

Social Human Rights in Argentina

Violations of Human Rights as a result of the Genetic-Modified Soya-Monocultures - - the Right to Food and Health - for the Argentinean Population, Farmers and Bee-Keepers

Presented by:

-GRR – Grupo de Reflexion Rural: Ecologist organization, devoted to fighting the model of agro industrial and exporting agriculture in Argentina, promoting actively small scale development, local rural production and the peasant culture.

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The information provided in this report focuses upon the consequences of a highly alarming global development: the use of genetically modified organism (GMO) in agriculture. Argentina in particular is one of the most affected countries worldwide by this development.

Already in 2004 the soybeans crop growing took over 48% of the total arable land. Hundreds of thousand people have been expelled from their land. Poverty and malnutrition rose rapidly. Undernourishment - previously unknown in Argentina - increased with the introduction of genetic engineering to 17%. In 1970 the proportion of people living below the poverty line used to be at 5%. In 2004 it already was up to 51%. The spraying of agrochemicals on soybean plantations from the air destroyed the crops of peasant, their chicken died and other animals suffered damages and there were birth defects. People suffered from severe nausea, diarrhea, vomiting and skin lesions because of the sprayed herbicides. Vegetables turned up malformed and lakes suddenly were full of dead fish (*Agrar Info 160 September / October 2008 p. 3*).

This means a massive violation of the economic, social and cultural human rights of the Argentinean population!

We are very concerned about this development, which will intensify with further plans of the government to expand the GMO-growing giving rising profits, but showing no respect for our culture, history and food sovereignty.

Therefore, we urge the government of Argentina:

- To restore our national dignity and denounce the soybean scheme and our imposed role as exporters of agricultural commodities either for forage or biodiesel for the developed countries.
- To stop the biotech experiments which find in the Argentinean people, over 40 million “guinea pigs”.
- To restore the national production of basic crops, based on our food sovereignty and on the promotion of local development.
- To promote colonization, in order to repopulate our territory with peasant communities and local producers of healthy food, whose methods do not compromise the environment.
- To establish state control again and reorganize the National Grain Commission in order to re-establish a low-price sector for the basic food of our people - for example, lentils, rice or dairy products – which right now are no longer produced or their production suffers a severe crisis.
- To make sure that people can produce their own seed again, discover their lost genetic heritage, prohibiting the production, introduction, manipulation and growing of GMO and creating the basis for another country economic model, which targets food sovereignty and local development.

(GRR – Grupo de Reflexión Rural: Ecologist organization, devoted to fighting the model of agro industrial and exporting agriculture in Argentina, promoting actively small scale development, local rural production and the peasant culture.)

We ask the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to express their concern over the violations of the right to food - the dramatic poverty increase because of GM soya cultivation - and the right to health, integrity and self determination, which are dramatically violated through the use of GM soya in Argentina and to make recommendations to the Argentine government on how to stop these violations to our most basic Human Rights immediately.

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1.) Introduction

In Argentina, are used in soybean cultivation nearly one hundred percent genetically modified varieties, corn with up to "three stacked genes" is increasingly being promoted, while the RR cotton begins to dominate this crop. The country is the third largest supplier of soy products worldwide, behind Brazil and the United States. At the same time, an increasing number of hungry people have been reported in recent years.

“The high demand in Asia has brought an unprecedented boost to the Argentine soybean production since the mid-90s - at the cost of crop diversity, animal husbandry, the environment and human health. The CFR study 'Stop the fumigation '(Paren de fumigar) notes that small family farms in the soybean growing regions are surrounded by giant monocultures and are sprayed with glyphosate and so often forced to give up. The people in the affected areas fought desperately for years that no Glyphosat rains falls down on their fields, destroying the crops and putting their health at risk. The contamination is seen as the result of a devastating export policy, based on the intensive soybean cultivation The soybean fields are green deserts that destroy jobs and depopulate rural areas.” („*Sick Villages*, by *Marcela Valente*, 5.03.2009)

The GM agro-biotechnology accelerates the extinction of small farmers around the world. Deforestation, an increasing use of pesticides, destruction of livelihoods of indigenous peoples, small farmers and peasants, land concentration, slave labour, the rural exodus and increasing poverty in the countryside are the effects already abundantly demonstrated of the consequences of an agro-industrial model of transgenic monoculture.

