

# NEWS LETTER

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### THE MEXICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PRESENTED ITS ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2007

Last January 23, before deputies and senators, headed by Ruth Zavaleta Salgado, President of the Directive Board of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Permanent Commission of the Congress, gathered in the Republic's Legislators' Room of the Legislative Palace in San Lázaro, Dr Jose Luis Soberanes Fernández presented the Activities Report for 2007 of the CNDH, according to article 102 of the Constitution.

In the Report, Dr. Soberanes pointed out that grave situations for the fulfilment of fundamental guarantees still remain in Mexico. This – he said – regardless that “in plurality, in the political capacity of Mexicans, in the multicultural nature of the nation and in the solid constitution of the social framework, there are tools to create a Republic respecting the human rights and with justice for all.”

The President of the CNDH highlighted that the situation in jails, the conflicts in Oaxaca in 2007, the violation to the fundamental rights against migrants and indigenous people, as well as the case Zongolica, the depenalization of legal abortion in Mexico City and the many attacks against journalists were issues of great social impact that originated profound discussions among analysts, scholars, politicians and the population in general.

He also stated that during 2007, the CNDH received five thousand, two hundred, forty four complaints for alleged violations to the human rights, where the most recurrent authorities were as follows: IMSS, 1015 complaints; PGR, 671; Sedena, 367; INM, 335; SEP, 311; ISSSTE, 270; Infonavit, 221; Desconcentrated Administrative Organ of Prevention and Social Readaptation of the SSP, 220; CFE, 198; PFP, 136; SRE, 115 y Luz y Fuerza del Centro (Electricity Company), 110.

He pointed out that the preceding year the CNDH issued 70 Recommendations, from which, the INM received eight, the IMSS, Sedena and the Government of the State of Guerrero, six each one of them; the Government of the State of Veracruz and the Federal Ministry of Public Security, four each one of them; the Governments of the States of Jalisco and Oaxaca, the Congress of Veracruz and the City Council of Zitácuaro, Michoacán, three each one of them; and the Governments of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Quintana Roo, Sinaloa and Mexico City, as well as the City Council of Apizaco, Tlaxcala, and the ISSSTE, two each one of them.

He reminded the attendance that the CNDH issued a General Recommendation about the rights of the victims of crimes, where measures are proposed to ensure the due treatment from the authorities in order for them not to suffer a second victimization from bad public officers. He emphasized that “the Mexican prison system must evolve and must be more equal. It is time that the criminals are not more important than the victims; that the reparation of the damages is as relevant as the punishment and that the indemnification is as transcendent as social rehabilitation. It is time that the State sees that two faces of the prison drama with humanity and justice.”

Dr. Soberanes Fernández regretted the lack of disposition of some authorities to assist cases of violation to human rights, like the case of the Governor of Guerrero and the City Council of Apizaco, Tlaxcala, who rejected two Recommendations each one of them; the Governors of Baja California and of Colima, who rejected one each one of them, as well the Oaxaca City Councils of Animas Trujano, San Agustín de Las Juntas, San Agustín Yatareni, San Antonio de la Cal, San Jacinto de Amilpas, Santa Cruz Xoxocotlán, Santa María Atzompa and Villa de Zaachila, and the City Councils of Huitzilac, in Morelos, and Xoxocotla, in Veracruz.

He highlighted that a major worry of the CNDH is that the majority of the rejections to the defense of human rights is in City Councils, because they are the first instance a citizen goes to, when confronting a problem.

“The major and the city council embody the participative democracy, for their contact with the community. Because of that, when a city council attempts against the human rights, the significance of the fault is magnified; it is then when the confidence of people in an authority begins to weaken, and when any possibility of justice is canceled.”

In regards of the participation of the Army in the fight against organized crime, Dr. Soberanes pointed out that a soldier is not specifically trained to interact with the civil population, so serious abuses against the human rights have happened in different places of the country, where the CNDH documented during 2007 several cases of torture, rape and homicide. He recognized about the issue that the military authorities have accepted to confront these situations and accepted the Recommendations issued by the CNDH.

