

# EYES ON CHILE: POLICE VIOLENCE AND COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE PERIOD OF SOCIAL UNREST

## FACTS & FIGURES

14 OCTOBER 2020

Amnesty International considers that Carabineros de Chile committed generalized human rights violations in the context of the country's protests in late 2019, and that commanders of the institution should be criminally investigated for failing to prevent these abuses from occurring.

This document summarizes the main facts and figures contained in the report *Eyes on Chile: Police Violence and command responsibility during the period of social unrest* (AMR 22/3133/2020) that sustain these conclusions.

### Generalized human rights abuses

The following facts and figures support the notion that Carabineros committed generalized violations of the right to personal integrity between 18 October and 30 November 2019:

- More than **12,500** people received emergency treatment during the period analyzed by this report, according to figures from the Ministry of Health.
- The Attorney General's Office recorded **5,558** victims of "institutional violence" during the period analyzed by this report, of which **4,170** reports were made against Carabineros officials. **1,938** of the total reports were for firearm injuries, and **834** were for injuries suffered by children or adolescents.
- **347** people suffered eye injuries during the period analyzed by this report, according to the National Human Rights Institute (INDH).
- The INDH filed **1264** human rights complaints against Carabineros for events taking place during the period of this report.
- Amnesty International documented in detail **12** cases of human rights abuses committed by Carabineros during the period of this report.
- Amnesty International verified videos of more than **200** incidents in which Carabineros violated international standards regarding the use of force during the period covered by this report.
- According to official information, Carabineros discharged **147,360** shotgun cartridges, each containing **12 rubberized buckshots** (pellet comprised of a mixture of rubber and metal), during the months of October and November 2019. Amnesty International found that this ammunition did not meet international standards.

## **Command responsibility**

The following facts and figures sustain Amnesty's conclusion that Carabineros commanders should be criminally investigated for failing to prevent human rights violations by members of the institution:

### *Knowledge of violations*

- Carabineros were notified or had public access to data from the INDH and Attorney General's Office regarding complaints made against Carabinero officials. These totaled **577** and **4,170** complaints from these two institutions respectively during the period analyzed by this report.
- Carabineros internal reporting systems registered **1,011** people injured between 18 October and 19 November, and **351** complaints from the public to its complaints and suggestions department.
- Multiple other channels existed by which commanders should have had knowledge that violations were occurring.

### *Failure to prevent abuses*

- The ammunition employed by Carabineros was particularly harmful, and it took **more than a month** for commanders to limit its use. The ammunition used was comprised of a **combination of metal and rubber**, and weighed **twice as much** as normal rubber pellets. It impacted with **12 times the force** of normal rubber pellets, piercing human skin and flesh. Each cartridge contains **12 pellets**, which disperse widely upon discharge making the ammunition highly indiscriminate.
- The deficient operational protocols used by Carabineros - particularly surrounding the use of shotguns - weren't modified substantively until **19 November**, by which time there were **already more than 250 eye injuries**.
- Amnesty International verified videos of **52** incidents in which Special Forces in the Metropolitan Area misused shotguns and tear gas grenade launchers, including multiple events in which the **same officials committed similar abuses on different days**. This case study demonstrates a lack of modification of operational planning based on human rights concerns by Carabineros commanders.
- Orders given by Carabineros strategic commanders remained imprecise and repetitive between 18 October and 19 November, despite continuous injuries. Average daily firearm injuries per day reduced from **57** to **12** once orders regarding shotguns were modified on 19 November. Average daily eye injuries reduced from **9** to **4** cases. These instructions should have been given earlier to protect people's right to physical integrity.
- Despite the number of complaints of potential human rights abuses levelled at Carabineros, the institution sanctioned just **175** officials for events relating to the protests. Just **9** members of the institutions were removed from service.