We have great hopes that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights immediately help reverse the depopulation of our country (uprooting), the destruction of the cultures of the communities that are displaced by the imposition of GM industrial agriculture, land grabbing, hunger and health damage suffered by our people, and enforce the Argentinean's rights that are as established in the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

2. The Situation in Argentina – Violations to the rights established in the pact

Argentina has 40,091,359 (census 2010) inhabitants. The export of commodities is one of the highest income in the country - and the participation of agricultural products is the higher with 31%.

The following table shows the population changes suffered by the rural and urban areas over the past decade, which can be linked to the entry of the GMO model in Argentina.

Table IV: Migration from rural to urban areas. Source INDEC.

Population growth (% of the total compared to the census of 1991/2001)

Province	Urban	Rural	Grouped Rural	Dispersed Rural
Buenos Aires	10.94%	-14.32%	13.15%	-25.97%
Córdoba	14.22%	-11.23%	7.13%	-22.56%
Santa Fe	10.03%	-12.10%	0.63%	-20.87%
La Pampa	25.72%	-16.61%	-6.87%	-28.66%
Chaco	35.51%	-23.17%	24.01%	-29.57%
Formosa	39.14%	-13.87%	-1.05%	-16.03%
Entre Ríos	20.22%	-10.31%	16.21%	-13.16%
Sgo. del Estero	30.11%	4.38%	9.28%	2.94%

The statistics made in 2001 confirmed that thousands of families are removed each year from rural areas. In short, the rural exodus matches with the huge concentration of property devoted to the production of commodities. As a result, this has been the growth of hungry people living on the sides of the city.

<http://www.elcorreo.eu.org/?Argentina-estudio-de-caso-sobre-el>

With 16.2% of the area with GM crops, Argentina is the second largest, after the U.S. with 47.6% of the total. Nearly 20 million hectares are planted with GM soya in our country.

“Soya is now growing at 55 % of Argentina's agricultural land. In the central province of Cordoba it is even 80 %. 200 million liters of glyphosate are to be sprayed on the fields every year... “ („Kranke Dörfer“ " - Sick villages by Marcela Valente, 03/05/2009)

“In these GM-soy areas there live approximately a total population of fourteen million people. They suffer from the fact that every year about two hundred million gallons of the herbicides sprayed are glyphosate in the first place “ („Umstrittener Einsatz von Glyphosat“ – Deutschlandfunk " Controversial use of glyphosate. " - Radio Germany 02/09/2011)

“Argentina is the world's third largest soybean producer and exporter. Almost exclusively genetically modified seeds are planted. About 90 % of the crop - 54 million tons - is exported to China, India and the EU. At a current world market price of about 370 U.S. dollars per ton of soybeans, it represents a value of nearly \$ 20 billion, thereof export taxes of 7 billion are flowing into the state budget “ („*Landwirtschaft – Das Gift in der Lunge*“ Agriculture - the poison of the lungs "Taz 07/20/2010)

“Soy crop is virtually one hundred percent genetically engineered and the acreage on which this protein- contributor for the global meat production is grown, is growing from year to year. In the mid-nineties of the last century there were yet 5.6 million hectares, in the early seventies even only 9500 hectares - of course not transgenically by that time. Now in the concluding growing season the acreage of genetically modified soy increased to a total of nearly 15 million hectares. All other crops combined, which are grown in the second largest country in South America, do not reach this number. The taz praises: ‘Last year the soybean export even was 40 percent of the total export revenues.’ ...

