

ENGLISH EDITION

Trial Begins for Former PDI Director Héctor Espinosa as Prosecutors Seek 20-Year Sentence for Embezzling 146 Million Pesos

El Ciudadano · 6 de octubre de 2025

The former police chief is charged with embezzlement, money laundering, and falsification of public documents. According to evidence cited by the Public Ministry, Espinosa allegedly funneled part of the stolen money through the network that carried out the scheme and kept the rest, depositing it into his own accounts and those of his wife, Magdalena Neira, who is also charged with money laundering.



With the case formally read at Santiago's Fourth Oral Criminal Court, the oral trial of Hector Espinosa, former director of Chile's Investigations Police (PDI), began on Monday, October 6.

In this case, prosecutors accuse the ex-police chief of misappropriating roughly 146 million pesos in reserved public funds for personal use during his five-year tenure leading the PDI. For these alleged crimes, the Public Ministry is seeking a 20-year prison sentence for Espinosa.

The prosecution plans to present 83 witnesses, three expert reports, and extensive documentary evidence, the office said after the first day of the criminal proceedings.

According to press reports citing evidence held by the Public Ministry, Espinosa allegedly distributed part of the diverted money along the chain that executed the embezzlement and kept the rest, depositing it into his own checking accounts at

BancoEstado and Banco de Chile, as well as into accounts belonging to his wife, Magdalena Neira, who is also charged with money laundering.

□ Fiscalía de alta complejidad Oriente. inicio juicio oral contra

Delitos por acusado:

Héctor Espinoza, exdirector General de la PDI

Malversación de caudales públicos, falsificación de instrumento público y lavado de activos

Marela Magdalena Neira: lavado de activos. pic.twitter.com/FK3BsQ2YLQ

□□ Fiscalía Oriente (@fiscaliaorient) [October 6, 2025](#)

‘Associate’ of Hermosilla

As previously reported by El Ciudadano, a forensic review of attorney Luis Hermosilla's cellphone revealed multiple messages from then PDI director Sergio Muñoz who succeeded Héctor Espinosa allegedly sharing confidential information about several cases, including the one targeting Espinosa.

Earlier, in November 2019 at the height of Chile's social unrest, Espinosa appeared to defend Andrés Chadwick before a Chamber of Deputies committee that was evaluating the constitutional accusation against former Interior Minister for President Piñera. Read more:

They Were All Associates of Luis Hermosilla: The day former PDI director Hegctor Espinosa defended Andre9s Chadwick before the National Congress

Prosecutors seek 20-year prison term for former PDI director Hegctor Espinosa over embezzlement of 146 million pesos

El Ciudadano

Fuente: El Ciudadano