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Dear Mr Vlado Mirosevic,

I am deeply alarmed by the bill currently under consideration by the Chilean congress that seeks to criminalize refugees and migrants. This bill, contained in Bulletin No. 15261-25, goes against international refugee and human rights law and international standards, and should be rejected.

If the bill is passed, women, men and children arriving to Chile will be punished just for seeking protection or a better life.

Chilean authorities have already imposed obstacles to deny people protection in Chile. These include the imposition of entry visas impossible to access, denial of entry at the border, lack of information about the right to request international protection, as well as illegal practices that punish asylum seekers by requesting them to report themselves to the authorities for irregular entry into the country. These measures violate their right to seek asylum and make it virtually impossible to access a regular migratory status or international protection in the country.

The current bill constitutes a blatant effort to further limit the rights of refugees and migrants. Entering the country irregularly should never be a crime.

We call on you, as President of the Chamber of Deputies, to make your utmost effort to ensure this bill is rejected by the Chilean congress and that any future bills that seek to limit the rights of refugees and migrants in Chile are equally rejected.

Yours sincerely,