The combination of the economic crisis and the eviction of small farmers and farm workers by the increasing mechanization of soybean cultivation led to a loss of sustenance sovereignty and increased poverty and starvation’. Lilian G. Joensen, a molecular biologist at the CFR, describes the process of displacement as follows: ‘There is a law that states that if somebody can provide prove that he has lived in a place for twenty years then he can register himself for ownership. The evidence of this claim is often destroyed by violence. Soybean companies engage paramilitary groups to burn or demolish the houses, steal cattle, or the like.’ (“*Esst das Futter ... guten Appetit!*“ *Eat the food ... enjoy!* *GeN December 2004 page 1*)

“For example in Argentina the acreage is growing dramatically. Often the fields come up to the settlements. By now many residents complain about the high use of chemicals. In fact the cultivated area in Argentina has grown by the 35-fold between 1996 and 2003 according to a study. But the use of glyphosate has grown by the 56-fold in the same period’ („*Pflanzenschutz Einsatz auch bei Gensoja*“ – *Das Erste.de* - plant protection use even with GM soya. Broadcasted 02/08/11)

“Argentine exports are booming and the economy presents growth rates like in China. An important driving force is the annual export of 44 million tons of soybeans. But while President Néstor Kirchner is pleased by jingling tax funds now a lot of small farmers in the provinces have to fight for their economic survival. The soy farming threatens their habitat, herbicides pollute the environment and the large agricultural companies - often with international money behind them - push them aside. Politics, police and judiciary tend to stand to the most influential large companies.”

Depopulation of the territory - Expulsion of rural life

With no plans to support and encourage small farmers and peasants, or no plans aimed at achieving local food production, farmers and peasants are forced to leave their land and seek for work in the city. And often they end in "villas miserias", as they call the slums on the outskirts of major cities in Argentina. The depopulation of the territory, with the consequent destruction of small production and not to speak of peasant life, is an implicit part in the development model imposed by the National Government, in collusion with big corporations in agriculture, in order to implement instead a model of agro-industrial production for export that involves the possibility to collect deductions on the export of agricultural products, which then will support the care plans of the displaced population that will move to urban peripheries. Released the territory of all life, the big agro companies lease the land and turn them to the intensive production of GMOs, which turns out to be big business.

In most cases of depopulation and displacement, the expulsion from the rural takes place, at least a priori, "legally". Nationwide, about 250,000 small farmers have lived on agricultural lands for generations, but the lack of public policies for small production and rural life, forced them to leave their land, their small productions that are no longer profitable and lease their land to the soybean business. What is not evicted by force, it is achieved by imposing a whole system against the small-scale rural life.

‘There are no exact figures on the expulsions' reported the Argentine sociologist Diego Dominguez. But he says that between 1988 and 2002 about 80.000-100.000 small farms disappeared. Besides economic problems forcing the sufferer to give up their farms, the evictions are responsible for that. "In addition many peasants - encircled by soy fields - can no longer keep up their farming," he says.

The Argentina has one of the earliest processes of urbanization in Latin America, having a total area of 2,791,810 square kilometers, representing almost 7 hectares per person, but still less than 10% of the population lives in rural areas, increasing the population of the large cities, where the land occupied by person is measured in a few square meters. Already in 2006 there was evidence of the expulsion of 200,000 agricultural SMEs, and less than 10% of the population lived in rural areas (this does not mean working in rural activities). It was also verified that there were 24 new settlements (slums, cantegriles, favelas or shanty) in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (Diario Perfil, Sunday July 20, 2006) and that in such settlements, 8 out of 10 are rural displaced people (Institute for Small Family Farming 2006 INTA).

Clearly there is a system that expels people from rural areas, through neglect, lack of agricultural policies and the greed of land for the installation of a model of intensive agriculture. The idea that the field is no longer a place to live but a place to do business, is now common, with the counterpart to establish a system of Agriculture without Farmers.

