

Dear IAP President  
International Association of Prosecutors

I am pleased to forward you this email on behalf of Mr. Sabas Chahuán Sarrás.

Sincerely  
Jorge Chocair Lahsen  
Director of the Specialized Unit for International Cooperation and Extradition  
Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile

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Mr. Francois Falletti  
President  
International Association of Prosecutors

Dear Sir,

I am deeply saddened to submit this missive, but the tragic recent events in Chile --known to the world-- leave me no other option.

As you are aware, this past February 27th Chile was struck by one of the world's strongest earthquakes on record, reaching a level of 8.8 on the Richter scale. The quake was followed by a tsunami which destroyed many villages and towns along Chile's southern coast.

As you can image, the situation in Chile at this time is complex. While power and water have been restored to much of the population in major urban areas, in the those hardest hit the situation is radically different. A definitive assessment is not yet possible, cadavers continue to appear --the death toll is already over 1,000, a number much higher than expected in a country so well prepared for this type of natural disaster - and emergency rescue teams are only now able to access many more remote locations.

A State of Catastrophe has been declared in several regions, pursuant to the provisions of Chile's constitution. The new administration--which will take office next week-- has announced that priorities will shift to the reconstruction of the devastated areas. While human life is invaluable and irrecoverable and the amount of physical damage has not yet been quantified, we do know that the challenges before the nation will be substantive.

For our part, the Prosecutor's office has also suffered serious damage to our installations and communications systems. Although the extent of that damage is not yet clear, we know that the effort to rebuild will absorb a substantive portion of our budget for the year.

As a result of these events, I deeply regret to inform you that Chile will NOT be able to host the IAP General Assembly and Annual Meeting or the Summit of Attorneys General as originally

planned. Moreover, the situation is so grave that I must cancel my participation in the Executive Committee meeting in Prague.

Please accept my deepest apologies and know that this most regrettable decision seeks only to allow us to focus on the reconstruction effort at this most trying of times.

We trust you will understand and wish us well.

Sincerely,

SABAS CHAHUÁN SARRÁS  
General Prosecutor of Chile  
Member of the IAP Executive Committee