The CNDH, he added, does not consider proper that the Army stops immediately its participation in the fight against drug trafficking, because the absence of the armed forces would condemn million of Mexicans to be defenseless, specially in agrarian zones. Without the forces of the Army, the organized crime would see the State as a paper tiger, he pointed out and said that it is essential, however, to publish a calendar to take the army back to its headquarters in a gradual and sensible way, as well as to get advances in the professionalization of the police.

Regarding to the social and political conflict in Oaxaca during 2007, he mentioned that the outcome is regrettable; there are still serious differences among the people of Oaxaca and a social solution seems to be quite far. "The confidence that the Mexican State lost with its unjustifiable absence could be hardly recovered".

About the situation of the right to equality between men and women, he demanded fairer actions with a balanced vision of genre from the government. He highlighted the new attributions granted to the CNDH to prevent and denounce torture. He emphasized in the need to deepen the work done to fight the commerce of people, which he called a modern form of slavery and called attention towards the violence against the freedom of expression because "in the CNDH we are convinced that an attack to press is an attack to democracy."

He stated as well that, during 2007, the CNDH opened 84 complaint files for offences to journalists and documented 88 cases in which violations to the human rights of people of the media could have taken place, because in the period of reference four journalists were murdered and other three disappeared. Due to the poor results in clarifying the death of 35 media people and the disappearance of six more from the 2000 to date, he pointed out that the scarce governmental attention has created an environment of impunity. "Nowadays, in Mexico, journalism is done under threat", he expressed.

He thanked for the support of the Legislative Power to the work of the CNDH, which was significant to the governors and made it possible that the majority of the Recommendations were accepted by the authorities in the three levels of government. He pointed out that in Mexico the human rights are already being recognized as a foundation of our democracy and that there is conscience of the fact that enjoying the human rights is the freedom that makes possible every other freedom.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following presents a synthesis of the recommendations emitted by the CNDH during the month of January. The complete version can be consulted on the website of this institution.

Recommendation No. 1

January 10, 2008

Case: Of Mr. Amado Ramírez Dillanes, Mr. Genaro Vázquez Durán and Mr. Leonel Bustos Muñoz

Addressee Authority: General Attorney of the Republic and Constitutional Governor of the State of Guerrero

On April 9, 2007 it was opened ex officio the file 2007/1493/5/Q, related to the facts that took the life of Mr. Amado Ramírez Dillanes, correspondent of Televisa News and host of the news show *Al Tanto*, in the radio station *Radiatorama* in Guerrero. On April 10, 2007, The Ministry of Federal Public Security and the Federal Investigations Agency arrested Mr. Genaro Vázquez Durán and Mr. Leonel Bustos Muñoz for illegal possession of a fire gun, presenting them before the Federal Public Prosecutor, who warn them and set them free provisionally. When they left the facilities of the General Attorney of the Republic's Office, they were arrested by elements of the Ministry Police of the Justice General Attorney's Office of the State of Guerrero, who put them in house arrest for 53 days as alleged perpetrators of the homicide of Mr. Amado Ramírez Dillanes.

On April 19, 2007, a complaint presented on behalf of Mr. Genaro Vázquez Durán, alleged perpetrator of the death of Mr. Amado Ramírez Dillanes, was received. In the complaint, the violation to Mr. Vázquez's Human Rights was settled, in the matters of illegal detention, torture, isolation, lack of legality and judicial certainty, besides those of search and seizure and robbery in his property, which originated file 2007/1699/5/Q, which was taken as accumulative to the first.

From the analysis of the proof integrating the file, it is possible to prove that the Public Prosecutors and the elements of the Ministry Police of the Justice General Attorney's Office of the State of Guerrero who were involved in the integration of the preliminary investigation TAB/BH/120/2007-IV, due to the irregular integration of such preliminary investigation TAB/BH/120/2007-IV, violated, in damage of the relatives of Mr. Amado Ramírez Dillanes, the right to the access of justice, legality and judicial certainty, as well as the due justice administration.

