



2

19 June 2014  
Check against delivery

UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-sixth session, 10 – 27 June 2014

Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports

CHILE

Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes that Chile has accepted most of the recommendations made to it during the review, and that it often plays an important role in promoting international human rights initiatives and facilitating access in Chile for international human rights organizations. We encourage Chile to continue these positive steps with efforts at the national level to implement the commitments made in the UPR, including by promoting and protecting human rights and holding those responsible for human rights violations to account.

We welcome that several states raised concerns about impunity for human rights violations committed during the military regime,<sup>1</sup> and we call on Chile to ensure truth, justice and reparation for victims of human rights violations, committed in the period 1973-1990, and for their families. In order to protect against such violations happening again, measures must be taken to repeal the 1978 Amnesty Decree Law and to define the crime of torture in national legislation, in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Mr President,

Amnesty International is concerned about reports of excessive use of force by the police in the context of public protests in various parts of the country, in particular from Mapuche Indigenous communities. A number of states questioned the excessive use of

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/26/5, paragraphs 121.74-75 (Iran, Belgium); 121.114-117 (France, Iran, Italy, Mexico).

force by police,<sup>2</sup> and urged Chile to strengthen legislation and policies that promote accountability.<sup>3</sup> It is of the utmost importance that Chile revise national legislation and protocols for police action, to ensure that these are in line with international human rights standards, and are publicly known. Some states also recommended reforming the military justice system,<sup>4</sup> to ensure that human rights violations allegedly committed by the military or the police are tried in civil courts, and we also urge Chile to give priority to this reform.

Finally, Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes Chile's rejection of a recommendation urging respect for "the rights of the human person from the moment of conception to natural death", as accepting this could have a negative impact on women's health and violate their human rights.<sup>5</sup> We also welcome Chile's recent decision to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, risk to the woman's life or health, or when the fetus is not viable. This is in line with concerns raised by nine states during the review, regarding the ban on abortion in Chile,<sup>6</sup> and represents an advance in the respect and protection of women's and girls' right to life, non-discrimination and to free from torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.<sup>7</sup> We call on Chile to implement this legal reform as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President

---

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/26/5, paragraphs 121.77-79, 81-82 (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Norway, Uzbekistan, Canada).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, paragraphs 121.76 (Cuba), 121.80 (United Kingdom)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, paragraphs 121.111-112 (Switzerland, Uruguay).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, paragraph 121.37 (Holy See).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, paragraphs 121.135-143 (Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Belgium).

<sup>7</sup> Committee against Torture, *Concluding Observations: El Salvador*, para. 23, U.N. Doc. CAT/C/SLV/CO/2 (2009); Committee against Torture, *Concluding Observations: Nicaragua*, para 16, UN Doc. CAT/C/NIC/CO/1 (2009)