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Dear Mr Xavier Armendáriz,

I am writing to you due to the impunity that surrounds the widespread human rights violations committed during the period of social unrest, the 'estallido social', that began on 18 October 2019. It is deeply concerning that, four years on from these events, impunity remains the rule, especially with respect to the high command of 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 and not the responsibility of officers acting in isolation and breaking the orders of their superiors".

Consequently, the organization 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, impunity cannot be justified, and justice cannot be delayed. We call on you to formally present charges and start of criminal proceedings against Carabineros' commanders, if there is sufficient admissible evidence to do so, within the framework of a fair trial and all due process guarantees.

Yours sincerely,