

NEWS LETTER

Number 113

July 2002

CONTENTS

- **INAUGURATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS NATIONAL CENTER**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS**
Recommendation 23/2002, 24/2002, 25/2002 AND 26/2002
- **DOMESTIC RELATIONS**
CALL FOR: Third Essay Contest on Disability
The CNDH signed a Cooperation Agreement with several NGO's
Annual Cycle of Conferences and Round Tables: Human Rights and Globalization
Training Courses
- **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
First Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas
- **PUBLICATION**

INAUGURATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS NATIONAL CENTER

Past July 12 the new offices of Mexico's Human Rights National Center (CENADEH) were inaugurated. Their purpose is to give attention to the needs for university level academic investigation, exchanging information with specialized institutions and the formation of interdisciplinary researchers in the field of promotion and defense of fundamental rights.

The CENADEH emerges as an institution serving as the academic instance for the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights. The work of this Center includes three fundamental areas: university level academic research, exchanges with specialized institutions and the formation of interdisciplinary researchers.

The CENADEH wants to become a space for interdisciplinary academic thinking, where studies are made on actual problems facing our country, as well as the international community, in the field of human rights, and that as a result it will propose, based both on empirical and documental research, lines of action to deal with them.

The CNDH's Documentation and Library Center is now part of the Center, with its more than 34,126 documentary materials, and it will continue with its task of helping the personnel of the Mexican National Commission as well as the general public, interested in the study, teaching and promotion of human rights.

Some of the subjects researched by the Center are: constitutional tribunals and human rights, the human genome, studies on human dignity and its influence as a basis for human rights, as well as a diagnosis of torture in Mexico. Other areas of study include: history, sociology, philosophy and anthropology of human rights, as well as dignity, justice and legality.

Present at the inauguration of the CENADEH were Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández, President of the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights and Senators Diego Fernández de Cevallos and Enrique Jackson Ramírez, who proceeded to cut the inaugural ribbon and unveil a commemorative plate. Among those also present were México's Federal District's Attorney General, Bernardo Batiz Vázquez, Senator Sadot Sánchez Carreño, as well as the Presidents of the different State Commissions for Human Rights, representatives of non-governmental organizations and of universities and research centers. Dr. Luis García López-Guerrero who is the Head of the Center, has had ample experience in teaching and research of the human rights.

The CENADEH's address is: Río Magdalena 108, Colonia Tizapan San Angel, Delegación Álvaro Obregón, C.P. 01090, México. Tel: (52) 55- 56-16-86-92 al 97.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 23/2002

July 3, 2002

Case: As a result of the appeal presented simultaneously by Alvaro Arroyo Núñez, Socorro Alvarado and Pedro Lujan Holguín.
Authority Addressed: Municipal President of Saucillo, Chihuahua.

The Mexican National Commission received three appeals sent by the Chihuahua State Commission for Human Rights, presented by Alvaro Arroyo Núñez, Socorro Alvarado Armendariz and Pedro Luján Holguín, against the Municipal President of Saucillo, Chihuahua, due to his refusal to give an answer to recommendations 68/2000, 69/2000 and 72/2000, issued by that State's Commission on October 19, 2000, asking "that an investigatory procedure be initiated" against the ex Director of Public Safety of the Municipality of Saucillo, Chihuahua.

After the facts were analyzed, this National Organism found evidence that the grievances expressed by all the plaintiffs were well founded and that as a result of the fight which the complaints had on March 18, 2000, elements of the Municipal Police of Saucillo, Chihuahua, headed by its then Director of Public Safety, detained the first plaintiff for 36 hours without any legal justification, imposed upon the second plaintiff an excessive fine without having presented him before a responsible officer to assess the situation and without subjecting him to due procedure in order to establish the importance of the accusations, as established in the Statute of the Police and for Good Government of said municipality, and that they beat the third person, violating with their actions, against the plaintiffs, the human rights of freedom, legality, juridical safety, to get a dignified treatment and be respected in their physical integrity.

