



GARN
GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

**The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) response to cancelation of COP25 In Chile and reassignment to Spain
November, 12, 2019**

The uprising of the people of Chile carries the echoes of struggles around the world against a system that is collapsing as it places corporate profit over the well-being of people and the planet. The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) stands in solidarity with the people of Chile who are standing up for their rights and dignity.

To many on the outside, the civil unrest in Chile started with a rise of 30 pesos in subway fares. But the uprising there, like in so many places around the world, is actually a consequence of a collapsing system that brings wealth to the few at the expense of the many, exploits our Mother Earth, and creates the conditions for climate chaos.

One of the chants on the streets of Santiago is “it’s not 30 pesos, it’s 30 years,” referring to the promises made for the future following the end of the Pinochet dictatorship in 1990. Those promises for peace and prosperity that ended military rule 30 years ago were not kept, and instead neoliberal economic policies and market-based solutions were ushered in, and now those unjust policies have failed. Chile’s so-called middle class lives below the poverty line. The resistance that has erupted on the streets of Chile has been met by government repression, violence, militarization, criminalization and deaths. Large corporations, with state complicity, have generated true “Sacrifice Zones” where communities must live with their collapsed and highly contaminated territory.

In the midst of this vital moment in Chile, GARN continues to support the organization of the 5th International Rights of Nature Tribunal, which will still take place on December 5, 2019 in Santiago. Chilean cases will be the main focus of this Tribunal, including a case concerning the privatization of water. GARN and its members do not support the commodification of Nature and stand in solidarity with Chilean civil society and social movements who are resisting the privatization of water.

Furthermore, GARN stands in solidarity with movement leaders in Chile who are calling for a new Constitution and offer our support should Chileans wish to incorporate Rights of Nature into a new vision for a socially just and ecologically healthy Chile. To strengthen this demand coming from the Chilean movements, GARN is organizing a forum on “Rights of Nature, Water and Plurinationality in Constitutional Code,” to share the experiences of Ecuador and Bolivia, two countries that have included Rights of Nature laws in their governance systems. The forum will explore leveraging the opportunity that Chile currently has for including Rights of Nature into this transformational moment.

GARN will also maintain a presence at COP25 in Spain to ensure the continued advocacy of the Rights of Nature internationally.

GARN supports the vision of the people of Chile and around the world who want systemic change and to realize a more just and peaceful future for the entire Earth community as we face urgent socio-ecological crises.