For this National Commission, it is proved that Mr. Genaro Vázquez Durán and Mr. Leonel Bustos were submitted to cruel and/or degrading treatments and torture, which constitutes an attempt against legality and judicial certainty and against the right of every

human being to be respected in their physical and psychological integrity and their dignity. Besides, it was evinced that the fundamental rights to legality, to judicial certainty, to personal security and integrity, and to dignified treatment were transgressed, as it was proved that actions and omissions were done which blocked the clarification of the homicide considering:  
The deficient and irregular integration of the preliminary investigation, as there were inconsistencies in the elaboration of the spoken portraits, being evident that there were discrepancies among them.

That the participation of the witnesses is doubtful, because three of them were found and presented several days after the homicide without any explanation in the same place of facts, besides, they are people without a real address and who are foreigners for the neighbours of the place.

That the initial four lines of investigation proposed were not exhausted and that only the personal line was privileged.

That statements from close co-workers of Amado Ramírez were disregarded; declarations from people who said to know that the deceased's life had been threatened.

That there was not an investigation of the e-mails and journalistic notes in which the authorship of the homicide by an insurgent out-law group was divulged.

That no piece of evidence was presented, nor a ministerial inspection was done on the office and equipment that Mr. Ramírez Dillanes used for the performance of his duty.

The forced identification of Mr. Genaro Vázquez Durán by the witness Salvador Cabrera Medina in the place of the house of arrest. Mr. Cabrera accepted before personnel of this National Commission that he had informed the Public Prosecutor that Mr. Vázquez Durán was not the person that he had seen running away, the day of the facts, notwithstanding, he was pushed to declare otherwise.

Regarding the denunciation of torture, this National Commission practiced the Istanbul Protocol on Mr. Genaro Vázquez and Mr. Leonel Bustos, whose results, added to the irregularities already mentioned, suggest that their Human Rights to integrity and personal security were violated by elements of the Ministerial Police, with the consent of the Public Prosecutors of the Justice General Attorney's Office of the State of Guerrero, with the purpose of obtaining the acceptance of the authorship of the crime from one of the aggrieved and to force Mr. Leonel Bustos to accuse Mr. Vázquez of the crime.

For this National Commission, it has been proven that omissions and lack of supervision of the Public Prosecutor on the elements of the Ministerial Police in his charge caused the inadequate participation of the latter, taking into account that, after they were advised of the detention of Mr. Vázquez Durán and Mr. Bustos Muñoz by federal elements, they went to the facilities of the Second Office of the General Attorney's Office in Acapulco: they interviewed the prisoners, identified that one of them matched the spoken portrait, brought the three witnesses and executed the confrontation, showing the weapon, which they said they could recognize. After these actions, they notified the Public Prosecutor, four hours later.

Regarding of the General Attorney of the Republic's Office, it was noticed that actions were taken by public officers appointed to the Subdelegation of Acapulco which are not strictly clear, as well as the lack of the ministerial evidence corresponding to the aid given to elements of the State General Attorney's Office for the development of actions inside its facilities, such as interviews to the prisoners, presentation and confrontation of witnesses, filming of the alleged perpetrators in the detention rooms of the General Attorney of the Republic's Office, the access to the fire gun shown to the witnesses for its possible recognition, as well as the lack of clearness in the illegal search and seizure action to the address of Mr. Genaro Vázquez Durán.

Therefore, this National Commission issued on January 10, 2008, Recommendation 1/2008 to the General Attorney of the Republic, requesting the involvement of the Internal Comptroller of the General Attorney of the Republic's Office, with the purpose of, according to its faculties, beginning and determine an administrative process of investigation against the public officers of the General Attorney of the Republic's Office.