Based on the above, the CNDH issued Recommendation 23/2002, addressed to the Municipal President of Saucillo, Chihuahua, with the purpose of having it accept Recommendations 68/2000, 69/2000 and 72/2000, issued by the Chihuahua State Commission for Human Rights, and consequently, that its terms be carried out.

Recommendation 24/2002

July 9, 2002

Case: Mr. Pedro Arenas Galicia and others.
Authority Addressed: Minister of Federal Public Safety and General Director of Federal Toll Roads and Bridges and Related Services.

On July 5, 2001, the Mexican National Commission received the written complaint of Mr. José Antonio Arenas Galicia, forwarded by the State of México's Human Rights Commission, in which the plaintiff stated that on June 24, 2001, his brother Pedro Arenas Galicia and Mrs. Efrain Everardo Ramos Tovar and Gabriel Gallegos García had an accident in the México-Piramides Highway, having overturned and the car having ended its fall upon its roof; and that as a result of this, his brother Pedro suffered bodily injuries that put his life at risk and later causing his death.

From the analysis of the facts, the CNDH had evidence that the human rights of life and the protection of health had been violated in the case of Mr. Pedro Arenas Galicia, in as much as the actions and omissions of the Federal Preventive Police officers and of the Doctor in attendance at the General Direction of Federal Toll Roads and Bridges, were the cause of his demise by not having given him the timely medical attention he needed. They did not grant Mrs. Everardo Ramos Tovar and Gabriel Gallegos García their right to legality and legal safety when they unduly arrested and detained them.

Based upon the above stated, the Mexican National Commission issued Recommendation 24/2002, addressed to the Federal Preventive Police Commissioner and to the General Director of Federal Toll Roads and Bridges and Related Services, recommending that the due administrative process of said investigation be duly integrated and that the terms expressed in this Recommendation be fully carried out.

Recommendation 25/2002

July 11, 2002

Case: Mr. Miguel Santiago Piñón Gutiérrez.
Authority Addressed: Municipal President of Chihuahua.

On March 8, 2002, this Mexican National Commission received the appeal presented by Mrs. Faustina Gutiérrez Hernández against the non acceptance of Recommendation 2/2002, dated January 11, 2002, addressed by the Chihuahua State Commission for Human Rights to the Lawyer Jorge Horacio Barousse Moreno, at the time Municipal President of Chihuahua, in that State, due to the fact that his refusal denotes partiality in the case.

From the analysis of the facts, that harmed to Miguel Santiago Piñón, who was injured in his right leg by a bullet that was shot at him by an agent of the Municipal Police when he was running away from the place where a fight took place in which he got involved, the

Mexican National Commission proved that there were sufficient elements to establish that the Recommendation of the State Commission was issued according to Law.

As a consequence of the above, the Mexican National Commission issued Recommendation 25/2002 addressed to the Municipal President of Chihuahua, asking him to please accept Recommendation 2/2002 issued by the Chihuahua State Commission for Human Rights, and consequently, install an administrative procedure in said terms, as a result of the considerations expressed in the present Recommendation.

Recommendation 26/2002
July 25, 2002

Case: Appeal presented by Mr. Noé Jiménez Pablo and the inhabitants of the San José Community, in the Municipality of Marqués de Comillas, Chiapas.
Authority Addressed: Constitutional Governor of the State of Chiapas.

On February 25, 2002, the Mexican National Commission received the appeal presented by Mr. Noé Jiménez Pablo and the inhabitants of the San José Community, in the Municipality of Marqués de Comillas, Chiapas, in which they stated their non conformity as a result of the non acceptance by the local Commission of Recommendation 1/2002, issued in January 2002, addressed to the Constitutional Governor of the State of Chiapas, to the Attorney General and to the Secretary of Public Safety of said State.

From the analysis of the documents received, as well as from the investigation carried out by the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, it was established that the grievance claimed by Mr. Noé Jiménez Pablo was founded, in view of the evidence of the fact that his rights to legality and legal safety were violated, as a result of an irregular carrying out of the initial investigation by public servants of the State of Chiapas Attorney General's Office.

