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Media Advisory

Chile: torture and ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces under the scrutiny of the United Nations

The consideration of Chile's third periodic report by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee (HRC) on 24 March, in New York, provides an important opportunity for serious scrutiny of Chile's human rights record.

Amnesty International's major concerns in Chile with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) include torture and ill-treatment of detainees mainly by members of the security forces (*Carabineros*, uniformed police, *Investigaciones*, civilian police and *Gendarmeria*, prison guards) and the lack of thorough, independent and conclusive investigation into such reports.

The human rights organization is also concerned by the jurisdiction of military courts in cases of civilians charged with politically motivated offences, the application of the 1978 Amnesty Law to close cases of human rights violations committed during the military government and the application of death sentences by the courts.

The HRC is composed of 18 experts who are elected by states parties to the ICCPR. It monitors implementation by states of their obligations under the Covenant. The experts act in their personal capacity and do not represent any government. The HRC meets three times a year to review written reports from states. Other reports being considered by the HRC during this session include those of Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Cameroon and Lesotho.

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