

Activities of the municipality of Chiguayante to promote the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état in Chile.

1. Screening of the documentary "Los Elegidos. A necessary truth": March 2023.

"The Chosen Ones. A necessary truth" is a documentary produced by the Corporación Memorias del Bío Bío to tell the stories of four social and political leaders from Lota, who were shot in the early hours of 22 October 1973 in Concepción. In this activity we worked together with the Corporación Memorias del Bío Bío. We held an inaugural performance for the authorities and the general public and two performances for students from 8th grade to 4th grade of the educational establishments of the commune, in the Sala de Artes Escénicas (Performing Arts Hall).

A total of 300 people attended to see the documentary, 240 belonging to the educational establishments of the commune.

2. International Day of the Detained and Disappeared: 30 August 2023.

Reference will be made to the commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared Detainee, why is it commemorated, what is its relevance, what is the situation in Chile regarding the criminalisation of the crime of enforced disappearance of persons, what is the situation in Chile regarding the criminalisation of the crime of enforced disappearance of persons? In Chile, the Association of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees and Human Rights organisations commemorate this day because the enforced disappearance of persons was a systematic practice used by the military junta and its repressive bodies to eliminate those they considered "internal enemies" during the dictatorship.

According to the reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission ("Rettig Report"), the National Corporation for Reparation and Reconciliation, and the National Commission on Political Prisoners and Torture ("Valech Report"), the official figure of direct victims in Chile is 31,686 persons, of which 28,459 cases were victims of torture and 3,227 cases were victims executed or disappeared (2,125 dead and 1,102 disappeared).

Today, the Human Rights Programme Unit, which reports to the Undersecretariat for Human Rights, which in turn reports to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, fulfils the obligations of truth, justice and reparation of the State of Chile with regard to the crimes against humanity committed during the dictatorship between 11 September 1973 and 10 March 1990. To this end, it provides legal support to relatives of victims of political execution and forced disappearance, following criminal trials in the Courts of Justice.

The Government of Chile has created the National Plan for the Search for Missing Detained Persons 2023, to be implemented in coordination with different public entities with a multidisciplinary approach. It will be coordinated by the Human Rights Programme of the Undersecretariat for Human Rights, whose mission is to provide legal assistance to the relatives of victims of enforced disappearance to exercise their right to know the location of their relatives, the location of their bodies and the circumstances of the disappearance or death. More information on this link.

This plan cannot be realised without the communities and relatives of the victims of enforced disappearance and therefore the central role that they should play in the design of the National Search Plan is recognised. Likewise, as members of an international community that is united in the promotion and protection of human rights, comparative experiences are valued as sources of learning for the challenges that will arise. More information on this link.

3. Tribute to Rachel Venegas Illanes, 30 August 2023.

Rachel Venegas Illanes is the disappeared detainee from the Bío Bío region, whose remains were found outside Chile, specifically in Argentina, and repatriated to our country, among the hundreds of Chileans whose traces were lost as a result of the Condor Plan. For the International Day of the Disappeared Detainees, 30 August, a ceremony will be held in the cemetery of Chiguayante where the communal and regional authorities, the relatives of Rachel Venegas Illanes who live in Chiguayante, the Relatives of the Disappeared Detainees, Human Rights organisations and neighbourhood leaders, among others, will be invited to remember her memory. More about the biography of Rachel Venegas Illanes in this link.

Rachel's case, as well as that of two other Chileans from the VIII region, correspond to the victims of Operation Condor, which meant a mechanism of disappearance, torture and elimination of people, inside and outside Chile, especially in Argentina, promoted by the National Intelligence Directorate. This, in collaboration with SIDE and the Federal Police, allowed for the clandestine transfer of detainees, especially after 24 March 1976, the date of the military coup in Argentina. For more information on Operation Condor, click here.

4. Commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared in Chiguayante.

Since 2021, the Human Rights and Community Office of the Municipality of Chiguayante has commemorated the International Day of the Disappeared Detainees. The Mayor of the Municipality of Chiguayante Mr. Antonio Rivas Villalobos has placed a floral arrangement at the monolith of the Detained-Disappeared at the entrance of the Municipality of Chiguayante and the memory of Rachel Venegas Illanes has been remembered with a floral arrangement at the place where her remains rest in the Chiguayante Cemetery.

This year 2023 will be no different, on August 30th, International Day of the Detained and Disappeared, a floral arrangement will be placed on the grave of Rachel Venegas Illanes, as well as a memorial plaque to remember her. On 27 March, a discussion was held at the Municipal Library of Chiguayante, organised by the Rachel Venegas Illanes Cultural Centre, the Alumni Centre of the Escuela Normal Rural Experimental de Victoria/Concepción branch and the Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos, with the support of the Municipality of Chiguayante. On that day, Rachel Venegas Illanes' birthday was remembered: on 27 March 2023 she would have turned 71 years old and would have retired from teaching, but according to those who knew her, she would be demanding justice for women and their rights, for her colleagues and the historical debt, quality public education and fighting for the rights of children and adolescents.

5. Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état in Chile, 11 September 2023.

Showing of the play " Women. Memories. Resistances" with a discussion by the Association Weaving Memories and Making Political Women Visible (VAMP), in the Performing Arts Hall. Invited guests will be inhabitants of Chiguayante (and other communes) who have suffered human rights violations, such as relatives of disappeared detainees, human rights groups, members of the Programme for Reparation and Integral Attention in Health and Human Rights (PRAIS), neighbourhood leaders and the general public.

This play is based on the book " Women. Memories. Resistances", which presents the life trajectory of six resilient and diverse women, whose different stories are united by the desire to make sexual political violence visible, so that it becomes known as a crime against humanity perpetrated during the dictatorship.