

Valparaíso Regional Prosecutor's Office
Señora Fiscal Regional de Valparaíso
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- Dear prosecutor,

With great concern I have been following the developments in the case of the members of **MODATIMA**.

Mujeres Modatima (Women Modatima, the Spanish acronym for Movement for the Defense of Access to Water, Land and Environmental Protection) is a women-led organisation from Petorca, in Chile's Valparaíso region. It was founded in 2017 due to the specific impact that the water crisis has had, specifically on the women of the territory, generating a negative impact on their and their families' lives. The organisation seeks to raise awareness and highlight the role of women in defending the environment.

The members of Modatima began to suffer surveillance, intimidation, stigmatization, censorship, harassment, administrative obstacles and threats that continue today, simply for demanding justice. They continue to lack proper investigations and protection from Chilean authorities. MODATIMA members Verónica Vilches, Lorena Donaire and Carolina Vilches have been especially targeted. On 13 February 2021, Verónica Vilches received a first death threat, on 6 June a second. As member / sympathizer of Amnesty International, I fear for her life. After both threats, the Investigative Police (PDI, Policía de Investigaciones de Chile) claimed they couldn't investigate due to unfulfilled administrative requirements. After this refusal, Amnesty International raised Verónica's case with you.

We are calling on Valparaíso Regional Prosecutor's Office and La Ligua Local Prosecutors Office to create expedited reporting channels for human rights defenders, and to pay special attention to Modatima Women given that they have already been victims of various attacks, and to ensure that the actions of the PDI and Carabineros are coordinated, timely and not intimidating.

Yours sincerely

Cc:

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