

NEWS LETTER

Number 90

August 2000

X Anniversary

CONTENTS

- Seminar "The International Criminal Court"
- Recommendations numbers 10/2000, 11/2000, 12/2000 13/2000, 14/2000 and 15/2000.
- National System for the Attention of Victims of Crime" is Established.
- Cycle of Conferences and Round Tables: "Human Rights of the Disabled.
- National Commission Executive Secretary Attends UN Human Rights Subcommittee 52nd Period of Sessions.
- Executive Secretary Takes Part in Seminar "The People's Defender We Long for" in Santiago, Chile.
- National Commission Officer Participates in 52nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies

SEMINAR: "THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT"

With the aim of disseminating both the dispositions and scope of the Rome Statute among the members of Mexican society, the National Commission for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Mexican Academy for Human Rights, Amnesty International and the organizations represented by the Network "All Rights for Everyone", organized the seminar "The International Criminal Court" on August 28 and 29, 2000.

With the participation of government officials, experts and litigants, several points of the Rome Statute were analyzed, from the perspective of four headings, which were covered in four tables: Functioning of the International Criminal Court; Victims in the Rome Statute; Viability of the International Criminal Court, and Instrumentation of the Rome Statute.

The participant speakers of table 1 included: Joaquin Gonzalez Casanova, from the Attorney General's Office; Miguel Angel Mastache, from the Ministry of the Interior, and Paulina Vega, from the Mexican National Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights. The moderator was Edgar Cortes, from the Human Rights Center "Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez".

General Rafael Macedo de la Concha, from the Ministry of

National Defense; Vice-Admiral Nemesio Roman Matus, from the Ministry of Navy; Dr. Luis Fernando Doblado and Dr. Leoncio Lara Saenz, Fourth General Visitor of the Mexican National Commission, were present at table 2, which was moderated by Rocio Culebro, from Amnesty International.

The speakers of table 3 were: Sergio Garcia Ramirez, from the Institute of Juridical Research belonging to the National Autonomous University of Mexico; Miguel Angel Gonzalez Felix, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Maria del Refugio Gonzalez, Technical Secretary of the National Commission's Advisory Board.

Lastly, table 4 was in charge of Juan Velazquez; Jose Antonio Bernal Guerrero, Third General Visitor of the National Commission; Eduardo Ibarrola Nicolin, from the General Prosecutor's Office; and Dr. Miguel Concha Malo, a Human Rights promoter, was the moderator.

The discussion during these two days focused mainly on three basic aspects: the defense and promotion of Human Rights, the establishment and consolidation of an international system of justice and national sovereignty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 10/2000
August 11, 2000

Case: Guillermo Alcantar Lopez, Carlos Alberto Torres Salado, Jose Roman Garduño Oregon, Sergio Mejia Torres and Luis Enrique Fernandez Ruiz.

Authorities Addressed: Federal Preventive Police Committee.

Recommendation No. 11/2000

August 11, 2000

Case: Mr. Martin Zavala Limon.

Authorities Addressed: Governor of the State of Jalisco and Mayor of the Municipal Town Hall of Zapopan, State of Jalisco.

Recommendation No. 12/2000

August 11, 2000

Case: Refutation measure brought by Mrs. Karina Iturrios Trujillo.

Authorities Addressed: Attorney General of Justice in the State of Sinaloa.

Recommendation No. 13/2000

August 14, 2000

Case: Mr. Miguel Badillo Cruz and Mrs. Celia Rosas Vargas.

Authorities Addressed: Director General of the Center for Investigation and National Safety.

Recommendation No. 14/2000

August 16, 2000

Case: Refutation measure brought by Mr. Jose Alfredo Garcia Cervantes.

Authorities Addressed: Governor of the State of Coahuila.

Recommendation No. 15/2000

August 14, 2000

Case: Mr. Emilio Rangel Perez.

Authorities Addressed: Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

"National System for the Attention of Victims of Crime" is Established

On August 7, the National System for the Attention of Victims of Crime was constituted, with the participation of Non Governmental Organizations, government agencies and the Mexican National Commission. During this event, the bases of the System's practice were signed.

For the operation of the System, the participants established a Technical Secretariat and thus nominated Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes, President of the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, who delegated these tasks to the Fourth General Visitorship and the Program of Attention to Victims of Crime (PROVICTIMA). The main objectives of the System were outlined as follows:

To promote the culture of defense of victims of crime and respect their Human Rights.