In the same manner the Mexican National Commission considered that the grievance expressed by the inhabitants of the Marqués de Comillas Municipality of Chiapas, was well founded, by virtue of the evidence proving that violations to their human rights had taken place, regarding their personal integrity, legality and legal safety, by the cruel treatment received as a result of the unlawful exercise of their attributions carried out by public servants working for the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Public Safety of that State.

For this reason, the CNDH issued Recommendation 26/2002, addressed to the Constitutional Governor of the State of Chiapas, asking him to fulfill in accordance with law the terms presented in the text of this Recommendation.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Call For: Third Essay Contest on Disability

In order to promote and further studies, analysis and proposals on the subject of disability, the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights in coordination with the office responsible for the Program on Disability and its Prevention at the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), the Commission for the Rights and Integration of Disabled Persons of the Federal District's Legislative Assembly, the Delegate's Office of the President for Social Promotion and Interaction of Disabled Persons, the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education (ANUIES), are asking federal and local legislators, organizations of and for disabled persons, and professionals interested in the subject of the human rights of disabled persons as well as the general public, to participate in the Essay Contest under the following:

RULES:

This contest is open from the 15 of July to the 15 of September, to any person who is either studying at the University level or is a professional in fields related to the attention or integration of persons with disabilities.

The papers must be individually presented in original.

Essays will be received on physical, sensory, psychological and intellectual disabilities in one of the three following categories:

Disability and legislation

Disabilities and public policies

Human Rights and Disability

The papers must be delivered containing the name of the essay and signed with a pseudonym on the front page, both in printed form and in a 3 ½ Word diskette. Attached, in a sealed envelope, must be the full name of the contestant (name, address, telephone, fax, email, pseudonym and title of the paper).

The essays have to be a short text expressing the critical way of thinking of the author using as reference other authors and facts to sustain his/her point of view. The essay consists of an exposition, a presentation of the arguments or thoughts on a specific subject of a systematic character as it needs to have a thesis, antithesis and synthesis.

The essay will be graded taking into consideration form and content. No work will be accepted without an introduction, conclusions, notes and bibliography.

The papers have to be at least 15 pages long with a maximum of 30 pages, written on letter size paper, only on one side of the page, double spaced and with Arial or Times New Roman 12 point font.

All of the papers have to be handed to the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, Periférico Sur 4118, Torre Zafiro 1, segundo piso, Colonia Jardines del Pedregal, Delegación Álvaro Obregón, C. P. 01900, México, D. F.

The Jury will be composed of specialists in the fields of law, human rights and disability from each one of the organizing institutions. The Jury's decision will be taken by majority vote and will be final.

Any prize can be declared empty.

Special recognitions will be given to those papers who deserve it.

No paper will be accepted after the 15th of September. In the case of mailed entries, consideration will be given to the date of the postal seal.

AWARDS

Three awards will be handed out:

First Place will receive 15 thousand pesos, a package of books edited by the CNDH and a diploma.

Second Place will get 10 thousand pesos, a package of books edited by the CNDH and a diploma.

Third Place will get 5 thousand pesos, a package of books edited by the CNDH and a diploma.

The results will be announced on November 15, 2002, being published in the principal newspapers and in the web pages of the organizers.

Additional information: Tel. (52) 55- 51 35 06 01 to 08, extensions 3134, 3137 y 3140; email: amena@cndh.org.mx

The CNDH signed Cooperation Agreements with several NGO's

Last July 20, several Cooperation Agreements were signed between the CNDH and thirteen non governmental organizations.

Said agreements established, among other issues, the development of activities in prevention of the violation of fundamental guarantees, especially aimed at society's most vulnerable groups, such as women and children and those who are being deprived of their freedom.

Annual Cycle of Conferences and Round Tables: "Human Rights and Globalization"

During the month of July, 4 round tables took place. The first one met on July 4, its theme was "Education and Human Rights", and the participants were Ms. Concepción Chávez of the United Nations Mexican Association and Doctor Samuel Arriarán Cuéllar, researcher at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional. The Second Round Table took place on July 11 and was devoted to the theme "ILO's 169 Agreement" and the participants were the Ethno Historian Ana Hilda Ramírez Contreras, from the National Indigenous Institute (INI), Doctor Jorge Alberto González Galván, researcher at the Institute of Legal Investigations of Mexico's National University (UNAM) and the Anthropologist Marisol Melesio Nolasco, CNDH specialist in Indigenous Affairs.

