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Three children lost in the neoliberal paradise (Chilean)

Luckily these three lost children, who decided to flee and walk for six days, were found safe and sound on public roads. They decided to make that journey so as not to be detected by relatives.



Hugo Farias Moya

Here is a tale that is not fairy, precisely. And it doesn't start, as usual for... *"Once upon a time..."* The children, turned into a market. Where? In Chile. [N. de Politika]

Shocking news reached the media and shows us the sad reality of our country, paradise of the neoliberal model. Three children, who should be at home, enjoying the love and comfort of their home, decided to escape from their aunt's side after learning that they were going to be sent into the hands of that sinister institution: "Better childhood", which was once the infamous SENAME.

These children lived with their aunt momentarily, but when the children learned that they were going to be taken from that family home to a private institution, they decided to escape and wander for six long days on the streets living on public charity. Possibly the emotional toll on those children was terrible. The older sister may have been aware of the long history of horrors that children endured in these institutions, which were supposed to look after the physical and mental well-being of children.



If this had happened in a country like Cuba, Nicaragua or Venezuela we would have all the media, both written and digital, crying in the sky, condemning what, for the right of Chile and internationally, would be an atrocious crime. But it didn't. It happened in a country that deigns and boasts of being the most developed in our Latin America.

I imagine these children sleeping rough on these cold winter days. I imagine them walking for long hours, begging for food and shelter. Not having a place to clean themselves or less evacuate their organic waste. They were three children aged 5, 8 and 13. That is, in the period where infants should enjoy games, the affection of their families, sheltered by a

warm and safe home. Where children are formed in their skills that complement education and instruction, to make them useful people to society.

These children are the result of the lack of protection in which the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of Chile find themselves. Where drugs, alcohol, overcrowding and misery flood our populations. There in that rottenness the State does not arrive, or rather it ignores it. A representative of the government of Sebastián Piñera once said a phrase for bronze: *I did not know the degree of poverty and overcrowding that existed in my country.* However, as minister he was in charge of the health of the entire population of Chile. In short, a total disconnection from reality.

So for the right everything is limited to business at the expense of people's basic needs, such as housing, health and education. Of course, for the right these children are a consumer good, where some profit can be made. However, these three children have rights that are supposedly guaranteed by the State, which of course it has failed to fulfill.



Intervention No more Sename | Photo: Courtesy

This SENAME institution, after receiving enormous criticism for its abject record. In fact, from 2005 to 2016, 878 children and adolescents died. All these deaths documented by the Public Ministry and the prosecutor's office. However, nearly 400 deaths have been investigated. Leaving in impunity about 60% of these crimes.

These victims were run by private institutions that received state subsidies, such as private schools. A business model inherited from the military dictatorship. These care institutions are run by unscrupulous traders who seek profitability on their investments. These children

and adolescents were poorly fed, poorly cared for. With dependents who did not have the skills to care for children coming from damaged homes. There are many known cases of rape, torture and sexual exploitation of children.

The most emblematic case that definitely aroused the indignation of society was to know the case of the girl Lisette Villa, 11 years old in charge of the Galvarino home, who was tortured and suffocated until her death in the hands of her "caregivers".



Photo: Courtesy

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Fortunately this sad story has a happy ending. For now.

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