

# *International Protect Life Award*

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## NGO Leaders Praise Chile

### International Protect Life Award recognizes achievements in reduction of maternal mortality, and care and concern for the child to be born

Over 30 NGO leaders active at the United Nations praised Chile for having the lowest maternal mortality rate in all of Latin America. In a communication to President Piñera announcing the group's decision to designate its International Protect Life Award to the people of Chile, the leaders celebrated that more Chilean women have safely delivered their babies than ever before.

The committee announced the award today at the UN during the 2011 Meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and emphasized the importance the UN places on reducing maternal mortality within the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The leaders also referenced the ways Chile through its constitution and other programs provided for care and protection of the child before birth. Specifically mentioned was that the "Chile Crece Contigo" ("Chile Grows with You") program begun by former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet and meant to advocate for the well-being and protection of young children, has always included strong awareness that the unborn child is a member of the family.\* Also mentioned by the NGO leaders was the new "Comprometidos por la Vida" ("Committed to Life") program announced by President Piñera to offer assistance to pregnant women in difficult circumstances in order to carry their babies to term.

"Improving women's health and respecting human life are key elements for all countries who wish to achieve real development," according to Julia Cardenal of El Salvador, one of the signers of the letter to President Piñera.

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\* Video of 2 TV spots from "Chile Crece Contigo":  
Spanish: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lvi6v613pw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lvi6v613pw)  
English: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEzoDr\\_Wrdg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEzoDr_Wrdg)