In addition to evictions carried forward "legally", there are many evictions inside our country that are held illegally. Although the problem is not unknown in the Ministry of Agriculture in the capital, Buenos Aires, in the provinces often a network of corruption and cronyism between police, politics and the economy keeps the possibility of small farmers from sustaining their livelihood and from the possibility to go to court for protection, which in most cases it is to serve economic interests. Often, their claims are rejected by the police from their communities who refuse to take their claims. Even for those who gain access to the judicial system, their fate remains uncertain, as there have been many questionable decisions.

The Government focuses its agricultural policies in soy exports, displacing other agriculture products

Argentina, along with other brother countries, has become a "United Republic of Soy", like it used to express an advertisement of the seed company Syngenta, which knows no political boundaries. The interests of Corporations and the idea of progress supported by the Argentine Government in obtaining export deductions, without implying better development for the country and a better quality of living for the rural population, has led us down the road of abandonment of the traditional life of many rural communities, the destruction of small farming and with it the loss of food diversity that characterized our crops.

At one time, local communities across our country were mainly supplied by the food produced in the surrounding area, rich in diversity while fresh.

Today, with the destruction of this small farming in the name of progress, communities have not been displaced, receive the food that comes from across the country, or in many cases it is import what before we produced ourselves.

"The soybean cultivation could be the suicide of Argentine agriculture," he warns "displacing other soy products such as meat, vegetables, milk, or rice." These are scarce and therefore expensive. The new agriculture is always one more technology and in need of fewer people. "We are on the way to agriculture without farmers," he complains." (*Der Tagesspiegel*, 04.07.2007)

3) Violation to the Right to Food and the Right to be free from hunger (Art. 11)

This right is far from guaranteed in Argentina.

With the disappearance of small and medium producers, also significant areas disappeared that were devoted to many cultivations that once characterized the diet of Argentines. It was reduced more than 44% of the cultivated area of rice; over 26.2% of corn; 34.2% of sunflower; more than 3% of wheat and 10 times the area of cotton. Areas such as San Pedro, in the province of Buenos Aires, lost 50% of fruit orchards and nursery plantations to be replaced by soybean crops. (Boy, Adolfo 2005).

Figures Cost of Living in 2002 allow us to compare the research with our diagnoses. For the retail level, statistics from INDEC (National Institute of Statistics and Censuses) indicate that the products that more increased their price are:

Dried Lentils 272,7%;

Corn Oil 218,9%;

Common Wheat Flour 162%;

Canned Peas 157,5%;

Sweet Potato 152.2%;

Pope 138%;

Plain White Rice 130,1%.

(Ámbito Financiero, Tuesday, January 7, 2003, p. 4).

These figures are from the years 2002 to 2006, with even greater deepening of this trend, as it is well expressed by the growth of the area planted with GE monoculture, at the deterioration of food diversity.

"We are no longer able to feed our own population. Meanwhile many products are very expensive and the most recent figures suggest that Fifty-four percent of our population live below the poverty line. Fifty-four percent! In the seventies and eighties, there were only five or relationship as thirteen percent. Argentina produced enough quality food for its population and could also export the eight times the amount of their own requirements. Now there is

hunger in our country ... What can we say is that it has not previously given us hungry. ...
.... The soy companies try to get more land for production and it also does not shy away from
using violence against: In all regions of the country can read in the newspapers that people
are driven from the land they want " (*"Soy, soy and soy again .." GeN, June 2004 Page 1*)

The greatest danger to ensure this right is the destruction of livelihoods as a result of GM
crop monocultures. Soybean production is increasingly replacing the small farmers, and this
is now the most dramatic reality throughout Latin America.

Agricultural biotechnology accelerates the extinction of small farmers and lead us all to join a
highly globalized world food system, importing and exporting similar products, or absurd as
our case, that to export soybeans, we stop producing our food and then we import it. The
development of a community can not be measured by the businesses performed at high
levels, but rather by the ability of its people to be free, self-sufficient and lead a full and
happy life in a favorable environment for it, not in the ill cities to which we are expelled.

