



48th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 13 September – 8 October 2021

Item 3 & 5: Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the right of indigenous peoples

Oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

Madam President,

APG23 welcomes the Report of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are highly concerned over the condition of the Mapuche people in Chile and the human rights violations they are still suffering.

Hostilities, power abuses and racist acts are repeatedly committed by the police special forces against indigenous activists. According to our insights, Mapuche people keep facing many inequalities, finding themselves in a constant spiral of violence in which children are often involved too.

The Mapuche people still lack recognition as original indigenous people by the Chilean Constitution. Such recognition is necessary to ensure the full respect of their cultural and spiritual identity, their right to traditional lands and natural resources, as well as the realization of their right to self-determination.

Unfortunately, the endless dispute over territory and autonomy between the Mapuche community and the Chilean state has been exacerbating. The Araucania region has become a battleground between indigenous communities and the Government which, through the militarisation of the area, protects the economic interest of foreign companies, regardless of the Mapuche claims and demonstrations.

We urge the Chilean government to stop this escalation of abuses and oppressions, as well as the indiscriminate use of violence. We reiterate the need for a transparent, inclusive and constructive dialogue also in line with the SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, the Constitutional revision process should be an opportunity to engage with indigenous people and to achieve reconciliation within the nation.

Thank you!