URGENT ACTION

DO NOT ISSUE PARDONS TO CONVICTED FORMER CARABINEROS AND MILITARY OFFICIALS

President José Antonio Kast stated on March 12, 2026 that he may pardon former Carabineros and military officials convicted of crimes committed in the context of the 2019 protests. Doing so would further entrench impunity and undermine accountability.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- Click here to report your action(s) on ***UA 19.26***. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

José Antonio Kast Rist
Presidente de la República de Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago de Chile
Chile

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Chilean Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés
1732 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036
Email: echile.eeuu@minrel.gob.cl

Mr. President,

I am writing to express my concern regarding your recent statements in Chilean national media about the possibility of pardoning former Carabineros and military officials convicted of crimes committed in the context of the 2019 protests, including unlawful killings, torture, and serious bodily injuries.

Beginning in October 2019, what started as student-led demonstrations rapidly expanded nationwide, driven by demands for greater social equality and protection of social and economic rights. Authorities responded by using force disproportionately, largely through operations led by Carabineros. Amnesty International documented multiple instances of serious human rights violations and crimes under international law, including torture, committed during this period by Carabineros against protesters.

More than six years later, impunity continues, with few cases advancing to trial and even fewer resulting in convictions. Pardoning the small number of officers who have been held accountable would further entrench impunity and undermine efforts to reform Carabineros toward greater legality and accountability.

Mr. President, I urge you to ensure accountability for all serious human rights violations and crimes under international law, including those perpetrated by Carabineros and military officials in the context of the 2019 protests, and to refrain from pardoning convicted former Carabinero and military officials.

Yours sincerely,

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In mid-October 2019, Chile entered a period of profound change marked by widespread protests and a severe escalation of excessive use of force against demonstrators. What began as student-led actions in the Metropolitan Region rapidly grew into nationwide demonstrations demanding greater social equality and stronger guarantees of social and economic rights.

Rather than calming the situation, the authorities' response intensified social unrest. Instead of facilitating peaceful assembly and responding proportionately to isolated violence—as required under international law— security forces acted disproportionately and injured thousands of people, many of them seriously. Amnesty International documented widespread violations of the right to physical integrity by Carabineros between October 18 and November 30, 2019, concluding that these were not isolated incidents but part of a broader institutional pattern requiring deep structural reform and demanding command responsibility.

Years later, victims still lack full reparations, structural reforms remain unfulfilled, and impunity persists. As of March 2026, only 2% of more than 12,000 reported cases of alleged human rights violations, amounting to crimes under domestic and/or international law, by state agents during the protests had resulted in convictions. These include allegations of unlawful coercion, torture, and serious injuries, among others.

International human rights law requires Chilean authorities to thoroughly investigate all crimes under international law and human rights violations, and —when sufficient admissible evidence exists— prosecute those responsible in fair trials before ordinary civilian courts. When convictions are secured, sanctions must be proportionate. While pardons are a discretionary measure, in this specific case, pardon convicted former police officers would undermine the principle of accountability and justice for serious human rights violations and crimes under international law.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 30, 2026

NAME: Victims of excessive use of force in Chile