Peasant agriculture and at a small scale, allows the coexistence of man with nature which is
part of. Working the land at a small scale and with low-input, there is still room for
biodiversity. The GM monoculture model denounced, established a strong dependence on
inputs and devastates large areas without any parameters of care for nature, leaving as result
the destruction of our property or natural resources.

"As one eco farmer reported three years there was the glyphosate-clouds going down on their
fields and the entire crop had been useless." (*" Sick villages "by Marcela Valente, 03/05/2009*)

Exports rather than self-sufficiency

The soy boom has turned Argentina's agriculture in other areas too radical: In the last 15
years, for example, the number of dairy farms halved. Meanwhile, milk imported from
Uruguay, although it is more expensive than the domestic (*Eat the food ... enjoy! GeN December
2004 page 3*)

Surfaces for self-cultivation are reduced. The jungle, the mountains and the remaining forests
as a reservoir of biodiversity, are removed in large quantities for new industrial cultivation's
land. Many times the inhabitants of these forests and small farmers are evicted from their
land by the "force" of great businessman in agriculture, or are killed to obtain more arable
land for themselves. There is rarely compensation payments, refunds etc., as only in a few
cases and often only with the help of social organizations and national and international
human rights, a legal response is possible, but really the repressive system covers all stages
including legal, leaving helpless the populations that suffer from these attacks.

"In the countryside the consequences of soya bean monoculture have been much more
disastrous. The traditional agricultural communities near the large soya bean plantations are
heavily affected ... The farmers - after long-term cultivation of different vegetables for their
own use - found the whole yield destroyed after the fields have been sprayed Neighboring ...
a pesticide which damages all plants out of the special plants GM Monsanto, which are
"pesticide-resistant". A study from 2003 shows that the spraying has not only destroyed their
fields. Their chicken died and other animals like horses have been damaged." (*TIME Questions
No. 43 v. 31.10.05" Can there be in a world with "gene food" Peace? " by FW Engdahl*)

With no credit or government support, with a system that pretends to install only the GM

monocultures in the Argentine land, and surrounded by these crops with its chemical applications, the possibilities for growing vegetables or other grains is increasingly limited . It should be understood the entire system to see the real consequences that involve all our territory. By devastating traditional crops and farming life, it is also destroyed centuries of culture and traditions that make the diversity of our country ... Monoculture bring Monocultures.

Life is no longer possible for farmers and / or small producers near the areas where GM soya is grown. They are also badly affected pets, farm and wild animals, many of which are in danger of extinction.

There is also a terrible poisoning of water sources by the indiscriminate use of pesticides. But people still depend on water, drink the contaminated water and suffers, among others, from regularly fever and other terminal diseases.

This shows that the future of agriculture must be found very clearly in natural or organic agriculture and not in the cultivation of genetically modified plants. The Argentine government must immediately stop the rural exodus and the expropriation of land, provide sufficient land and seeds for their own production of the population, before producing for export, and strictly prohibit the spraying of pesticides, to ensure the livelihood of its people and put an immediate end to poverty and malnutrition, revitalizing rural culture and local development to achieve food production throughout the country to areas surrounding where it is produced.

Article 11 (2):

a) "To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge ... and by developing or reforming agrarian systems ... with the objective of maximizing the development and use of natural resources "

We also have to add that for many years now the jungle, the mountains and the few remaining virgin forests have been eliminated to install new soybean growing areas, this concern installed was also taken by the Supreme Court of the Nation Argentina in the ruling "Salas, Dino and other c/ Government of the Province of Salta and the National State s/ amparo", ruling dated 29/12/2008.

Still, despite the enormous resistance that exists in communities that live in these forests, the Government has done nothing to stop deforestation and halt the spread of GM crops.

As the "Grupo de Reflexión Rural", we undertook a campaign in Defense of Mount and Forest (<http://defensamontebosqueselvagr.blogspot.com/>) as a way to defend the territories that remain as a safeguard for biodiversity and life of populations that live there in harmony with those lands.

