Chile

Chile is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: Inter-American System

As a Member of the OAS, Chile is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide complaints against the State and may also hold hearings or issue reports on the human rights situation there. Chile has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding judgments concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Chile to the Inter-American human rights system. For example, in Almonacid-Arellano et al v. Chile, the Court found that granting amnesty to those responsible for the murder of Almonacid-Arellano constituted a violation of the State’s human rights obligations. See I/A Court H.R., Case of Almonacid-Arellano et al v. Chile. Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of September 26, 2006. Series C No. 154.

Additionally, the Commission has issued precautionary measures to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Chile.

Chile has ratified the following regional human rights treaties:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belem do Pará”)
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture
- Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons
United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Chile is subject to the oversight of various UN human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review and thematic special procedures. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Chile’s policies and practices are monitored by UN treaty bodies. It has accepted the complaints procedure of six treaty bodies.

Chile has ratified the following UN human rights treaties:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Chile has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: ICCPR, CAT, CEDAW, CERD, CED, and CMW.

Chile has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Chile has a duty to submit State reports to each UN treaty body associated with the relevant treaty Chile has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Chile has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Chile has ratified optional protocols and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit complaints against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CAT, ICPPED, CRPD, CRC and CERD. Additionally, Chile has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, and CRPD, allowing the relevant treaty bodies to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations.

On May 12, 2009, Chile extended a standing invitation to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in Chile. For example, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances went on a mission to Chile in August 2012, and published its report in January 2013.

For more information on Chile’s engagement with UN human rights bodies, visit http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/CLIndex.aspx.

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