

Chile - Settlement René Schneider II



Credito de la foto : Radio.uchile.cl

The third and final eviction took place around eight o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, March 14, 2018, when a group of Special Forces - military police specialized in riot dispersion - appeared in the upper central sector of Antofagasta to evict the René Schneider II camp, composed of **90 families**. Before that date, the police had already evicted the camp a couple of times but not with the violence of the latter, because in the two previous evictions the families had not yet managed to build their homes.

On the day of the eviction, there were mainly women, girls, boys and the elderly, since a large part of the men were in their paid jobs. **As the neighbours report, the eviction was quite violent, two leaders were arrested and a newborn baby suffered some minor injuries.**

This eviction took place in the context of the transfer of the last Bachelet government and the beginning of the second Piñera government (the change of government occurred on March 11). The previous and March evictions took place **in the context of zero tolerance measures for new settlements in the city of Antofagasta by the Provincial Government, following the significant increase in camps from 2015 to date.**

The closest precedent in time was that of the Balmaceda macrocamp, where the regional government ordered the relocation of more than 100 families with military aid, with the justification of protecting their security because they were under high voltage towers.

Source : Pablo Rojas Varas

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But what's the problem with this particular camp?

The government has a fixation with René Schneider II because since the previous government a kind of doctrine has been promoted that does not tolerate new takeovers: "It is a very artificial distinction between camps and takeovers, on the basis that a camp would be a more established informal settlement and a takeover would be an attempt to take a piece of land and turn it into a camp. What the authority says is that the seizures are illegal, but the seizure as the beginning of usurpation of land is the first phase of a camp. A camp is a more consolidated take. The intention is to contain the birth of new camps. The issue with Schneider is that it is the first new settlement in this new government, so it has gained more visibility," adds Rojas.

Currently in the Antofagasta region, according to the TECHO-Chile Camp Monitor, **there are 60 camps, with almost 7,000 families living in them.** Antofagasta is the region that has most increased its number of settlements in recent years, so the offensive of local authorities to curb growth.

Source : Uchile Newspaper - April 4, 2018



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