

NEWS LETTER

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X Anniversary

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MEXICAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO HOST V ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF OMBUDSMAN

The Mexican National Commission for Human Rights will host the V Annual Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO, in its Spanish acronym), in Mexico City, from November 21 to 24, 2000.

This Congress is organized under the auspices of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman, the Inter-American Human Rights Institute (IDH, in its Spanish acronym) and the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH).

The Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman was instituted in 1995 in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia; in 1996, the Federation's First Congress was held in the city of Queretaro, Mexico. Since then, three annual congresses have been held in Toledo, Spain; Lima, Peru, and Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Now, the Mexican National Commission has once more been honored to celebrate the FIO Annual Congress, an opportunity it wishes to take advantage of to promote a new approach in the results of this Congress. For this aim, the National Commission counts on the decided participation of over 85 institutions devoted to promoting and defending Human Rights in Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

The subjects to be covered during the Federation meeting are: Migrants, Displaced Persons and Refugees; Preparations for the World Conference on Racism and Xenophobia; International Penal Courts, and the Debate on the new challenges of the Ombudsman in Ibero-America.

This meeting endeavors to obtain results which have an impact on the international agenda, as well as establish a mid-term program for the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman. Furthermore, it seeks to encourage FIO's, and each of its members, participation in international forums and the United Nations System; thus, contributing to invigorate the Federation's position regionally and internationally for the benefit of the institutions and the defense and promotion of Human Rights of each of the inhabitants of Latin America.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 6/2000
July 14, 2000

Case: Ms. Guadalupe Carrasco.
Authorities Addressed: Federal Attorney General.
Type of Violation: Injuries.

Recommendation No. 7/2000
July 14, 2000

Case: Mr. Eduardo Ortega Celaya.
Authorities Addressed: Secretary of Public Health belonging to the Government of the Federal District
Type of Violation: Abuse of authority.

Recommendation No. 8/2000
July 14, 2000

Case: Inhabitants of the community of Pizotla, Municipality of Ajuchitlan del Progreso, State of Guerrero, and Mr. Rodolfo Montiel Flores and Mr. Teodoro Cabrera Garcia.

Authorities Addressed: Secretary of National Defense.

Type of Violation: Violations to the Human Rights of the inhabitants of the aforementioned community.

Recommendation No. 9/2000
July 27, 2000

Case: Refutation measure brought by Mr. Gaspar Espejo Arroyo, Mr. Edgar Pablo Patiño, Mr. Gaspar Arturo Espejo Perez and Mr. Victor Efen Hernandez Gutierrez.

Authorities Addressed: Municipal Town Hall of Papanltla, State of Veracruz, and the Chairman of the State Congress.

Type of Violation: Violation to the right of integrity, legality and juridical safety.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Mexican National Commission for Human Rights and Medical Arbitrage Commission Endorse Cooperation Agreement

The Mexican National Commission for Human Rights and the Medical Arbitrage Commission (CONAMED, in its Spanish acronym) signed a Cooperation Agreement on July 12, 2000.

This agreement seeks to adopt measures which will favor the users of public medical services when complaints are filed regarding health care and in cases involving alleged violations to Human Rights or possible irregularities due to negligence or medical malpractice.

The Cooperation Agreement establishes, among other points, that both organisms agree to exchange the records of complaints received, which they will follow-up, and inform the complainant of the status of his case.

Before the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Comptrollership and Administrative Development, as witnesses to the act, the President of the Mexican National Commission, Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes, pointed out that this Agreement will build up a service for the people, as organisms such as the CONAMED and the CNDH, "consolidate real and effective justice in our country and strengthen a service for the people of Mexico".

Furthermore, the head of CONAMED, doctor Hector Fernandez Varela, stated that the Agreement seeks to join and detail the elements in the study of cases "with great pulchritude and respect on the part of both institutions".

Finally, the Secretary of Health, Jose Antonio Gonzalez Fernandez, stressed the importance of the Agreement as it will provide the means to strengthen health services and act in cases of medical negligence or when users' rights are damaged.

Cycle of Conferences and Round Tables: "The Prevention of Violence, Attention to Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights"

During the month of July, the cycle of conferences and round tables was devoted to "Migrants' Rights".

The speakers who took part in this event were: Dr. David R. Maciel, from the California State University, United States, with the Conference "Mexican Emigration in the Current US Political Debate"; doctor Jorge A. Bustamante, from the Colegio de la Frontera Norte, with the Conference "Vulnerability of International Migrants Concerning Human Rights", and doctor Axel Ramirez from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM, in its Spanish acronym) with the Conference "Mexico-United States Emigration in the Context of Human Rights".

