



Petition "Freedom to all the political prisoners in Chile"

We call for the international solidarity of the Chilean community abroad and their organizations & collectives, human rights and civil society organizations, from the trade union, academic, militant sectors, as well as individuals to **adhere to this petition to demand the release of all political prisoners in Chile. We demand that the Chilean Senate continue with the process and approval pardon bill for humanitarian reasons that would benefit the "people charged with or convicted of acts that occurred during protests, demonstrations or social mobilizations"**. The pardon bill was presented in December 2020. However, it has not been treated with the expected diligence as it has passed through several evaluations in legislative commissions.

We reproach and denounce the police and military repression and the criminalization of the social protest, as well as the political-criminal persecution by the Chilean State against those who reclaim their territories and ancestral rights and demand the right to a dignified life. There have been systematic human rights violations in Chile against the Mapuche Nation and its people through its conflict with the Chilean State. The human rights violations have taken on the same character against the Chilean people after the social uprising of 2019.

Various international human rights observation missions carried out in Chile¹ have extensively documented the violation of the right to protest, to life and to personal integrity. However, this situation is not new, as evidenced by the recommendations made to the State of Chile in recent decades regarding the excessive use of force, the absence of mechanisms for the prevention of torture and the failure to refrain from applying the anti-terrorism law against the processes of vindication of the rights of the Mapuche people². On February 2, 2021, the Chilean National Human Rights Institute (INDH) denounced that human rights violations committed by State agents have not ceased during 2020 and that even the most basic recommendations have not been fully implemented. The massive use of illegal detentions, cases of sexual violence, eye injuries, mutilations and injuries caused by gunshots by *Carabineros* (police) also continue.

It is amid this context that the use of political imprisonment has been another tool to undermine social protest in the country. Although unofficial figures state 2,500 political imprisonments have taken place, there is no truthful register on the part of the State institutions. On the contrary, the government of Sebastián Piñera has denied the existence of political imprisonment. Chile is currently undergoing a constituent process to change the Constitution inherited from the dictatorship. **After more than a year and a half of political imprisonment, we express our support for the mobilizations**

¹ Amnesty International, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Human Rights Watch (HRW), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Civil Society Human Rights Observation Mission, Québec-Canadian Human Rights Observation Mission.

² Commission against Torture (CAT) 2018, Concluding observations concerning the sixth periodic report of Chile.

in the country that have maintained pressure on the issue, on the urgency of the general pardon for political prisoners and on the persecution and repression of the Mapuche people.

We denounce the indiscriminate and extensive use of preventive detention against people who have been detained in the context of the massive social protests. We condemn the denial of justice, the lack of presumption of innocence and the implementation of laws aimed at intensifying the criminalization of protest and political persecution, such as the anti-barricade and anti-looting laws.

We call attention to the historical repression by the Chilean State against the Mapuche people in the face of their demands for their ancestral territories. **Political imprisonment of the Mapuche people has existed for decades.** "Since the 2000s, the Antiterrorist Law was used as the main means of criminalization of the Mapuche social protest for which the Chilean State was condemned in 2014 by the IACHR"³. In addition, "the high rate of acquittals obtained in judicial proceedings under the Anti-Terrorism Law is evidence of its discretionary and political use as a tool of criminalization"⁴. **We demand the demilitarization of the Mapuche territory in the Araucanía region.**

More information on the current situation of political prisoners, after more than a year and a half of political imprisonment:

The prosecution of the political prisoners of the social uprising - mostly people with no criminal record, youths and minors – began in 2020. Some were released for lack of evidence after having spent months to almost a year in jail. This means that they spent around or more than a year in jail only to be found innocent of the crimes they were charged with. This situation continues to this day. There are political prisoners condemned to sentences of 3 to 5 years and some risk a sentence of more than 20 years. There are numerous cases of political prisoners who have been convicted only with evidence and testimony provided by the Carabineros (police). There have been repeated accusations of police set-ups, mainly in cases linked to Mapuche political prisoners, such as in the case Huracán. There have also been reports of political prisoners who have opted for "abbreviated trials" and have pleaded guilty in order to be released from prison. Groups of relatives of political prisoners, human rights and civil society organizations have denounced the absence of due process, the lack of impartiality on the part of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the miscarriage of investigation. The government of Sebastián Piñera has even sought to convict people under the State's Internal Security Law in order to increase prison sentences.

