



54th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 11 September – 13 October 2023

Item 2: General Debate:

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

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Mr President,

Indigenous people worldwide keep facing harsh challenges and discrimination.

In this regard, APG23 wants to express its deep concern over the condition of the Mapuche people, the largest indigenous group in Chile.

The ongoing violations of their fundamental rights, the increasing militarisation of their lands, along with the criminalisation of the Mapuche people severely exacerbate this endless and painful conflict.

The constant renewal of the state of emergency, as well as the excessive use of counter-terrorism law that facilitates the use of preventive custody for long periods and anonymous witness testimony, jeopardise Mapuche's rights and freedom.

In addition, it is to be noted the recent approval of the "Nain Retamal Law", that establishes privileged legitimate defence by law enforcement.

The law enacted to protect all citizens from crimes and brutality, could instead recklessly legitimise the indiscriminate use of violence by police forces.

All these measures underline a punitive and repressive approach of the Government towards Mapuche people and activists.

Such an approach intensifies the conflict and normalises the use of violence in the country.

In light of all this, we urge the Chilean government to stop such attitudes. We strongly believe that rewriting a different narrative is still possible; violence, oppression and exploitation must end. It is imperative to draw a new paradigm in which the voice of the Mapuche community has to be listened to realise a transparent, inclusive and constructive dialogue aimed at a peaceful solution to the Mapuche conflict and the recognition of their rights.

Thank You!