



# Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union Construction & General Division

New South Wales Branch

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24 January 2008

Ms Michelle Bachelet Jeria  
President of Chile  
[contact@msgg.gov.cl](mailto:contact@msgg.gov.cl)

Dear President

The Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union(CFMEU) is the largest trade union in Australia covering workers in the building and construction, forestry, coal mining and energy industries.

We are most concerned about the plight of the Mapuche political prisoners and in particular Patricia Troncoso, who is on a three month hunger strike and is in a very critical health condition. The purpose of the hunger strike is to demand the freedom of all the Mapuche political prisoners, as well as denounce both the harassment and militarisation of the Mapuche Territories and the framing that has been implemented to condemn Mapuche people of different crimes.

Ms Troncoso is currently serving a ten year sentence for a conviction of terrorism under laws that were introduced by Pinochet. The CFMEU supports calls to stop the use of Pinochet's laws and the return of Mapuche lands, currently in the hands of forestry companies, to the Mapuche communities.

The CFMEU understands that negotiations have previously taken place but they have broken down. We demand that these injustices stop and that all Mapuche political prisoners are released and that their lives are respected.

Yours faithfully

ANDREW FERGUSON  
*State Secretary.*