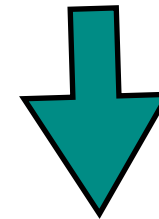


Mapuche Background Information:



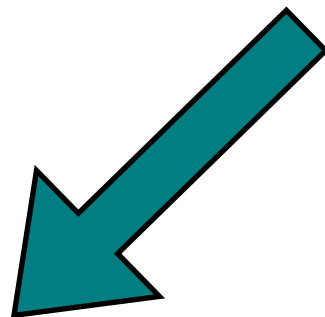
Who is Judge Juan Guzman Tapia?

He is the judge who prosecuted the Chilean Dictator Pinochet in the late 1990s. The documentary about Juan and his experience investigating crimes committed under Pinochet is: *The Judge and the General*; it can be found on NetFlix instant play. [View the trailer on YouTube.](#)



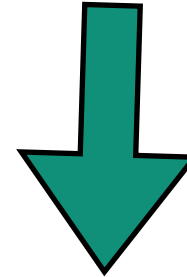
Who is Pinochet?

A military dictator who came into power after the US-supported coup d'état on September 11, 1973. The coup culminated with an air strike of the Presidential Palace, La Moneda, resulting in the death of democratically elected Marxist President Salvador Allende. During the 16 years Pinochet was in power, thousands of young, educated men and women from all classes disappeared. These men and women were placed in torture camps, and/or murdered by military and intelligence forces.



How is this related to the Mapuche?

The Mapuche were further marginalized under the Pinochet regime, and anti-terrorism laws and military tribunals instituted during the Pinochet era are now used to unjustly imprison Mapuche leaders and individuals.



....and who are the Mapuche?

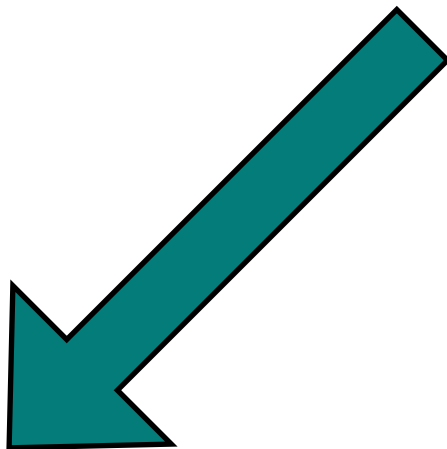
The Mapuche, known by the Spanish as Araucanians, are an indigenous group that pre-date the Spanish conquest. As a nation, they have resisted the Inca and the Spanish colonizers to maintain their land and culture. The resilience of the Mapuche led to their lawful acquisition of land under the Spanish Crown during the 1800s; however, when Chile became an independent nation-state, Bernardo O'Higgins, the first Chilean President, parceled off Mapuche land to European settlers, forcing the Mapuche into smaller pieces of land. Today the Mapuche still struggle to maintain their land, which is now being purchased by MNCs/TNCs and/or polluted by said corporations and the Chilean government.

Helpful Links:

[The Mapuche Pursue Self-Determination](#)

[Mapuche International](#)

[About the Mapuche Language](#)



Mapuche Timeline:

1540: Spanish arrival in Chile. Mapuche occupy most of the present-day country. According to the Treaty of Quilin, the Mapuche agreed to stay south of the Bio Bio river.

1810: Chile wins independence from Spain.

1881 - 1883: The Mapuche are pacified by the Chilean government and settle in small, separate reserves.

1929: By this year, there are 3,078 reserves.

1972: Under the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende, Mapuche landholdings increase due to land reform policies.

1973: Immediate reversals of land reform occur under the military junta.

1979: Decree Law No. 2568 threatens Mapuche communities, refusing to recognize their indigenous rights.

1988: Pinochet loses the plebiscite which eventually ends his presidency.

1993: Indigenous groups in Chile - and their languages and culture - are recognized by law, which enacted land protections and provisions against racial discrimination. Additionally, the Indigenous Development Cooperation (CONADI) fund was created.

*Adapted from “Balancing Economic Considerations and the Rights of Indigenous People: The Mapuche People of Chile” by Jane Newbold, Published in *Sustainable Development*, August 2004