderón, vice president, Public Affairs & Communication, The Coca-Cola Company Latin America;
- Rev. James McDonald, CSC, counselor to the president, University of Notre Dame; and Ted Beatty, interim director of the Kellogg Institute and associate professor of history, University of Notre Dame.
About the Kellogg Institute for International Studies

The Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame brings the best of comparative social science inquiry to bear on international issues relevant to contemporary society. Known as one of the nation’s premier centers for the study of Latin America, the Institute has in recent years broadened its focus to include Africa, Asia, and beyond.

Kellogg fellows from the University and around the world address a multidisciplinary research agenda that encompasses the quality of democracy, economic growth and development, religion and society, public policies for social justice, and civil society. The Institute’s approach to scholarship and teaching is grounded in an appreciation for the benefits that democratization, economic development, and organized civil society may bring to citizens around the world.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, the legendary president of Notre Dame, founded the Kellogg Institute more than 25 years ago to bring scholarly attention to real-world problems and project the University onto the world stage.
About the University of Notre Dame

The nation’s preeminent Catholic university, the University of Notre Dame is known for excellence in undergraduate education, research, and scholarship. The University’s programs draw students and scholars from across the US and around the world.

Founded in 1842, the University is dedicated to the pursuit and sharing of truth for its own sake. One of its distinctive goals is to provide a forum where Catholic thought may intersect with knowledge found in the arts, sciences, professions, and every other area of human scholarship and creativity.

The University’s academic excellence stems from its faculty. Notre Dame faculty members have won 37 fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities in the past ten years, more than for any other university in the nation.

At Notre Dame, education has always been linked to values, among them living in community and volunteering in community service. About 80 percent of Notre Dame students engage in some form of voluntary community service during their years at the University, and at least 10 percent devote a year or more after graduation to service.

The University includes four colleges—Arts and Letters; Science; Engineering; and the Mendoza College of Business—the School of Architecture, the Law School (the oldest Catholic law school in the country), the Graduate School, six major research institutes, and more than 40 centers and special programs.

Admission to the University is highly competitive, with five applicants for each freshman class position. In addition to academics, Notre Dame is known for its beautiful campus as well as its long tradition of enthusiastic support for its athletic programs.

Notre Dame is rated among the nation's top 25 institutions of higher learning in surveys conducted by U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Time, Kiplinger's and Kaplan/Newsweek. Hispanic Magazine ranks Notre Dame 16th on its list of the top 25 colleges for Latinos.

The University is located in Notre Dame, Indiana, adjacent to the city of South Bend and approximately 90 miles east of Chicago.
Santiago A. Canton, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights:

Zalaquett is an outstanding person and a great fighter for the cause of human rights.

Michael Shifter, Vice President for Policy, Inter-American Dialogue:

For nearly four decades, Zalaquett has stood out among the brave and impressive human rights leaders in Latin America. He has been a towering figure in many respects. No other figure combines so many exemplary qualities: sheer courage, moral sensibility, fertile imagination, resourceful pragmatism, organizational prowess, and intellectual acumen.

More than anyone else, Zalaquett designed the modern software for the human rights community. He has uniquely bridged different worlds. He has been both a fierce, tireless advocate and a consummate intellectual. Steadfastly committed to his native Chile, he has at the same time selflessly and energetically shared his mastery of human rights with the rest of Latin America and the world.

Zalaquett cut his teeth on human rights work with the 1973 military coup in Chile and was the prime mover behind the creation of the Vicaria de la Solidaridad, an unrivaled flagship organization with a deservedly brilliant regional and global reputation.

His intellectual contribution to dealing with the dilemmas of justice and accountability has been pathbreaking. You can disagree with Zalaquett but you can’t ignore him. His ideas invariably set the agenda and define the terms of debate. Zalaquett has already left an indelible mark on a vital field of endeavor—and on the moral fabric and democratic temper of many societies.