...The ground is not suitable for soybean cultivation; nutrients etc. are so artificially added. The inhabitants of the forest are deprived of their livelihood; they only have the option to end as landless people in the suburbs of large cities.

In addition, the use of pesticides, which have contaminated everything and makes the soil infertile:

"You spoke of a new rust fungus, as is the situation with the pests on soybean fields?"

Meanwhile, we have fourteen different weeds that have become resistant to the Roundup, the herbicide consumption has increased since the first cultivation in 1997 to five times that.

The reduction of pesticides used is always one of the central arguments for the use of genetically modified plants has been ...

... And Argentina is the proof that this argument is untenable. "

("Soy, soy and soy again ..." GeN, June 2004, p.2)

As agriculture is resistant to GM crops, apiculture is also seriously affected by pesticide use. There have been many claims from Argentine beekeepers and reports that show the serious deterioration and death of bees who have been sprayed with toxins.

"Argentina is the fifth largest honey producer in the world. And the number one export. Last year we lost 1.6 million hives, the bees have died off because, because beekeepers throw in the towel." Lucas Martinez, president of the Argentine Beekeepers Association Sada. And states: Last year the country lost thirty percent of its honey bee colonies. "The big problem for us is the massive cultivation of soy, soy-Gen. The more and more displaced by beekeepers, especially in the pampas, where they worked until now. The massive use of herbicide kills the bees." Because the herbicides kill all other plants, mainly to serve the honey bees as food. After the soybean harvest is left behind nothing remains but dusty, lifeless fields." (*"Talk about bees dying " Funk v. Germany 17.09.2009)*

In this case, natural resources of another professional group are destroyed: the Argentine beekeepers!

Do bees die of starvation due to the transgenic soybean fields?

Argentine beekeepers have noticed a dramatic decline of bees. In 2008, they lost nearly a third of their bee colonies.

The immense loss of 1.6 million beehives has to do with the massive cultivation of genetically modified soybeans, suspects Luca Martinez, president of the Argentine Beekeepers Association Sada. In an interview with the radio of Alemania Martinez, he explained this relationship: for the cultivation of genetically modified (GM) organism, like soybean, there are used fields in which there are usually flowers and plants that provide food for bees.

The bees simply starved to death because of the large area of soy monocultures.

Argentina is one of the largest soybean producers in the world.

On the other hand, Monsanto's Roundup herbicide accumulates in the ground and deteriorates its composition, in addition to the effects directly on the bees to be sprayed with these toxins. For beekeepers in Argentina, one of the largest exporters of honey, the consequences of this development have been fatal: in four years the export of honey halved.

Luca Martinez appealed at the World Congress of beekeepers ("Apimondia"), specially on European beekeepers, to be against the use of GM soybeans as food.

Bees play a central role in the pollination and the maintenance of a rich fauna. The Argentine example shows what fatal consequences can have the cultivation of genetically modified monocultures on biodiversity. (*"Starvation Gensojafelder by bees?" - 22.12.09 Laura Möhr)*

In short, it is clear that genetic engineering is NOT the right method to improve the situation of agriculture and food security in the world, but rather is a method that destroys natural resources, biodiversity and minimizes the quantity and quality of food production.

"A lie in the propaganda of the GMO industry was unmasked: it is not true that GMOs need less pesticides but the truth is that GMOs need more pesticides year by year." (*"More pesticides are sprayed over GMOs", by scientific study in Benbrook Ökologo 1 / 2004, p.2*). An increase of 50 – 60 % is found. (*"uneconomical in the long run" by Klaus Faissner in "Danger Genetic Engineering", p.234*).

b) "in order to ensure a fair distribution of food in the world according to needs, considering the problems of the food exporting and importing countries "

As mentioned, the Argentine government is increasingly relying on exports. Economic inequality is emphasized and large agriculture exportations are favored, since even in the disastrous soybeans cultivation, those with medium or small plantations can not participate, due to the high costs of inputs, machinery and deductions imposed on them.

