



**UNIÓN DE EX PRISIONEROS
POLÍTICOS DE CHILE UNExPP
de Chile**



**AGRUPACIÓN NACIONAL
FAMILIARES DE EX-PP
FALLECIDOS DE CHILE**



**AGRUPACION DE EX
PRISIONEROS POLITICOS
RANCAGUA**



**AGRUPACION DE EX
PRISIONEROS POLITICOS
SAN FELIPE**

PUBLIC STATEMENT #2

Today, April 19, 2015, after seven days on hunger strike the strikers Cesareo Hidalgo, 74 years old, in Rancagua, and Gabriel Bahamondes, 70 years old, in San Felipe, were forced to leave the hunger strike due medical decompensation. Both men have been admitted in local hospitals in their respective cities and are being treated and their health monitored by medical personnel.

The active strikers from Rancagua declared, "Our decision is that as of this coming Tuesday, April 21, we will only drink water, tea and coffee. We are 17 hunger strikers and our average age is 70."

This is the price former political prisoners have to pay in order to be listened and have a solution to their problems by the government. We have been now a week on hunger strike and the government has been incapable to even attempt a solution. What they have done though is to reinforce the larger media silence about our movement.

The government thought we would not continue the hunger strike we suspended last December 2014 based on their promises. Today, however, there three cities where we have people on hunger strike. We hope that this week ex political prisoners from other cities will also join us.

We can only say that we will continue this struggle, and we now the cost we will have to pay. Yet, we also know that social demands can only be achieved through active struggle and not giving up.

We call upon all human rights organizations to support our movement. We can no longer keep on waiting as that will only defeat us. Our struggle is just. Our demands are the demands of all human rights victims, of all the humiliated, tortured, and all those who died as martyrs.

This is why we will continue on this struggle until we reach our goal:

* An official, public commitment by the State and the Chilean government to grant us compensation according to the agreement reached last December 9, with the Minister Secretary General of the Presidency.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF EX POLITICAL PRISONERS AND RELATIVES

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