

Chilean workers plan massive protests against neo-liberal policies



Santiago de Chile, November 2 (RHC)-- Due to President Sebastian Piñera's unwillingness to make policy changes and stop the repression, the Workers' United Center of Chile (CUT) presented to the citizens a weekend protest program which includes the performance of a "Super Monday" with mass mobilizations throughout the country.

On Monday, November 4th, Chilean workers will march at 12:00 to the Congress, which is located in Valparaiso, to demand right-wing lawmakers stop the debate of the government's bills. At 5:00 p.m., people will gather at the cities' main squares carrying posters with their demands.

In Santiago, the rally will take place in the Plaza Italia, where the demonstration will remind Piñera that the collective struggle seeks to reach a new Constitution, a minimum wage of \$675, a retirement pension equivalent to the minimum wage, cheaper basic services, free public transportation for senior citizens and students, among other demands.

On Sunday, workers are visiting neighborhoods across the country to support the "Self-Convended and Open Town Councils," which do not obey the dialogue strategy whereby Piñera tries to disrupt the

people's independence and strength.

Gender activist and sociologist Claudia Dides reported that citizens have created about 200 open town councils in recent days, which has mobilized some 10,000 persons to authentic dialogue processes where people discuss the country's problems and how to resolve them.

"The government must open its eyes. It is not enough to just look at what is happening on the street. It must understand that it does not have much negotiation space because the President's approval levels are very low," she recalled.

Meanwhile, according to the latest data from the National Institute of Human Rights (INDH), 4,316 people have been arrested, 1,574 people were injured with firearms, 18 people filed complaints of sexual violence and 132 filed complaints of torture.

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