The third round table was held on July 18, and its theme was "Discrimination and Violence Against Women". The participants were the Lawyer Victoria Adato Green, Coordinator of the Program on Women's, Children's and Family Affairs of the CNDH, and the Lawyer Cristina Zepeda from the organization "Siembra: La Banca de Mujeres" (Planting Seeds: A Woman's Bank). Finally, on July 25, the

Fourth Round Table took place and it was devoted to the theme of "Children's Rights: Trafficking, Prostitution and Child Pornography with the participation of Ms. Ana Teresa Aranda Orozco, Director of the National Program for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF) and Doctor Elena Azaola, researcher at the Center for Social Anthropology Research and Graduate Studies (CIESAS).

Remember: The meetings take place, year round, every Thursday, in the Dr. Eduardo García Máynez Auditorium at the Faculty of Law, at the UNAM, Circuito Escolar, University City, México, D.F.

Training Courses

The National Commission for Human Rights, in strict compliance with the spirit promoted by the institution of the Ombudsman for the promotion of the study, teaching and diffusion of Human Rights, held during the month of July, 2002, 103 activities, among them 14 conferences, 30 workshops and 19 courses.

With the same spirit, meeting was held with different non governmental organizations devoted to the defense and protection of human rights.

The main subjects of the training courses were many: "Basic Aspects of Human Rights", "Introduction to Human Rights and Civil Society", "The Foundations of Human Rights", "Rights of Childhood", " Specific Recourses for the Attention and Treatment of Victims of Family Violence", "Human Rights of Persons with Different Abilities", "Human Rights of Migrants, Women and Children", "Human Rights of Patients", "Human Rights and the Federal Prevention Police", "Use of Force and Firearms", "Torture and Human Rights", "Instruments to Aid and Finance an NGO", "Mediation", among others.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

First Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas

The Coordinating Committee of the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas met on July 17 and 18 in San José, Costa Rica. This was the first reunion of the Committee, integrated by the national human rights institutions of Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica and México, since the General Assembly of the Network in Kingston, Jamaica, on March, 2002.

Among the subjects discussed were the financial situation of the Network, the strengthening of the human rights institutions in the region, the aid in favor of new institutions, the relationship with other human rights institutions and NGO's, as well as the planning of the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Network and the workshops on important subjects.

The members of the Coordinating Committee agreed to hold the next meeting of the General Assembly next March, 2003, as well as to hold a workshop in Costa Rica in the last week of October, 2002, on the subject of the human rights of disabled persons.

It must be mentioned that due to the recent threats about the coming disappearance of the People's Defender of Colombia when part of its functions will be integrated to the National Attorney General's Office, the members of the Coordinating Committee decided to initiate an international campaign in support of the permanence and independence of Colombia's People's Defender's Office.

PUBLICATIONS

Gaceta, Official publication of Mexico's National Commission for Human Rights. Number 142 corresponding to the month of May.

OFFICERS

President
José Luis Soberanes

First Visitor
Víctor Manuel Martínez Bullé-Goyri

Second Visitor
Raúl Plascencia Villanueva

Third Visitor
José Antonio Bernal Guerrero

Fourth Visitor
Rodolfo Lara Ponte

Executive Secretary
Francisco Olguín Uribe

Technical Secretary of the Council
Susana Thalía Pedroza de la Llave

Editor: Laura Sanabria

El cuidado de la edición estuvo a cargo de la Dirección de Publicaciones de la CNDH.

Periférico Sur No. 4118, 2º piso, Jardines del Pedregal, Delegación Álvaro Obregón, México D.F., 01900

Teléfono : (52) 51 35 05 94

Fax: (52) 51 35 05 95

E-mail: correo@fmdh.cndh.org.mx

<http://www.cndh.org.mx>