


Unit 2

Objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express opinions • Argument for or against • Use passive voice structures
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Human Rights in Chile

1. Let's take a look at human rights in Chile and what your opinion is about the following statements. Choose your option and be ready to explain your decision to the class.

- a. Human rights became more relevant in Chile after the *coup d'état* in 1973.
- b. Chilean governments have always taken action against human rights transgressors.
- c. In Chile, human rights violators do not necessarily serve a sentence in prison.
- d. In democratic governments, human rights are always protected and respected.
- e. In Chile, human rights are taught and discussed since you are in school.
- f. Nowadays, there are practically no human rights violations in Chile.

1. Totally disagree
2. Mainly disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Mainly agree
5. Totally agree

2. Work with your partner and think of events or situations in which human rights have been violated in Chile.

3. Before reading the article, work on the following vocabulary exercise related to the coup d'état in Chile.

Match the concepts to their definitions.

a. <i>coup d'état</i>	a. ___	1. a great deal of money, property, or possessions.
b. political party	b. ___	2. a reddish-brown metal used as an electrical conductor.
c. wealth	c. ___	3. to name or assign someone officially
d. wage	d. ___	4. to fire someone.
e. copper	e. ___	5. a political group seeking political power to direct the government policies
f. trade union	f. ___	6. the judicial branch of the government.
g. to appoint	g. ___	7. to plan secretly something hostile or evil.
h. unaware	h. ___	8. the removal of members of an organization who are considered disloyal or undesirable.
i. to plot	i. ___	9. a sudden and decisive action that results in a forceful change of government
j. to dismiss	j. ___	10. an association of employees formed to improve their income and working conditions.
k. purge	k. ___	11. not knowing about something.
l. judiciary	l. ___	12. money paid or received for work or services.

4. Read the first part of an article about the *coup d'état* in Chile.

1973 Chilean coup d'état



In 1970 Salvador Allende, the leader of the Chilean Socialist Party, was elected president. He therefore became the first Marxist in the world to gain power in a free democratic election. The new government faced serious economic problems. Inflation was running at 30 per cent and over 20 percent of the male adult population were unemployed. It was estimated that half of the children under 15 suffered from malnutrition.

Allende decided to take action to redistribute wealth and land in Chile. Wage increases of around 40 per cent were introduced. At the same time companies were not allowed to increase prices. The copper industry was nationalized. So also were the banks. Allende also restored diplomatic relations with Cuba, China and German Democratic Republic.

In June 1973, Salvador Allende appointed Augusto Pinochet as commander-in-chief of the Chilean Army. Allende was unaware that Pinochet was plotting with the CIA to remove him from power. On 11th September 1973, Pinochet led a military coup against Allende's government. Allende died in the fighting in the presidential palace in Santiago.

Pinochet immediately closed down the Chilean Parliament, suspended the constitution, banned all political and trade union activity and imposed strict controls over the media. Pinochet, who had appointed himself president, ordered a purge of the left in Chile. Over the next few years more than 3,000 supporters of the Allende regime were killed.

People in positions of authority who were suspected of holding liberal opinions were also removed from power. It is estimated that around 10 percent of the Chilean judiciary were dismissed during this period. Pinochet was also responsible for thousands of people being tortured and large numbers were forced into exile.

5. Look at the following sentences, what do they have in common?

- a. The 11th of September is commemorated every year in Chile.
- b. La Moneda was bombed by the military forces on the 11th of September in 1973.
- c. Before the coup, Chile had been considered an example of democracy.
- d. The events that happened in Chile in 1973 will never be forgotten.
- e. Democratic elections have taken place in Chile since 1989 when the dictatorship ended.

6. Identify in the text sentences in passive voice and write them down.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

7. Transform the passive sentences from the exercise above into active sentences.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

8. Now read the second part of the article and transform the sentences in bold into passive sentences.

Over the next few years **Pinochet**, with the help of 400 CIA advisers, **privatized the social and welfare system** and destroyed the Chilean trade union movement. Pinochet also received help from Margaret Thatcher and her Conservative government. This included Britain supplying arms to the regime and blocking attempts by the United Nations to investigate human rights abuses in Chile.

Augusto Pinochet thought **he had completely removed the influence of the left** and in 1980 was confident enough to introduce a new national constitution. This established a timetable for the election of a president.

In October 1988 a referendum took place to decide if Pinochet should be the only candidate in the forthcoming presidential election. Much to his surprise and dismay, **chilean people rejected this proposal**, and he won only 44 per cent of the vote.

In 1989, **55 percent of the country elected Patricio Aylwin**, a Christian Democrat, to become Chile's new president. Pinochet did however remain as commander-in-chief of the army, a position he was able to use to make sure there were no prosecutions against any members of the security forces suspected of human rights abuses during his period of power.

In March 1998 Pinochet resigned as head of the Chilean army but became a senator, therefore guaranteeing him parliamentary immunity for life. However, later that year, while on a visit to London, **the British police arrested Pinochet**, following a request by judges investigating the torture and disappearance of Spanish citizens during Pinochet's period in power.

Five Law Lords ruled in December 1998 that Pinochet was not immune from prosecution. However, the ruling was set aside when it was discovered that one of the judges had links with Amnesty International. In January 1999 seven Law Lords voted 6-1 that Pinochet must face extradition to Spain but that he was also immune from prosecution for crimes committed before 1988. In January 2000, **the British home secretary, Jack Straw, gave permission for Augusto Pinochet** to fly home to Chile.

Write down your passive sentences.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

9. Answer the following questions considering both the first and second part of the article.

- a) What did Allende become when he was elected president in 1970?
- b) What economic problems did Allende's government face?
- c) What changes did Allende introduce?
- d) What was Pinochet's plan against Allende?
- e) Name three actions Pinochet took when he appointed himself president.
- f) How did Margaret Thatcher help Pinochet's government?
- g) What was the result of the referendum that took place in 1988?
- h) Why was it convenient for Pinochet to remain as the commander-in-chief of the army?
- i) Why was Pinochet arrested in London?
- j) In your opinion, which should have been Pinochet's sentence for the crimes committed under his government?
- k) What is your opinion on how Allende and Pinochet handled the events occurred in 1973?
- l) What do you think about the events that took place during the military regime?
- m) Which human rights were violated?