Xavier Armendáriz Prosecutor Centre-North Metropolitan Region Av. Pedro Montt 1606 Santiago Centro, Chile

Dear Mr Xavier Armendáriz,

On 18th October 2019 peaceful protests erupted throughout Chile. These were heavily repressed by the Carabineros, committing many human rights violations in the process. It is deeply concerning that, four years on from these events, there has been no justice for the victims. Impunity appears the rule, especially with respect to the high command of the Carabineros of Chile.

In 2020, Amnesty International published its landmark report, **Eyes on Chile: Command responsibility and police violence during the period of social unrest**. The report concluded that “*the case studies and the visual evidence suggest that the repeated, unnecessary and disproportionate use of force was police policy - not the responsibility of officers acting in isolation and breaking the orders of their superiors*”.

Amnesty International has time and again called on the Chilean Attorney General’s Office, of which you are part of, to clarify:-

*“the responsibility of operational and strategic commanders, who in their role as guarantors, tacitly ordered or permitted human rights violations to be committed repeatedly. It also (called) on the Judiciary Branch to initiate proceedings regarding all those who may bear responsibility and, where appropriate, to prosecute them in order to ensure access to justice for victims and their families”*.

These commanders may include the Director General and the Director of National Directorate of Order and Security (Dirección Nacional de Orden y Seguridad (DIOSCAR) in office at the time of the events.

Four years on, this continued impunity cannot be justified. **Justice cannot be delayed any further**. I call on you to formally present charges and start criminal proceedings against the Carabineros’ commanders, if there is sufficient admissible evidence to do so. Please ensure all criminal investigations and proceedings are seen as high priority.

Yours sincerely