

One dead and 124 arrested during violent protests in Chile



Santiago de Chile, February 1 (RHC)-- One person dead, 124 detainees and several wounded was the balance of the police repression to the protests that Chileans carried out in the early hours of Friday in Santiago de Chile.

On Thursday afternoon, citizens went out to protest the death of Jorge Mora, a fan of the Colo-Colo soccer team, who was hit by a Police truck last Tuesday. His death intensified popular mobilizations against the neoliberal administration of President Sebastian Piñera.

On Friday, the Military Police caused the death of Ariel Moreno, a 24-year-old who was also a fan of the Colo-Colo team. He was shot in the head while protesting in the vicinity of the Military Police's Subcommissioning Department located in Padre Hurtado, a neighborhood in ??Santiago.

Once again, in Santiago de Chile and other cities, the scenario was practically the same: the Military Police deploying violent actions in an attempt to disperse hundreds of citizens who were protesting. Also, in the middle of the protests, a 30-year-old man died of suffocation in a fire in the San Ramon municipality, where people were looting a supermarket in search of food. Three other people were hospitalized and two of them are in a serious condition due to smoke inhalation.

This week, a new “Anti-Dry Law” came into effect, which seeks to tighten penalties against citizens of a country where unemployment rose to seven percent.

Meanwhile, according to the latest opinion polls, only six out of 100 Chileans agree with President Sebastian Piñera, who continues to justify police brutality.

On Friday, the National Prosecutor's Office confirmed that it investigates allegations of 5,558 people who have suffered human rights violations since the protests began on October 18, 2019. Of that amount, 4,170 victims established direct accusations against the Military Police, 244 complaints are directed against the Army and the others against other security institutions. However, only 38 State agents are being prosecuted for one or more crimes.

So far, the National Institute of Human Rights (INDH) records 67 formal complaints against security officers for rape. Some 3,798 human rights violations took place in public spaces, 582 cases in either police stations or military precincts, and 72 cases of abuse happened inside homes.

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