

had robbed the house of Rudicindo Masaquiza, shooting at him and stabbing him in the process. The local media presented many versions of what happened, all with various falsehoods mixed in, slandering the entire Salasaca community and heightening racist feelings. On June 8th an unmarked police car came and took Rudicindo Masaquiza away. His condition is unknown and many fear that he has been tortured.

Soon after, officials presented a list with names of those suspected in the killing of the two men, including several Salasacas. The Salasacas

quickly gathered in the central plaza and for many days refused to let the police enter to take away the accused.

Community leaders are working with the national Indian organization, CONAIE, to coordinate a legal defense. Formal charges and trial have not been set, and the situation remains dangerous for the Salasacas.

For more information write to: Marina Masaquiza or Tony Moss, 702 K Eagle Heights, Madison, WI 53705.

CHILE

Chilean Government Demands Tax Payment for Mapuche Ancestral Lands



From the Mapuche residents of Osorno Province we have received notification of forced sales and seizures of their farm lands due to unpaid taxes.

The properties seized by the State number nearly 600 farms and estates which have been occupied by about 1,500 Mapuche families, 9,000 people for many generations. These families, mainly in the coastal region of the Osorno province, have been exempt from payment of land taxes until recently.

It is public knowledge that the Mapuche communities live on land inherited by their forefathers. However, most of this land is presently registered in the names of non-Mapuche private individuals.

"At this time of conflict, we call on all our Mapuche and peasant brothers to unite. Only by organizing can we defend ourselves. At the same time we ask for the support of Human Rights organizations, the Church, political parties, trade unions, and so on, to help us through this serious problem," says the Mapuche communities.

A Mapuche traditional spiritual leader, known as a Machi prays and sings with a sacred cultrum hand-drum.