

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: AMR 22/003/2009
24 September 2009

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Chile: Amnesty International urges respect for Indigenous rights

Amnesty International welcomes positive measures recently taken by Chile. These include the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the approval by Congress of a law to create a National Human Rights Institution. These are in line with recommendations made by several states in the Working Group and supported by Chile.¹

In order to further strengthen the National Human Rights Institution, Chile must ensure that the Institution enjoys independence in its powers and functions, and should draw on good practices in the establishment and functioning of similar institutions in other states in its region.

Amnesty International also reiterates its call, in line with the recommendations by several countries, that Chile act to nullify the 1978 Amnesty Law.²

Amnesty International welcomes the focus by many states on enhancing respect for the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and Chile's support of the related recommendations.³ In light of the recent wave of violent incidents in the south of Chile, Amnesty International reiterates its concern that the Anti-Terrorism Law might have been applied in a discriminatory manner against Indigenous Peoples. This concern is also reflected in recent recommendations by both CERD and the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples that the Law not be applied to the Mapuche to suppress their legitimate acts of protest.

The recommendations that Chile ensure that the Anti-Terrorism Law is not used to undermine the peaceful exercise by Indigenous Peoples of their human rights merit particular attention.⁴

Amnesty International also supports calls for the government to publicise its plans to achieve full implementation of ILO Convention 169.⁵ Effective consultation, as called for in that Convention, is critical to the process of constitutional recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples currently underway in Chile.

Amnesty International regrets that Chile did not support recommendations by Sweden and Finland to bring its abortion law in line with its human rights obligations and to review its legislation criminalizing the termination of pregnancies in all circumstances, including in cases of rape, incest and when the life of a woman or girl is at risk. The organization encourages Chile to reconsider these recommendations to ensure that the rights of women and girls to life and the highest attainable standard of health are fully respected.

¹ A/HRC/12/10, paragraph 96, recommendations 1, 10 and 11.

² Ibid, paragraph 96, recommendations 38 and 39.

³ Ibid, paragraph 96, recommendations 54-70.

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 96, recommendations 68, 69 and 70.

⁵ Ibid, paragraphs 21 and 29.

Background

The 12th session of the UN Human Rights Council today adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Chile. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

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