

General strike called in Chile in support of protests



Santiago de Chile, October 21 (RHC)-- Miners and dockers unions in Chile have called for a general strike in support of the protests against the government of President Sebastián Piñera, while the head of the National Defense Javier Iturriaga said Monday that he is not at war with anyone.

"The truth is that I am not at war with anyone," General Iturriaga said when asked about the latest statements by the president, who said Sunday he was "at war against a powerful enemy."

On Sunday night, Piñera delivered statements criminalizing the protests and diverting attention from the real causes of the demonstrations, while the protests continue to spread throughout the country, without a glimpse of a short-term solution.

From the early hours of the morning, large groups of people could be seen waiting for the opening of some metro stations and standing at bus stops. Groups of students and young people also gathered for peaceful marches down some of the Chilean capital's major avenues.

In a statement released late Sunday night, the workers of the largest private mining company in the country called for "paralyzing all the mining in Chile along with other productive sectors."

"We are going through the general strike until we break down the state of Emergency, take the military out of the streets, defeat the Piñera government and achieve each of the demands of the working people, popular sectors, youth, pensioners and women!" read the statement announcing the call.

The document argues that the protests are not just due to higher transport prices because that was only the trigger for this unrest because of the injustices that we experience every day.

Meanwhile, the workers of the Port Stowagers Union of Valparaíso issued a statement expressing their total rejection to the decree by Piñera, and support for the mass social demonstrations.

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