Since last October, civil protest was taking place throughout Chile, in response to a raise in the Santiago’s subway fare, the increased cost of living and inequality prevalent in the country, one of the most important in the neoliberalism’s tradition.

The protests began in Chile's capital, Santiago, as a coordinated fare evasion campaign by secondary school students which led to spontaneous takeovers of the city's main train stations and open confrontations with the national police. On October 18th, the situation escalated as a massive demonstration in the stations of Santiago’s subway. On the same day, President of Chile Sebastián Piñera announced a state of emergency, authorizing the deployment of Chilean Army forces across the main regions to enforce order, invoking before in the courts the State Security Law against dozens of detainees. A curfew was declared on October 19th in the Greater Santiago area.

In the following days, protests and riots expanded to other Chilean cities, including Concepción and Valparaiso. President Piñera addressed the nation on the afternoon of October 20th, saying the country was "at war with a powerful and implacable enemy" and announced that the state of emergency was extending to those cities and other regions, such as Antofagasta, Coquimbo, Iquique, La Serena, Rancagua, Valdivia, Osorno and Puerto Montt. The protests have been considered the "worst civil unrest" in Chile since the end of the military dictatorship of Augusto
Pinochet due to the number of protesters and the measures taken by the government.

During the demonstrations, more than 30 people have died, and thousands have been injured and almost 3000 arrested. The reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Amnesty International and Human Right Watch allege that state security forces, including both the police and army, deliberately use excessive force against protesters, with the unnecessary intention of injuring and punishing protesters. They received several reports of torture, inhuman treatment in police stations, sexual abuse and sexual assault against women and LGBTQ* community. The latter generated the massive and worldwide feminist choreography of “Las Tesis”.

According the National Institute of Human Rights (INDH, by his initials in Spanish), the use of rubber bullets by security forces has left almost 2500 injured, including more than 200 people with eye problems or blind.

On November 15th, most of the political parties represented in the National Congress signed an agreement to convene a national referendum on April 26th, regarding the creation of a new constitution and election of the mechanism to do so.

First, as IUSY we express our deeply condemn to the human right’s violation in Chile by the government of Sebastian Piñera. It’s a central concern the latest events that have taken place in Chile, with the approval of repression laws against demonstrations and the liberty of assembly. As young socialists, social democratic and labor we deplore the militaristic regression experienced by the Piñera’s government, along with regional experiments such as Bolsonaro, Vizcarra and Moreno.

Secondly, as IUSY we stand in solidarity with the Chileans who are being victims of repression and we call to stop these acts that threaten the people. Democracy is something that is built day by day, and not with actions that remind us of the worst moments of Pinochet’s dictatorship.

As Salvador Allende said, "they have the strength, but social processes do not stop with either crime or force ... history is ours and the people make it."
Finally, as IUSY we support the fight of the Chilean youth against the regressive policies of neoliberalism. The insurgency and open resistance have led to move the limits of the possible, and make a plebiscite for a new Constitution, calling on the people to repeal the last legacy of Pinochet and decide the most democratic mechanism for it. We support the campaign that lead our Chilean member organizations, to vote por “Apruebo” y “Convención Constitucional”, hoping a great popular day will develop in April.

Note: Please number each line!

KINDLY NOTE THAT THE LATEST DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS TO THE IUSY SECRETARIAT IS 17 FEBRUARY AT 23:59 CET. RESOLUTIONS MUST BE SENT TO congress@iusy.org