Fiscal Nacional
Ángel Valencia Vásquez
Fiscalía Nacional
Catedral 1421-1453
Santiago de Chile
**CHILE**

Dear Prosecutor General

I would like to bring your attention to Gustavo Gatica, a psychology student from Santiago. On 8 November 2019, he attended social justice protests against public transport price hikes and social inequality. He was shot and hit in both eyes with rubberized buckshot by security forces and left permanently blind as a result.

The officer who is suspected to have shot Gustavo Gatica was arrested and charged in August 2020 but since then the criminal proceedings have been slow, with the last preliminary court hearing on August 9, 2024 yielding little progress.

According to the Chilean Human Rights Institute, 10 568 criminal complaints have been filed by victims of human rights violations committed by police forces during the social unrest at the end of 2019. However, only a small proportion have so far led to charges being brought against the security forces responsible.

Therefore, I call on you to end the impunity and to ensure justice for Gustavo Gatica and all other victims of police violence during the 2019 protests. Only a man of your authority can demand swift, thorough and independent trial proceedings in Gustavo Gatica’s case and achieve a resolution, which involves not only prosecuting the suspected direct perpetrator, but also those responsible for the violent actions of the police.

Yours sincerely