Argentina is one of the richest agricultural countries in the world - and yet people are hungry. The economic income from exports are enormous and still rising, but only remain in hands of businessman of soybean, seed companies and grain, and above all, in hands of the big exporters and, therefore, in no way it benefits the population. On the contrary, more exports, more incomes - more hunger and landlessness. International organizations like the World Bank support this policy too, that has as compensation the social containment through subsidies of all kinds, which is enough to subsist the families that arrive to the poverty places of large cities, but that is not enough to change their destiny or improve their quality of life.

In Europe, soy is used to feed our animals or for cars that run on biodiesel and in contrast, in Argentina, more people die of hunger. The number of our own farms each year is dramatically reduced because the local farming is not profitable due to the huge amounts of import. The taxpayer must suffer the consequences - for example, the increase in unemployment, etc.

This distribution system is prejudicial to local farmers around the world. The agro-corporations are the only winners also here in Europe. If local farmers produce for their own supply or to offer for their community or their country, they could all be winners.

The first experiences in Argentina, Brazil, India, Canada, Panama and other countries show exactly the same development: **genetic engineering produces hunger and exclusion, it does not combat it.**

CONCLUSION: In order to ensure Food Sovereignty and Food Security of our people, we must improve the social and environmental production conditions. A short-term increase in yields through technical means, destroys the environment, cultures of villages and the possibility of living and eating with dignity. A destroyed ecosystem can not feed future generations.

In order to improve methods of production, better distribution of food and to allow the use of property or natural resources effectively and ensure long term continuity of life and their use, we demand to the Argentine government to reduce the GE monoculture, with plans to repopulate the territory and support to small farmers, promoting access to land for family farming and small-scale population, stop the deforestation of forests and advocate on their

foreign policy by the resignation of genetic engineering in agriculture and food production as a way of solving hunger in the world and force an equitable distribution of available food.

4.) Violation to the Right on Health (Article 12)

The small farmers and peasants, not only have to fight repression and expulsion from their land, almost 100% of the soybeans grown in Argentina is genetically modified and sprayed with pesticides such as Glyphosate. These herbicides kill all the biodiversity, produce major health problems that have been deeply tested by doctors in rural communities, where they have shown birth defects, a large increase in cancers, allergies, respiratory problems, spontaneous abortions, fever and burning eyes.¹

"The ruthless criticism of the cultivation of soybean in Argentina is getting louder. Not least of which confirmed the poisoning of human and environmental science has created in recent years, parliaments and courts on the plan." (*"From frogs, chickens and eggs man "GeN, Oct. 2010)*

"In Argentina, life has become dangerous in the country a health issue. This is especially true for regions where the main export soybeans in large scale are grown. There the people are afraid of illness and death, the monoculture agriculture in the form of pesticides entails. Cancer at a young age, malformations, autoimmune diseases like lupus, kidney disease, respiratory and skin diseases are dozens of villages in the South American country on the Advance. The problem is serious ... An examination of the Garibaldi Hospital in the city of Rosario, province of Santa Fe brings testicular and stomach cancer in six villages in conjunction with the herbicide. The disease rate is three times higher than the national average. Liver cancer is also there to ten times more frequently, pancreatic and lung cancers are diagnosed twice."

(*"Sick villages "by Marcela Valente, 05/03/2009)*

In the soybean crop is primarily used herbicide glyphosate.

"In Argentina, only herbicide-tolerant GM soybean varieties are used that are tolerant to the herbicide Roundup of the U.S. agro-biotech company Monsanto. Monsanto, the world leader in transgenic seed, holds the rights to ninety percent of the world's grown transgenic seed. He deserves, as in the past, even today, his money with the sale of the herbicide Roundup (active ingredient: glyphosate). And its use has grown in Argentina of one million liters in 1994 to 150 million liters in 2003" (*Eat the food ... enjoy! GeN December 2004 page 3)*

"In contrast, Argentina's Environmental and other civil organizations have been complaining for at least five years, to suffer more and more people living near genetically modified soy fields of cancer, birth defects, kidney damage, as well as skin and respiratory diseases." (*"Laboratory frogs with deformities: Researchers warn of glyphosate herbicide "Tuesday, 21 April 2009)*

