



Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos

México

Recommendation 54/2011

The following is a synopsis of the recommendation emitted by the CNDH . The complete version may be consulted on this institution's web page.

Mexico City, October 4th, 2011

MATTER: ABOUT THE CASE OF WASTEWATER DISCHARGE FROM THE SEWAGE SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF JONUTA, TABASCO INTO THE USUMACINTA RIVER AND THE POLLUTION OF THE AREA.

AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE: DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION, CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TABASCO, MEMBERS OF THE H. TOWN HALL OF JONUTA, TABASCO

The Mexican National Human Rights Commission examined the elements and evidence contained within file CNDH/2/2010/3435/Q, regarding the case of wastewater being discharged into the Usumacinta River along the stretch located within the municipality of Jonuta, Tabasco. On the date of issuance of this recommendation and by reviewing the information provided by the National Water Commission and the Water and Sanitary Commission of the State of Tabasco, which is the authority responsible for supplying drinking water, sewage, drainage, treatment and disposal of wastewater in the municipality of Jonuta, it was proven that the wastewater discharges originating from the sewage system of such Municipality that are emptied into the Usumacinta river are done without prior treatment and without the necessary discharge permit, since there is no water treatment plant there. By law, the discharge permit must be obtained from the National Water Commission. However, to this day, the Water and Sanitary Commission of the State of Tabasco has not requested it. On the other hand, the National Water Commission has not performed inspections or surveillance to determine the existence or inexistence of pollution in the Usumacinta River along the stretch which traverses the municipality of Jonuta. It is therefore impossible to determine both the number of illegal discharges which occur in the municipality and the quality of the water in the area. From the analysis performed on the entirety of the evidence it was confirmed that, in this case, the National Water Commission, the Water and Sanitary Commission of the State of Tabasco and the Town Hall of Jonuta have violated the human rights to an adequate environment, drinking water and sanitation, public safety, legality and health protection to the detriment of the inhabitants of the municipality of Jonuta and the surrounding area due to behavior

resulting in environmental damage. It has therefore issued Recommendation 54/2011.

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