Between 2020 and 2021, Mapuche and political prisoners of the social uprising have carried out several hunger strikes in different prisons in Chile. The purpose of these strikes was to denounce the irregularities of the judicial process, the massive use of pre-trial detention and torture experienced in prison. The prison situation in Chile is one of the most critical in Latin America and in the world, and the country has one of the highest rates of population deprived of liberty. This reflects the appalling conditions in which political prisoners are held and implies degrading conditions of confinement worsened in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (no right to visits for more than a year, cases of contagion by Covid-19, lack of access to health care, etc.). Besides the extensive use of preventive detention, the use of house arrest and daily police presence in the homes of political prisoners have a strong impact on the family environment.

³ IACHR, (2014). Case "Norin Catrیمان and others vs Chile", 29 May 2014, p.168-177.

⁴ ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples 10 years after its ratification by the State of Chile. Critical analysis of its compliance. (2018). Report of the Central Unitaria de trabajadores de Chile, Observatorio Ciudadano, p.47.

Organizations participating in the international petition

Colectivo Chile Despertó internacional - Québec, Montréal, Canada
Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL), Montréal, Canada
Comité chilien pour les por los derechos humanos -Montréal, Montréal, Canada
Collectif Place de la dignité, Montréal, Canada
Collectif Le Droit de vivre en paix Montréal/El Derecho de vivir en paz Montréal, Canada
Collectif Non à l'impunité au Chili-Montréal Montréal, Canada

To know the results of the individual signatures of the petition, please click here:

<https://www.change.org/liberteprisonnier-e-spolitiquesChili>

Organizations, groups and collectives who support the petition

Agrupación de chilenxs en Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay
Agrupación de derechos humanos de Maipú, Santiago, Chile
Agrupación nacional de empleados fiscales (ANEF), Santiago, Chile
Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians (ACJC), Montréal, Canada
Alternative socialiste, Montréal, Canada
ARO Coopéracion internationale, Montréal, Canada
Asamblea popular constituyente San Joaquin La Granja distrito 10, Santiago, Chili
Asamblea por el Pacto Social (APS), Santiago, Chile
Asociación civil Paca San Luis Argentina, San Luis, Argentina
Association des travailleurs et travailleuses temporaires d'agences de placement (TAWA-ATTAP), Montréal, Canada
Association Terre et Liberté pour Arauco - Wallmapu, Arcueil, France
Black Rose Books, Montréal, Canada
Cabildo Abierto de Bremen, Bremen, Alemania
Cabildo chilenes en Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Canadian Foreign Policy Institute (CPFI), Montréal, Canada
Caravane d'amitié Québec-Cuba, Québec, Canada
Carrefour d'Animation et de Participation pour un Monde Ouvert (CAPMO), Québec, Canada
Centrale Syndicale du Québec (CSQ), Montréal, Canada
Centre d'Appui aux Philippines / Centre for Philippine Concerns (CAP-CPC), Montréal, Canada
Centre des travailleurs et travailleuses immigrants (IWC-CTI), Montréal, Canada
Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO), Montréal, Canada
Cercle des premières Nations de l'UQAM (CPN-UQAM), Montréal, Canada
Chapitre québécois du réseau pour la défense de l'humanité (REDH), Montréal, Canada
Chile Informa, Montréal, Canada
Chile Solidarity Network (CSN), United Kingdom
Coalition pour la Paix en Irlande (CPI), Montréal, Canada
Colectivo Chile Despertó, Melbourne, Australia
Colectivo regional de derechos humanos Gonzalo Muñoz Otarola, Santiago, Chile
Coletivo Brasil- Montréal, Montréal, Canada
Coletivo Brasil-Québec, Québec, Canada
Collectif Chili s'est réveillé, Montréal, Canada
Collectif international parrainage des prisonniers de la révolte sociale au Chili, Paris, France
Collectif nouvelles générations Chili, Genève, Suisse
Collectif pour une Réglementation de l'Industrie du Sondage au Québec, RISQ, Montréal, Canada
Comisión de derechos humanos, Colegio de psicólogas y psicólogos de Chile, Santiago, Chile
Comité FMLN Montréal, Montréal, Canada
Comité logement POPIR, Montréal, Canada
Comité Québec-Irlande, Montréal, Canada
Comité S.O.S El Salvador, Montréal, Canada
Commission altermondialiste et de solidarité internationale de Québec solidaire, Québec, Canada
Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN)
Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain - Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CCMM-CSN), Montréal, Canada

