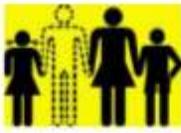




UNIÓN DE EX PRISIONEROS POLÍTICOS
DE CHILE UNexPP de Chile



AGRUPACIÓN NACIONAL FAMILIARES
DE EX-PP FALLECIDOS DE CHILE



AGRUPACIÓN DE EX PRISIONEROS
POLÍTICOS RANCAGUA



AGRUPACIÓN DE EX PRISIONEROS
POLÍTICOS SAN FELIPE

SECOND PUBLIC STATEMENT

We, former political prisoners under the dictatorship of Pinochet, started a hunger strike last Monday, April 13, 2015. We are from the cities of San Felipe, Los Andes, Rancagua, Rengo, San Vicente and Osorno. There are now three strike centers located in Rancagua, San Felipe and Osorno. Today is the fifth day of our strike and it involves 60 people.

The reasons for this hunger strike have already been made public and can be summarized simply as the failure of the government to fulfill an agreement reached last December 9, 2014.

We still wait for an answer from the government to two central matters. These are the following:

1. Increasing the amount of our pension known as Valech (1) pension, to the same level of the Rettig pension, and under the same conditions of the Rettig (2) pension. The Valech pension is exclusive of any other pension. The Rettig's is inclusive.

This has an explanation. When the Valech pension was passed, the surviving former political prisoners were not considered worthy of the pension value that the Rettig pensions offered. We were discriminated against, receiving a pension of \$112,000 Chilean pesos, equivalent to about \$7 dollars a day. Therefore, adjusting and correcting this situation is an absolute just demand. Let's remember that our ex political prisoners disappeared and executed, before being such were all political prisoners.

2. Sending for parliamentary decision a law project for indemnization which we already presented to the government.

This law project already counts with pre-approval in both Deputies Chamber and Senate. On April 22, 2014, Senator Isabel Allende presented the project to be included in the legislative agenda for the year 2014. The Minister Secretary General of the Presidency responded with a negative to the Senate's President indicating that there were already many reparation laws that benefited victims of torture.

Given that we had no positive response to our demands, on December 1, 2014, the ex political prisoners of Rancagua started a hunger strike. This ended soon as we were granted a meeting in the Senate with Minister and Vice Minister of the Secretary General of the Presidency. At that meeting there was agreement to place our Valech pension at the same level of the Rettig pension. Furthermore, a trilateral commission composed by members of the government, the parliament and representative from our Ex Political Prisoners National Secretariat was agreed upon, charged with moving things in order to come up with the text of a law to send the legislature.

Up to now, the government failed to its part on this agreement. They never called in to the formation or meetings of the trilateral commission, much less moved on to increase our pensions. These are the reasons why we have been forced to re-start our hunger strike movement. After 5 days we have received the support of national and international organizations, and many individuals.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS

1. German parliamentary, Andrej Hunko
2. German parliamentary, Annette Groth
3. German parliamentary, Heike Hansel
4. German parliamentary, Martin Dolzer
5. Collective of Ex Political Prisoner from Calgary and Edmonton, Canada
6. Supporters and Friends from Italy
7. German Journal Junge Welt
8. Guillermo Lopez, USA
9. Organization of Ex Political Prisoners of Berlin, Germany
10. Support Organization from Hamburg, Germany

NATIONAL SUPPORTERS

1. Women Ex Political Prisoners of Magallanes
2. Organization of Ex Political Prisoners of Linares
3. Letter of support from Cristina Girardi, Member of Parliament
4. Salvador Allende GAP Cultural Center of Valparaiso
5. UNExPP Organization, Coyaique, Aysen
6. Former Prisoners Camp Tres y Cuatro Alamos Corporation
7. PRAIS (Health Plan for Political Prisoners) Valparaiso
8. Communist Party, San Felipe
9. Association of Ex Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War of Valparaiso
10. Organization of UNExPP Puerto Montt
11. Citizens Assembly Movement of Osorno
12. Public support of TV journalist Pamela Jiles
13. UNExPP Organization, Arica
14. ANExPP Chile Historical Organization

(1) Valech Pension. Chilean Law 19992, from December 24, 2004. Reparation pension to victims of human rights violations recognized as political prisoners and tortured people by a Commission headed by Sergio Valech, from where it took its name.

(2) Rettig Pension. Chilean Law 19123, from February 8, 1992. Reparation pension to direct relatives of disappeared and executed political prisoners. Took its name from the head of the Commission, Raul Rettig.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF EX POLITICAL PRISONERS AND RELATIVES

Santiago, April 17, 2015

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