Moreover, Luis Gonzalez Souza M.A. from the UNAM took part with the lecture "The Problematic of Migrants on the Mexico-United States Border", and doctor Edith Kauffer Michel, from the Colegio de la Frontera Sur, with the lecture "Guatemalan Refugees". As for the round tables, doctor Paz Trigueros Legarreta from the Metropolitan Autonomous University with the title "Human Rights of the Mexicans in the USA in View of Current Diversification" and Miguel Angel Castillo M.A. from the Colegio de Mexico with "The Rights of Migrants", also participated.

The month of August will be devoted to "The Rights of the Handicapped".

Remember we meet every Thursday at 18:00 hours in the lobby of the National Commission headquarters.

Training Courses

The National Commission for Human Rights, following the spirit promoted by the institution of the Ombudsman to disseminate the study, teaching and diffusion of Human Rights, during the month of July, 2000, gave 42 training courses.

Fifteen of these addressed institutions of elementary, secondary and higher education and included the following subjects: "Civic Education", "The Role of the Educator in Human Rights", "Civic and Ethic Formation", "Syllabi and Human Rights", "The Role of the Civilian Society in the Defense of Human Rights", and "Introduction to Human Rights, Functions and Attributions of the CNDH".

Likewise, in attention to the training needs of vulnerable groups the National Commission gave, on four occasions, the workshop "Human Rights of the Elderly", addressing pensioners and ISSSTE retirees in the State of Jalisco, as well as a workshop "Women's Human Rights" addressing the female staff of the Iztacalco Delegation in the Federal District.

Moreover, with the aim of sensitizing members of public safety, auxiliary, banking, commercial and industrial policemen in the State of Oaxaca, the National Commission gave the Conference "Existence and Duties of the Mexican National Commission"; the workshop "Introduction to the Study of Human Rights"; "The Concept of Human Rights, Distinctive Features and Limitations", "National Citizenship and Sovereignty and Human Rights", "Human Rights and Current Values", "Introduction to the Study of Human Rights - Individual Guarantees and Human Rights", "International Law of Human Rights", "Legal Precedents of Human Rights", "Human Rights between Modernity and Post-Modernity", "Children's Rights", and "Domestic Violence and Human Rights", among others.

Lastly, in coordination with different Non Governmental Organizations, the National Commission gave the Conference "Women's Human Rights"; the Forum on the "International Day for Victims' Support"; the Regional Forum "The Function of the Organisms for the Protection and Defense of Human Rights -a Joint Effort", and on eight occasions the workshop-course "Education for Peace and Human Rights".

OFFICERS

President
José Luis Soberanes

First Visitor
V́ctor Manuel Mart́nez Bullé-Goyri

Second Visitor
Raúl Plascencia Villanueva

Third Visitor
José Antonio Bernal Guerrero

Fourth Visitor
Leoncio Lara Saenz

Executive Secretary
Francisco Olguín Uribe

Technical Secretary of the Council
María del Refugio González

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

First Lady of Rumania Converses with President of Mexican National Commission

On July 21, in the offices of the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, Mrs. Emil Constantinescu, First Lady of Rumania, met with doctor Jose Luis Soberanes. On this occasion, Emil Constantinescu was greatly interested in knowing about the work carried out by the National Commission, as well as exchanging points of view regarding the situation of Human Rights in Mexico and the world.

Among the topics dealt with during this encounter, it is worth mentioning the National Commission's training program, the conflict in Chiapas, problems of public safety, as well as the prevention measures developed by the National Commission itself.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

During July, 2000, the General Director's Office for Social Communication belonging to the Mexican National Commission transmitted on Radio Universidad's broadcast Argumentos, five one-hour programs with the following topics: "The National Commission's Program for the Prevention of Violence, Attention to Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights", "Migration across the Northern Border", "Migration across the Southern Border" and "Freedom of Expression".

PUBLICATIONS

Gaceta, the National Commission for Human Rights' official monthly publication, Nos. 114 and 116, corresponding to the months of January and March, 2000.

Estudio sobre Derecho Internacional (A Study on International Law) by Cesar Sepulveda. Second edition, Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, July, 2000.

Guía para la protección de la libertad (Guidebook for the Protection of Freedom) (booklet), Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, July, 2000.

Consideraciones sobre el derecho a la educación y la educación superior en México desde la perspectiva de los Derechos Humanos (Considerations on the Right to Education and Higher Education in Mexico from the Human Rights Perspective) (brochure), Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, July, 2000.

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