Corporación de derechos humanos Sebastián Acevedo, Santiago, Chile
Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ), Montréal, Canada
Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ-CSN)
Femmes de Diverses origines/Women of Diverse Origins, Montréal, Canada
Forum diaspora africaine-Canada (ADF/FDA-CANADA), Montréal, Canada
France Chili Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France
Groupe de recherche sur les imaginaires politiques en Amérique latine GRIPAL, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Montréal, Canada
Grupo de apoyo a lxs presxs políticxs, Holanda
Grupo de iniciativas por la libertad de lxs presxs políticxs, Santiago, Chile
Jeunesse Debout!, Montréal, Canada
Jewish People's Liberation Organization (JPLO-OLPJ), Montréal, Canada
Jewish Socialist Bund (JPLO), Montréal, Canada
Maison Norman Bethune / Bureau d'information politique, Montréal, Canada
Mining Watch Canada, Ottawa, Canada
Movimiento por lxs pp de ayer y hoy, Santiago, Chile
Ni Québec, Ni Canada : projet anticolonial, Montréal, Canada
Observatoire violence, criminalisation et démocratie (OVCD), Université d'Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
Palestiniens et juifs unis (PAJU), Montréal, Canada
Parti marxiste-léniniste du Québec, Montréal, Canada
Red Internacional de Apoyo a lxs Presxs Políticxs en Chile (RIAPPECH), Halmstad, Suède
Riposte Socialiste // Fightback, Montréal, Canada
Sindicato Único de trabajadores de la Educación (SUTE), Santiago, Chile
Socialismo revolucionario CIT/CWI, Santiago, Chile
Solidarité Québec - Haïti (SQH), Montréal, Canada
Solidarité Sans frontière (SSF-SAB), Montréal, Canada
SOS territoire, Montréal, Canada
Syndicat des enseignantes et des enseignants du Centre d'études collégiales Baie-des-Chaleurs, FNEEQ-CSN
Syndicat des Enseignantes et Enseignants du Cégep de l'Outaouais (SEECO), Gatineau, Canada
Syndicat des professeures et professeurs du cégep Édouard-Montpetit (SPPCEM), Longueuil, Canada
Syndicat des tuteurs et tutrices de la Télé-Université (STTTU), Montréal, Canada
Syndicat du personnel enseignant du Cégep de Sherbrooke (SPECS) -(CSN), Sherbrooke, Canada
Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba, Montréal, Canada
United Steel Workers, Toronto, Canada
Werken Rojo, Santiago, Chile



ALTERNATIVE SOCIALISTE



ASAMBLEA POR EL PACTO SOCIAL



Tierra y Libertad

BLACK ROSE BOOKS



CFPI CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE



CSQ Centrale des syndicats du Québec

CENTRE D'APPUI AUX PHILIPPINES

IWC-CTI CENTRE DES TRAVAILLEURS ET TRAVAILLEUSES IMMIGRANTS

CiSO centre international de solidarité ouvrière



RED INTELLECTUALES Y ARTISTAS EN DEFENSA DE LA HUMANIDAD

CHILE INFORMA.COM



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COLETIVO BRASIL-QUÉBEC



COMISIÓN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS



P.O.P.I.R. - Comité Logement

OMITÉ QUÉBEC - IRLANDE



Conseil central DU MONTRÉAL MÉTROPOLITAIN CSN

Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec FTQ

fneeq Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec





OVCD



SOLIDARITÉ QUÉBEC HAÏTI



GRIPAL

