

San Francisco Chronicle

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Chronicle Sunday Insight

**From Foster City to Chile: Tracking down a brother's killer
She seeks justice for a war crime committed 30 years ago**

Sunday, June 22, 2003
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URL: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2003/06/22/IN245887.DTL>

Zita Cabello-Barrueto remembers well the Chilean commander's look of pure shock when he opened his front door to the 56-year-old professor and resident of Foster City. It was clear he knew who she was: the sister of a young economist murdered in the early days of Gen. Augusto Pinochet's regime.

She said she wasn't there to blame him. She just wanted the truth.

The commander let her in.

"Sitting in front of people whom I know have blood on their hands" was the most difficult thing, said Cabello-Barrueto, a small woman who wears wire-rimmed glasses.

But the testimony she gathered during that and other trips to Chile has helped lawyers build a case against Armando Fernandez Larios. The retired Chilean army major, who now lives in Florida, faces a civil trial scheduled for September in a Miami federal court for human rights abuses including the torture and death of her brother, Winston Cabello. Lawyers with the Center for Justice and Accountability in San Francisco represent the Cabello family.

The center was involved in the July 2002 lawsuit that found two former Salvadoran generals liable for \$54 million for the torture of three civilians.

"We were so close," she said of her brother, who was two years her senior. "He really protected me. So now I'm protecting his memory."

Winston Cabello was working as director of economic planning for two of Chile's northern regions when army commander Pinochet overthrew the elected government of President Salvador Allende and began a 17-year dictatorship.

A day after the coup, Cabello was arrested. Five weeks later, on Oct. 17, 1973, he and 12 other prisoners were taken from their cells, tortured and executed, according to reports by the Chilean National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation, a committee appointed to investigate abuses during the military rule.

The next day, local papers published the official account: 13 prisoners shot and killed while trying to escape.

Not until July 1990, eight months after Pinochet lost presidential power, were the bodies exhumed from a single shallow grave and given to their families for funerals. Some of bodies bore bullet wounds, while others had been slashed with knives, according to forensic reports conducted by the Chilean government.

"My father's spirit died with my brother," said Cabello-Barrueto. "He stopped talking. Never played the guitar again. His pain was always a reminder that we had to do something."

Now, nearly 30 years later, Cabello-Barrueto, her mother and two siblings are suing Fernandez Larios for torture and unlawful killing.

The Center for Justice and Accountability believes Fernandez Larios was a member of the military campaign known as the "Caravan of Death," the name given to the squad of military officers who systematically carried out acts of torture and killing in October 1973. The center alleges that the caravan is responsible for the murders of at least 72 political prisoners, including Cabello.

In 1987, Fernandez Larios pleaded guilty to being an accessory to the 1976 car bomb assassination of Allende's former foreign minister, Orlando Letelier. The explosion took place a few blocks from the White House. Fernandez Larios was accused of trailing Letelier to identify his car and daily routine in Washington, D.C. He served five months of a seven-year sentence. Today, Fernandez Larios is wanted in Chile on criminal charges for his alleged involvement in the Caravan of Death, and Chile has filed an extradition request with the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Cabello family instigated the civil suit under two federal statutes -- the Alien Tort Claims Act and the Torture Victim Protection Act -- that allow claims against individuals linked to human-rights violations that occurred outside the United States.

Fernandez Larios denies that he tortured and murdered Cabello. His lawyer maintains that his client worked as Gen. Sergio Arellano Stark's bodyguard, as the general and other officers delivered the execution orders.