



Committee of Experts calls on the Chilean State to investigate immediately and effectively allegations of human rights violations against women

The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women “Belém do Pará Convention” (MESECVI) expresses its concern about the alleged acts of violence against women that were perpetrated in part by state agents in Chile. These acts occurred within the framework of the State of Exception that was decreed as of October 18, and subsequent curfew, in response to various social protests within the country.

In this regard, this Committee recalls that in this type of context, women often face differentiated and disproportionate effects from acts or threats of physical, psychological, sexual and institutional violence by the security forces and the administration of justice. These situations involve violations of their human rights, their dignity, while generating irreparable damage to repress, intimidate, humiliate, punish or send a message that weakens the democratic state of law.

The Committee of Experts considers that these acts should be investigated considering the pattern of violence against women and not as an isolated event, as indicated by the Belém do Pará Convention, an instrument signed and ratified by the Chilean State. For this reason, the State is urged to carry out all necessary actions and to use all appropriate means to avoid violations of the rights of women and children, as well as to investigate them in a timely manner and through a gender perspective.

These investigations must be conducted in light of the principles established in various resolutions of the Inter-American system on cases of sexual violence. However, these principles are applicable to other cases of gender-based violence, including a duty to: i) investigate with a gender perspective; ii) undertake specific lines of research; iii) recover and preserve the evidence; iv) identify possible witnesses and obtain their statements; v) inform and consider victims throughout the procedure; vi) take the statements of the victims in a comfortable and safe environment, in order to avoid their repetition; vii) provide medical and psychological care to the victims; viii) carry out, if necessary, suitable medical and psychological examinations, while respecting the dignity of the victims; ix) provide free legal assistance; x) avoid placing blame, as well as examining the existence of gender stereotypes and prejudices; among other measures.

This Committee of Experts is made available to the Chilean authorities for any technical support they may require, either in this case or in any case related to the provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

The Committee of Experts is the technical body of the MESECVI responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the process of implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. It is composed of

independent experts, appointed by each of the States Parties among their nationals, who exercise their functions in their personal capacity.