The request to the Governor of the State of Guerrero was to involve the Internal Auditing Body of the State General Attorney's Office as well as the Public Prosecutor, to begin and determine an administrative process of investigation and to begin the preliminary investigation for the possible prosecution of a crime, against the Public Prosecutors of the State General Attorney's Office, as well as against the elements of the Investigative Ministerial Police who participated.

Likewise, it was suggested that the State General Attorney instructs the Public Prosecutor to begin, continue or exhaust the lines of investigation that were not taken into account in the integration of the preliminary investigation corresponding to the homicide of Mr. Amado Ramírez Dillanes.

It was also suggested to give instructions to whom it is relevant, to involve the Internal Comptroller of the State General Attorney's Office, as well as to the State General Attorney, in order to, according to their faculties and by Law, begin and determine an administrative process of investigation and to begin the correspondent preliminary investigation to investigate the probable crimes that

the Public Prosecutors and the elements of the Investigative Ministerial Police who participated had committed, by action or omission, about the actions of physical and psychological torture against Mr. Genaro Vázquez Durán and Mr. Leonel Bustos Muñoz.

Recommendation No. 2

January 30, 2008

Case: Of the minor Vrla and Juan Pablo Rodríguez Cisneros

Addressee Authority: Constitutional City Council of Cihuatlán, Jalisco

On February 23, 2007, this National Commission received, from the State of Jalisco Human Rights Commission, the complaint presented before that institution in which Mr. Juan Jose and Mr. Francisco Javier, both under the last name Rodríguez Cruz, stated that, on February 6, 2007, at 20:15 at night, their sons, VRLA of 15 years of age and Juan Pablo Rodríguez Cisneros, respectively, were arrested by elements of the Municipal Police of Cihuatlán, Jalisco, because, in a revision to the former, they found a green vegetable in the pocket of his trousers, so that they were taken to the public jail of the Municipality already mentioned and presented to the Federal Public Prosecutor in Autlán, Jalisco, until the 19:30 hours of February 7, 2007.

They added that, from the beginning, the investigation organism recognized that VRLA was a minor, and in spite of the fact that attached to the preliminary investigation 064/2007 there is the official order to the officer in charge of the Federal Investigation Agency to keep the minor in custody in the corridors of the facilities, the minor was entered in the detention rooms of the Public Prosecution Office, where he remained until the 13:00 hours of February 8, 2007, when he gave his ministerial statement.

Noticing the violations to the right to legality, to judicial certainty and to access to due justice administration of the offended by the personnel appointed to the Municipal Public Security Department of Cihuatlán, Jalisco, and the municipal judge of that community, as well as the violations to the right of freedom infringed by the public officers appointed to the direction of prisons in Cihuatlán, Jalisco, this National Commission, on September 12, 2007, issued a conciliation proposal to that City Council, proposal which was rejected.

Therefore, this National Commission considers that the rejection of the conciliation proposal in the terms instructed by the Major of that municipality constitutes a lack of institutional collaboration with the non-jurisdictional system of protection to the human rights of the nation, so that on January 30, this National Commission recommended as follows:

FIRST. To involve the Internal comptroller of the Municipal City Council of Cihuatlán, Jalisco, to begin an administrative process of investigation against the commander and policemen appointed to the Municipal Public Security Department of Cihuatlán, Jalisco; the municipal judge of that community, and to the public officers appointed to the direction of prisons in the mentioned municipality, for the considerations described in the chapter of observations of the current document, and to keep this National Commission informed about the advances in the process of investigation, from its beginning to its conclusion.

SECOND. To involve the General Attorney's Office of the State of Jalisco, in the terms of the observations of the current document, to begin and determine, according to the Law, the respective preliminary investigation against the public officers mentioned before, keeping this National Commission informed about the process given to the investigation from its beginning to its conclusion.

THIRD. To inform this National Commission about the training courses on human rights given to the elements of the Municipal Police of Cihuatlán, Jalisco, requested by the conciliatory procedure and accepted by the Major.