Jan Egeland, Executive Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (served as vice-chair the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International when Zalaquett was chair):

Zalaquett was head-hunted directly into the elected leadership of Amnesty International worldwide because of his exceptional gifts as a thinker, speaker and campaigner in the human rights movement. Zalaquett had himself been a prisoner of conscience in Chile and could, like no one else, combine real understanding of how the human rights struggle was in the frontlines with
how it was to organize a major international movement. During his chairmanship of Amnesty's International Executive Committee, AI established itself firmly as the leading force among voluntary organizations working for human rights.

**Juan Méndez**, President Emeritus, International Center for Transitional Justice; former member, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; former director of Notre Dame’s Center for Civil and Human Rights:

Zalaquett has been an important leader of the human rights movement in Latin America for many decades. He has prepared new generations of human rights activists, especially through his course on democratic governance at the University of Chile.

Zalaquett is the rare individual who combines domestic and international experience with great distinction and significant contributions in both arenas. He was forced into exile but managed to make the most of what is always a traumatic experience. He transmitted his experience of the Chilean victims of human rights abuses to the outside world, giving us a more clear understanding of what human rights violations on the ground are all about.

He has also been a major strategic thinker in the human rights world. He pioneered how we think about transitions and transitional justice. In his early writings, he set the framework for thinking creatively about the demands of justice, democratization, and peace when they are seen to be contradictory.

His thinking and his writings about transitional justice are part of every discussion about these issues today, whenever a society decides to face the legacy of mass abuses and confront it while establishing the bases for a more humane and just civil order.

The experiences of Latin America are still assiduously studied and understood around the world. His early writings and actual experience form a jumping off point for much of the human rights work undertaken today.

Beyond transitional justice, Zalaquett has been a pioneer in several crucial aspects of human rights work:
1) documenting and monitoring violations on the ground and using available remedies to the height of their usefulness in difficult situations;
2) applying strategic vision to larger human rights organizations;
3) thinking creatively about how to adapt human rights work to changing circumstances and more favorable democratic conditions;
4) applying similar principles to violations committed by States and by non-State actors, such as insurgent groups, corporations, et al;
5) human rights education;
6) the use and effectiveness of inter-State organs of implementation of human rights treaties, like the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, where he served as commissioner and President.
**Margo Picken,** Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, London School of Economics and Political Science:

Zalaquett's commitment to and engagement with human rights started with the grim realities Chile faced after the coup. His ten-year exile, which came at great personal cost, was an enormous gain for the worldwide movement for human rights. He brought to AI and other organizations working for human rights, such as the World Council of Churches, his brilliant intellect, passion, and an iron integrity. His engagement in national, regional, and global efforts to secure respect for human rights significantly advanced human rights theory and practice at all these levels, and theory and practice were always linked.

I cannot enumerate all his contributions here but give as one example his central role in thinking through and framing issues of “truth, justice, and reconciliation” which he put into practice as architect of Chile’s Commission on Truth and Reconciliation, which achieved more than most such Commissions and has been drawn on extensively since both in Latin America and elsewhere in the world.

Zalaquett has been an inspiration for so much and so many of us in different corners of the world.

**Dick Oosting,** Europe Director at the International Center for Transitional Justice (former Deputy Secretary General, Amnesty International):

José Zalaquett joined Amnesty during those heady days in the mid-70s when it started to take off in a big way and became the undisputed leader in the human rights movement, sealed by the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.

What he brought to that, freshly exiled from Chile, was the hard, direct perspective of repression and how to act against it. The force of his intellect and his moral compass were recognized instantly. Brought on to the international executive committee quickly to become its chair, he was the most formidable leader the organization has had in its 40+ years.

He brought home to all of us, operating from safe distance, the crucial importance of defending the front line human rights defenders. He was exacting when it came to quality of research, inspiring in action, and humble in reaching out to everyone without distinction. Passionate about human rights, Paul Klee, chess, Beatles, friends, and with that infectious sense of humour, he was the embodiment of humanity in the face of oppression and indifference. He made a huge difference.