Exchange statistical information regarding attention to victims.

Operate a data base in which all the information on attention to victims of crime is systematically integrated.

Design a record of victims.

Hold forums of cases to know how participating organisms and agencies operate.

Design and develop training programs for personnel in charge of attention to victims.

Promote the dissemination of the services offered to victims of crime.

This event was attended by the General Director's Office for Juridical Affairs belonging to the Ministry of Health; the General Director's Office for the Prevention of Crime and Community Services belonging to the Office of the Attorney General; the General Director's Office for Victims of Crime belonging to the Attorney General of Justice for the Federal District; the General Coordination for Beneficiaries of the State Institute for Safety and Social Services for State Workers; the General Director's Office for Legal Assistance of the National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family and the National Women's Commission belonging to the Ministry of the Interior.

Likewise, the following Non Governmental Organizations were present: the Mexican Human Rights Academy, Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture, Human Rights Center "Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez", A.C., Center "Florencia Quesnel", Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, A.C., Citizen's Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, Mexican Front Pro Human Rights, Foundation for the Attention of Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, Foundation Pro Homeless Children, IAP, Women's

Institute for the Federal District, Help and Solidarity for Homeless Girls, Southern Zone Orphanage of Life and Family, Inter-American Rights Organization, A.C., and the Association for the Attention of Victims of Psychiatric Crime.

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 August, 2000, gave 16 training courses related to this topic.

Personnel belonging to the training area of the National Commission gave 6 workshops, 1 international colloquy, 1 course, 5 workshop-courses, and 2 guided tours. Moreover, as requested by the Office of the Attorney General, in this agency's Training Institute facilities in the Federal District, the subject "Human Rights" was given on three occasions, addressing aspirants to enter the Federal Judicial Police force.

The subjects of the training activities were varied, the most important being: civic and ethic formation; individual guarantees and the National Commission's competence; Human Rights and public servants; Human Rights and the procurement of justice, safety and custody; the rights of inmates, of people with any type of disability, of hospitalized patients; the duties of nurses; the rights of vulnerable groups; the unprotected sectors' right to health, and children's rights.

The courses were given in collaboration with several government and non governmental organizations and addressed the personnel of the following institutions: In the Federal District and metropolitan area, to the "Las Americas" Study Center in the Magdalena Contreras Delegation, Iztapalapa Delegation and the Nursing School belonging to the Juarez Hospital. In the State of Nayarit, courses were given to personnel belonging to the State Human Rights Commission, nurses and doctors, and in coordination with Amnesty International, a course was given on "The Human Rights of Inmates", addressing personnel from several NGOs in that same State. Furthermore, in the State of Oaxaca, training courses were given to the workers of the Municipality of San Jeronimo Tecoatl, the Human Rights Coordination belonging to the State Executive Power, as well as to the General Director's Office for Human Rights belonging to the State Attorney General.

Lastly, in the State of Puebla, several workshop-courses were given for the personnel of the Ministry of Public Education and the State Commission for the Defense of Human Rights.

Cycle of Conferences and Round Tables: "Human Rights of the Disabled"

During the month of August, the cycle of conferences and round tables was devoted to "The Human Rights of the Disabled".

The speakers who took part in this event were: Santiago Velazquez, from the World Organization of Disabled People, with the conference "Concepts of the disabled regarding their Human Rights"; professor Jesus Liceaga Angeles, from the General Director's Office for Special Education of the Ministry of Public Education, with the topic "Human Rights of the Disabled and Education"; Jesus E. Toledano Landero, from the Commission for Rights and Integration of the Disabled, with "Disabled People"; Antonio Escobedo Aguilar, M.A., from the National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI, in its Spanish acronym) with "The information system for population with disabilities, current situation and perspectives".

Within this same cycle, Dr. Luis Rosales, from the National DIF (Comprehensive Integration of the Family) took part with the lecture "The Rights of the Disabled and the National DIF programs"; Rosario Gutierrez Romero, from the DIF for the Federal District, with the conference "The Rights of the Disabled and the DIF for the Federal District programs"; Dr. Enrique Garrido, from the Association Pro People with Brain Paralysis (APAC, in its Spanish acronym), presented the paper "The Right for Families to Receive Information"; social worker Aurora Ramirez, from APAC, with the conference "Work in Poor Communities", and Silvia Garcia Escamilla, M.A., with "Educational Project for Down Syndrome".