FOURTH. To implement the corresponding administrative measures to instruct the public officers who deal with minors as a part of their functions about the way in which they have to develop their function to guarantee the complete respect to their human rights, avoiding actions as the ones which originated the current recommendation.

FIFTH. To implement the corresponding administrative measures to separate minors who are subject to investigation from adults, and to take them to specialized courts as soon as possible, to be treated.

Recommendation No. 3

January 30, 2008

Case: Of Mr. Santos Quiroz Espinosa

Addressee Authority: Minister of Public Security

On July 6, 2007, the complaint of Mr. Santos Quiroz Espinosa was received from the State of Coahuila Human Rights Commission, in which he expressed that, approximately at 11:00 pm of June 27, 2007, when he was his house, elements of the Federal Preventive Police showed, who told him to get the "mota"; afterwards, they grabbed him of body and hands, checking his belongings and finding a bag containing marihuana, which he had for his own consumption. When he refused to give them information about its source, they forced him to kneel on the floor and put a shirt on his head and face, and hit him on the flanks with their fists and apparently with some long weapons that they had. Besides, for 30 minutes, they put an electric device on his back and shoulders, which released electroshocks on him. After that, they took him into one of the police cars and took him to a public jail, hitting him during the trip. He

points out that he was checked by a doctor, and that they took him into the vehicle again for two more hours and took him to several places in Torreón, Coahuila, to finally take him to the Federal Public Prosecutor of that city, accusing him of crimes against health.

Afterwards, the aggrieved was presented to the Federal Public Prosecutor, at the 04:00 hours of that day, who opened the preliminary investigation PGR/TOR/AGII-I/442/2007 for probably having committed of a crime against health. In his ministerial statement the aggrieved manifested to have been injured in the moment of his detention.

Once integrated the referred investigation, the investigative organism exerted legal action against the aggrieved as a probable perpetrator of a crime against health. The aggrieved entered as an intern of the Social Readaptation Center in the City of Coahuila on June 28, 2007. The aggrieved, however, requested to the social representative of the case in the corresponding document, to involve the Federal Public Prosecutor for the denunciation made by himself and his federal public defense attorney about the injuries that he presented, so that, on July 12, 2007, the preliminary investigation AP/PGR/COAH/TORR/AG/II-I/478/2007 was started, which is in integration.

From the logical-legal analysis of the facts and evidences integrating the complaint, this National Commission had the elements to prove violations to the human rights to the physical and psychological integrity, to the legality and judicial certainty, committed against Mr. Santos Quiroz Espinosa by personnel of the, as the Federal Preventive Police since the proof integrating the preliminary investigation PGR/TOR/AGII-I/442/2007, started on June 27, 2007 by the referred Federal Public Prosecutor, shows that the arrest of Mr. Santos Quiroz Espinosa was performed by elements of the said Federal Preventive Police, as part of a joint operation called "Coahuila-Durango", according to the informative report of the policemen who made the arrest. Nevertheless, at the moment of giving his ministerial statement on June 28, 2007, the aggrieved stated not to agree with the contents of the referred informative report, and specified that his detention had been done by masked agents of the Federal Preventive Police, who put him down and asked him for the marihuana, and, when he did not answer, gave him some "punches", being that all he stated was due to the "fear he felt".

In regards to that, it is relevant to point out that the social representative of the Federation of the case, by request of the federal public defense attorney, corroborated the injuries that the aggrieved presented, which consisted of "33 burns spread on the back as well as three hematomas".

In addition to this, it is important to highlight the contents of the interview of June 28, 2007, done to the aggrieved by personnel of the State of Coahuila Human Rights Commission in the facilities of the General Attorney of the Republic's Office in Torreón, Coahuila, which matched with the facts in his ministerial statement.

