Ministra Carolina Tohá

Ministerio del Interior

Palacio de La Moneda

Santiago, Chile

[mininterior@interior.gob.cl](mailto:mininterior@interior.gob.cl)

Dear Ministra Tohá

I am writing to you from the United Kingdom. I have just been reading Amnesty International's recent report, "[No one wants to live in hiding](https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr22/6437/2023/es/)". This highlights the Chilean government's failure to protect Venezuelans seeking asylum in the country. The report is based on the accounts of Venezuelan women now residing in Chile.

Chile's actions contravene its national and international obligations to guarantee that those in need of protection can apply for refugee status. These policies put the lives and rights of vulnerable people at risk. The report outlines the hurdles refugees must overcome, such as onerous entry visa requirements and border entry denials. Most refugees are unaware of their right to request international protection.

Of particular concern to Amnesty International is the requirement for refugees to report themselves to the authorities for irregular entry into the country. In practice this discriminates against refugees and violates the Convention on the Status of Refugees and its Protocol. It also jeopardizes their safety by potentially exposing them to expulsion to places where their lives and rights are in danger, which is contrary to the principle of non-refoulement.

I urge the Chilean authorities to take immediate action to protect the rights of Venezuelans, both seeking safety and those in the country. In particular:-

* Applying the definition of who is a refugee as defined by the **1984 Cartagena Declaration**.
* **Ensuring effective and non-discriminatory access for everyone in need of protection to the procedure for recognizing refugee status**, in accordance with international human rights and refugee law.
* **Ensuring full respect for the “principle of non-refoulement”** – no one should be turned away at the border when their safety is at risk.
* **Eliminating the practice and requirement to self-report**, in order to bring Chilean legislation and the actions of the country’s authorities into line with current international standards
* Refraining from adopting measures or **using language that stigmatizes, vilifies, disparages or discriminates against migrants and refugees**, in particular Venezuelans.

Please refer to the report (https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr22/6437/2023/es/) for a comprehensive overview of Amnesty International’s findings and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,