



*Embassy of Chile*  
*Office of the Ambassador*

Washington June 16, 2023

The Honorable Luis Correa  
U.S. Representative  
Dear Mr. Correa,

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letter from yesterday, in which you, along with Representative Mike Levin, express your concerns about the increase in burglaries across the United States, particularly in Southern California, which may be related to compliance with our bilateral agreements on information-sharing under the Visa Waiver Program.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere dismay and concern about the participation of Chilean citizens in crimes such as those described in your letter. The Government of Chile condemns these acts as well as any misuse of the Visa Waiver Program, and this has been expressed from the most senior political level. Some 350,000 Chileans benefit from this program every year, therefore we highly value our participation in it.

This concern has already led to a series of actions. Among them, we can report that the Police Attaché of this Embassy, Commissioner Eliana Ramos, traveled to the city of Los Angeles after the statements of District Attorney Todd Spitzer to offer our country's full cooperation in investigating any crime that has been committed. During her visit, the attaché met with officials from the FBI and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Ms. Ramos is available at all times to assist all U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Furthermore, over the last few months the Government of Chile and the Department of Homeland Security have been negotiating an agreement that will strengthen the technical and human resources capacities of our police, in order to share with the United States in a timely manner the criminal records of ESTA applicants as well as issuing alerts on travelers to the United States. We are very close to reaching a consensus. A new round of negotiations will be held next week in Washington, D.C., where we hope to come to an agreement on pending matters.

I avail myself of this opportunity to convey the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan Gabriel Valdés".

Juan Gabriel Valdés  
Ambassador of Chile to the United States