Therefore, this National Commission considered that the plaintiff was object of actions which attempted against his physical integrity, by the grave pains to which he was submitted by the elements of the Federal Preventive Police who arrested him on June 27, 2007, specially those related to burns caused by electric device, which was proved by the referred medical report practiced by the General Attorney of the Republic's Office, circumstance that constitutes the hypothesis contained in the 3rd article of the Federal Act to Prevent and Sanction Torture.

For the aforesaid and because the elements of the Federal Preventive Police exceeded their functions in the acts of injuring and causing unnecessary pain to the aggrieved, these behaviors cannot be unpunished, and the Internal Comptroller of the Ministry of Public Security must investigate them, as they contravened what is stated in articles 7 and 8 of the Federal Act of Public Officers' Administrative Responsibilities, which includes that every public officer has the obligation of safeguarding legality, loyalty, impartiality and efficiency, which must be observed in the performance of his job, duty or commission, and whose unfulfilment would begin the corresponding processes and sanctions.

It is of utter importance to highlight that nowadays torture is considered one of the most heinous practices, and consequently, one of the greatest concerns for society. It is for this reason that, not only locally, but also internationally, torture is considered a crime against humanity, specially because nowadays the practice of this crime shows as one of the cruelest expressions of a violation to the human rights. Undoubtedly, torture is still in use under the direction or with the tolerance of some public officers, which affects the whole of the society because it constitutes a method that reflects the abuse of power in the least degree. Therefore, it is necessary that the State ensures that, in the case of any denunciation of torture, an investigation is done to achieve the punishment of the perpetrators.

Therefore, this National Commission issued on January 30 the Recommendation No. 3, to the Secretary of Public Security, in which it is recommended as follows:

FIRST. Give instructions to ensure the repair of the damages and losses caused to Mr. Santos Quiroz Espinosa, as well as to provide him the necessary medical care and rehabilitation to allow the recovery of his physical and psychological condition as it was prior to the violation of his Human Rights.

SECOND. To involve the Internal Comptroller to integrate and determine according to Law the corresponding administrative process against the elements of the Federal Preventive Police involved, for the considerations expressed in the chapter of observations of the current document, and to inform this National Commission from its beginning to its conclusion.

THIRD. According to the functions of that Ministry of Public Security, to provide the legal support needed to the Federal Public Prosecutor who is integrating the preliminary investigation number AP/PGR/COAH/TORR/AGII-I/478/2007, related to the injuries done to Mr. Santos Quiroz Espinosa by the elements of the Federal Preventive Police, as well as about the injuries certified by the medical expert appointed to the administrative court in Torreón, Coahuila, to allow the investigation authority to integrate as soon as possible the corresponding investigation, and to determine it according to Law in due time.

FOURTH. To give instructions to whom it is relevant to develop the immediate actions for the personnel of the Federal Preventive Police to be instructed and trained in regards of the behavior that must be observed to respect the fundamental rights in the performance of their functions, related to the arrests they do and not to exert any physical injury to the alleged suspects of a crime.

## NATIONAL ISSUES

The CNDH will coordinate the integration of Regional Committees Against the Trade of People

From February 2008, The National Human Rights Commission will coordinate the integration of ten Regional Committees against the Trade of People, for whose confirmation will summon all the actors of the civil society linked to the prevention of this crime and the attention to its victims.

The integration and function of these committees will allow the interchange and concentration of information in a timely and appropriate way, as well as to plan joint actions in the path of the strengthening of the legal frame of the matter, safeguarding the most vulnerable groups and reinstalling those who are rescued from that way of slavery.

The regional committees, with which a national covering is achieved, will have headquarters in the cities of Tijuana, Baja California; Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua; Nogales, Sonora; Reynosa, Tamaulipas; Aguascalientes, Coahuila; Veracruz; Villahermosa, Tabasco, Tapachula y San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas.

This task of effort articulation is part of the recently created Program Against the Trade of People, by which the CNDH seeks, from the perspective of protection and safeguard of human rights, to assist in an integrated fashion this phenomenon in its legal, institutional and social aspects.

