



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS  
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS  
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER  
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**

**PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY**

## **Statement on the situation in Chile**

The International Association of Judges, in view of the situation in Chile, expresses its concern about the succession of events that, in recent months, have led to a serious deterioration of judicial independence.

Chile is currently facing a critical moment. Various initiatives and public actions tend to weaken the constitutional role of the judiciary, undermining the foundations on which the rule of law rests. Among these, we note with particular concern:

- The proposed constitutional reform of the judicial appointment system, which maintains and perpetuates political interference in the appointment and promotion of judges, jeopardizing institutional neutrality and maintaining spaces for undue influence in the judiciary, which have caused the recent serious scandals that have seriously affected the credibility of the justice system. Maintaining the decision on judicial appointments in the hands of the President of the Republic constitutes a setback in democratic standards and affects the rule of law.
- The instrumentalization of criminal law through complaints and accusations against judges and justices for the content of their judicial decisions, a practice that constitutes a form of institutional intimidation and a direct violation of the principle of judicial independence enshrined in the Constitution and in the international treaties signed by Chile.
- Threats and attacks against the personal safety of members of the judiciary, often amplified on social media or in the media, with the aim of intimidating the judicial function.

These events are part of a climate of delegitimization that seeks to influence the exercise of jurisdiction, undermining public confidence and weakening the principle of separation of powers.

Judicial independence is not a privilege of judges. It is an inalienable guarantee of individuals against power, recognized by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee, and the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary (UN, 1985). Its violation affects not only those who administer justice, but society as a whole, because without independent judges there can be no justice or real democracy.

We call on all branches of government, especially the legislative and executive branches, to cease initiatives and rhetoric that erode judicial independence and to promote reforms that strengthen it, not undermine it. We also demand concrete and urgent measures to protect the personal safety of judges, particularly in criminal and high-impact cases.

As an international organization, we will not remain silent in the face of attempts to intimidate or control the judiciary. We will firmly defend the autonomy of the Chilean judiciary, the safety of its members, and the right of every person to be tried by an independent, impartial court free from external pressure.

Without judicial independence, there is no rule of law.

Without the rule of law, there is no justice or democracy.