

URGENT ACTION

REPRESSION AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS

Since 18 October, thousands are demonstrating in Santiago against the raise of public transportation, considered as another measure negatively impacting Chileans' economic, social and cultural rights. The government imposed a state of emergency, enabling the army to police demonstrations and set a curfew. Initial reports account for massive detentions, scores of people tortured or ill-treated, and some persons seriously injured and killed in the context of violent incidents. We call on the president to address the demands behind the protests, respect the right to peaceful assembly, stop using the army for controlling protests and comply with use of force standards.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
2. [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 137.19**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Sebastián Piñera

Presidente de la República de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda, Calle Moneda s/n
Santiago, Región Metropolitana,
Chile
Twitter: [@SebastianPinera](#)

Ambassador Alfonso Silva Navarro

Embassy of the Republic of Chile
1732 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20036
Phone: 202 785 1746
Fax: 202 887 5579
Email: echile.eeuu@minrel.gob.cl
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

Dear Mr. President,

I am appalled by the reports of military operations to police massive demonstrations in Chile, which began after an increase in public transportation fees – and other structural factors of inequality causing major social discontent and unrest. Since the establishment of the state of emergency on 19 October, reports of human rights violations have been raised, such as massive detentions, including of minors, ill treatment and other actions that could constitute torture against detainees, as well as violent repression against those who are peacefully demonstrating.

Mr. President, I strongly urge you to implement measures to address the legitimate demands of those currently exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. I also strongly urge you to stop deploying the army to police demonstrations and make the police strictly comply with the international standards on the use of force if and when necessary.

Yours sincerely,

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Within days of the announcement of an increment on the public transport fares, added to cumulative policies placing a burden on vast sectors of Chilean society, thousands of people mobilized in the capital Santiago de Chile demanding a halt on the increment and address Chile's historical economic, social and cultural rights challenges.

After some episodes of violence on the streets, the government decided to suspend the public transportation service and decree a State of Emergency on 18 October. According to the decree, the National Defence Chieftaincy started to command public security operations and had the power of taking further measures to police demonstrations. One of the first measure, established on 19 October, was a curfew in the metropolitan area of Santiago and other cities. The curfew has not been lifted.

So far, the major of Santiago placed in 11 the persons dying in violent incidents in the context of protests and local human rights organizations account for up to 1333 persons detained, 88 persons injured by firearms and countless reports of torture, ill-treatment, among other human rights violations.

President Sebastián Piñera declared on 20 October that political parties would quickly agree on a new law for stopping the increment on the public transportation fares, but demonstrators and social movements are calling for significant measures to bring about a new social contract and protests continue.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish and English.
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 20 November 2019
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: **People Protesting in Chile** (They, them, theirs)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: *n/a*