This National Organism considers that, once the Act to Prevent and Sanction the Trade of People is issued, it must be an advance to the homogenization of the federal and state legal frames, as well as in the consolidation of a multilateral perspective which allows and encourages the effective international coordination. In this context, the CNDH celebrates that the Sixth General Assembly of the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of the Americas has included the fight against the Trade of People as a thematic axis for the agenda of 2008, as it was proposed by the CNDH.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

12th International Seminar The Ombudsman and the Media.

Last January 11, the 12th International Seminar The Ombudsman and the Media took place, organized by the Center of Initiatives for Development of the University of Alcalá and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation (AECI), developed in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

In the framework of the Regional Program of Support to Latin American Ombudsman (PRADPI), among other topics, the relations of the ombudsmen with the media and the use of mechanisms which allow to spread the rights and guarantees on date, informing the modes and most useful devices to demand and facilitate their effective fulfillment were analyzed.

The opening of the seminar was in charge of Victor Navalpotro, director of the Training Center of the AECI in Santa Cruz de la Sierra; Patricia Flores Palacios, assistant in Promotion and Analysis of the Ombudsman of Bolivia; and Guillermo Escobar, professor of Law of the University of Alcalá and coordinator of the PRADPI. Also participating were the representatives of press and media of the Ombudsman integrating the FIO: Juan José Larrea (Argentina); Sonia Soto Ríos (Bolivia); Pablo G. Fernández (Buenos Aires City); Álvaro García Hoyos (Colombia); Ahmed Tabash Blanco (Costa Rica); Iván Guillermo Granda Pinto (Ecuador); César Ernesto Monterosa Santos (El Salvador); Patricia Rico Ríos (España); Pedro Antonio Camacho Marín (Mexico); Irma Rebeca Quintanilla Franco (Nicaragua); Ibeth Vega González (Panama); Adriana María Sanabria González (Paraguay); María Luisa Rabanal Chávez (Peru); and Álvaro Rolando Cabrera Gutiérrez (Venezuela).

There were also, as observers and/or expositors, Antonio José Martínez Martín, director of the News Agency EFE of Bolivia; Pedro Farré, professor of Law and director of the Institutional Relations Cabinet of the Authors General Society of Spain; Alejandra Celli, project technician of the PRADPI; María Isabel Hernández Guzmán, representative of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa

Rica; Esther Eunice Méndez Pérez, journalist of Channel 33 Teleprensa of El Salvador; Horacio Caride, journalist of radio Mitre of Argentina; and Andrea Rossetti, director de Media and Press of the Argentinian municipality of Tandil.

Likewise, the heads of press and communication organs of the national organisms for the defense and protection of the human rights in Latin America opened a communicators' net –ComFIO— , with the objective of encouraging joint strategies of promotion of the fundamental guarantees in the countries of the region. This group is supported by the Iberoamerican Ombudsman Federation (FIO) and is the result of a seminar, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, to which the heads of the communication offices of the defenders of human rights attended.

Planned also to encourage the interchange of specialized knowledge in the matter of social communication, the new net –whose birth was endorsed by the congress of the FIO held in Lima, Peru- has a proper space in the website [www.portalfio.org](http://www.portalfio.org) and will participate in the congresses and encounters that the federation holds periodically, which will allow to optimize the spreading of their objectives, functions and activities and will increase the visibility of the institutions which are part of the Latin American organism.

It is also taken into account the production of a training plan for the areas of press and communication of the Ombudsman, based on three fundamental cores: technology applied to communication, relations with the media and management of crisis and production of materials with attractive journalistic contents in the matter of human rights. During the first year of work, the coordination of the ComFIO will be in charge of Juan José Larrea (from the Ombudsman of the Republic of Argentina), who will have Ibeth Vega (from the Ombudsman of Panama) and Pablo G. Fernández (in representation of the Ombudsman of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires) as assistants.

## DIRECTORY

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