Finally, Patricia de Anda, from the Ministry of Work and Social Prevision, participated with the paper "Labor Rights of the Disabled"; Covadonga Perez Villegas, from the IMSS, with the topic "The Right to Work and Social Security"; Amalia Pelaez Alvarez, from the Commission to Promote Businesses of Disabled Persons belonging to CANACINTRA, with "Work Integration of the Disabled"; Carlos Cervantes, from the Typhology Hall of the National Library belonging to the UNAM, with "The Typhologist and the Needs of Information of the Blind and Visually Impaired"; Taide Buenfil, from Free Access, A.C., with "Universal Design Equals Human Rights"; professor Takashi Matzumara Maturana, from the Mexican Paralympic Center, with "Adapted Sports in Mexico"; Federico Fleischmann Loreda, President of Free Access, A.C., with "Accessibility of disabled people"; Manuel Barclay Galindo, from the Federation of Architects Schools, with "The Disabled and their City"; and, lastly, Jose Barroso Chavez, from Very Special Arts, A.C., read the conference "The Disabled and Artistic Activity".

The month of September will be devoted to "The Human Rights of the Detained".

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

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
Leoncio Lara Saenz

Executive Secretary
Francisco Olguín Uribe

Technical Secretary of the Council
María del Refugio González

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

National Commission Executive Secretary Attends UN Human Rights Subcommittee 52nd Period of Sessions

From July 31 to August 4, 2000, the Executive Secretary of the National Commission, Francisco Olguin, was present at the work of the 52nd Meeting of the Human Rights Subcommittee. This was the first time that national institutions for the promotion and protection of Human Rights were allowed to step in these sessions.

Parallel to the National's Commission participation in this Subcommittee, the Executive Secretary's visit also had the aim of establishing contacts with the main leaders of international NGOs with greater interest in Mexico, among which: the International Organization for Migrant Rights, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the International Confederation of Jurists, the National Indigenous Assembly for Autonomy, Franciscans International, as well as officials from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Executive Secretary Takes Part in Seminar "The People's Defender We Long for" in Santiago, Chile

On August 10, 2000, the seminar entitled "The People's Defender We Long for" took place, organized by the Chilean Chapter of Ombudsman and the Secretariat of the Chilean Presidency.

The aim of this seminar was to offer an instance of citizen participation to the formulation of the project "People's Defender", which is foreseen in the government program and under consideration to be sent to the Chilean Parliament.

On behalf of Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes, Francisco Olguin, Executive Secretary of the National Commission, took part in the panel "The People's Defender, aim and ambit of competence", where he exposed the origin and development of the Ombudsman in the Mexican experience.

Likewise, on August 11, Mr. Olguin, accompanied by the President and two Vice Presidents of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO, in its Spanish acronym), a representative of the Inter-American Human Rights Institute and the President of the Chilean Chapter of Ombudsman, participated in a series of meeting devoted to presenting the characteristics and virtues of the figure of the Ombudsman to the Chilean authorities. Among the people interviewed the most outstanding are the President of the Chamber of Deputies, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister Secretary General of the Presidency.

National Commission Officer Participates in 52nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies

From August 20 to 24, 2000, in the city of Vancouver, B.C., Canada, an officer from the Executive Secretariat of the National Commission took part in the 52nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA).

IAOHRA is a private, non lucrative, organization devoted to strengthening the protection of Human Rights and sharing experiences to eliminate the abuse of these rights in North America, and the rest of the world. On this occasion there were 250 delegates from Human Rights institutions of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Hong Kong, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Tanzania and the United States.

The conference, called "Renovating Vigilance, Human Rights in the International Community", covered the following subjects:

Behavioral changes in the Ombudsman offices.

Young people's Human Rights: homophobia in schools, sexual exploitation of minors and racism towards minority population.

Racism and xenophobia in the international community, impact of world conflicts, feminization of poverty, class, gender and indigenous rights.

Equality of employment, labor and Human Rights.

Religion and Human Rights, religion and sexual orientation, gender and trans-gender, hatred on the borders and crimes of hate.

Radio and Television

During August, 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 Human Genome", "Religious Intolerance", "Human Rights: the Police and Legitimate Defense", "The International Criminal Court", and "Seminar: The International Criminal Court".

PUBLICATIONS

. Gaceta, the National Commission for Human Rights' official monthly publication, Nos. 115 and 117, corresponding to the months of February and April, 2000.

. Fondo Editorial de la CNDH [Editorial Fund of the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights], Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, August, 2000

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>