

 KELLOGG INSTITUTE**Biography of Notre Dame Prize Laureate**

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.

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 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.

Zalaquett was profiled by Kerry Kennedy Cuomo in her book *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World*.