"The people report skin rash, nausea, headaches and birth defects. The small towns are crowded with their relatively small areas at the edge. Many young people see no future for them and move to the outskirts of the cities where they have no livelihood but as a rule. The statistics show that taking in vulnerable regions of the deformities of hand. It makes not the slightest doubt Carrasco. "The same applies to the glyphosate influenced by the genes and

¹ See GRR, "Pueblos Fumigados": http://www.grr.org.ar/trabajos/Pueblos_Fumigados_GRR_.pdf

gene regulators: They are associated with certain birth defects (*"Of frogs, chickens and eggs man" GeN, Oct. 2010*)

Herbicides as a cause of disease

Magui Arguello lives with his parents in the province of Buenos Aires. She is bound to a wheelchair, can not dress herself and will never be able to have fun with other children. Her parents suspect that there is a connection between Magui's disease and the high use of chemicals around them. Magui's father, Rodolfo, said: "This type of degeneration that she has, it did not exist before, it was not known until her birth. And then there were four more cases, not all with the same severity. A child has speech problems, others have disorders of the musculoskeletal system. "

According to medical diagnosis, the girl's brain has not been properly trained in both hemispheres. Does glyphosate may actually be the cause? Monsanto argues that it is not possible. But in Buenos Aires Professor Andrés Carrasco discovers a parallel view. Tested glyphosate in the amphibians, and also discovered there a defective formation of the cerebral hemispheres. His assessment: "The mechanism of inducing these malformations it is due to glyphosate, which is an enzyme poison."

... For over five years are examined here the effect of glyphosate on human cells. ...

One of the consequences: cell death in 24 hours. He says: "Glyphosate has been shown in numerous studies around the world to be toxic. For human cells, glyphosate is toxic even at very low doses, much lower than those used by the farmer in his field. This means Roundup 'is even more toxic than glyphosate because glyphosate is only one of several substances, Roundup' " (*" plant protection use even with GM soya " - The mission Erste.de 8:02:11*).

Scientists: "Roundup" may lead to birth defects in embryos

Vienna - On Thursday, the Argentine scientist Andres Carrasco has warned about the harmful effects on the cultivation of transgenic soy in a press conference [1] in Vienna: An investigation showed that the spray "Roundup" from Monsanto, which is used in the GM soybean fields "Roundup Ready" crops in Argentina, has resulted in very low amounts of malformations in embryos of chickens and frogs. The connection with the growing number of health problems in key producing areas, it is obvious, according to Carrasco.

The active ingredient glyphosate

Carrasco, director of the Laboratory of Molecular Embryology of the Medical University of Buenos Aires, has demonstrated, along with colleagues from Great Britain, Brazil, Argentina and the United States, that particularly the main active ingredient, glyphosate, in "Roundup" is highly toxic and causes cancer. Even at a concentration below the usual amounts for fumigation in agriculture, has shown deformities in animal embryos.

The study was initiated because the investigators were alarmed by the high rate of birth defects in agricultural areas, where GM soya is grown. "Those of us in the laboratory determined results fit exactly with the mistakes that are seen in people who were exposed to glyphosate during pregnancy," said Carrasco, " (*" spray with an increase in birth defects implicated in "DNR v. 2:05:11*)

A recent French study at the University of Caen shows even now that residues of glyphosate are detectable in most food and GM feed on the market today can be harmful and even fatal in human cells - even at very low levels. "Despite a dilution 100.000fold the insert resulted in a complete death of cells in 24 hours, blocked the vesicular breathing and caused DNA damages." (*14:01:09 Global 2000*)

"When we were at the doctor in Rosario, my husband has asked first whether he works in agriculture." The probability that his sperm lose because of agrochemicals to procreation is given. Her husband was not an isolated case in the region. I hear more often that it does not work with the babies " ... Two roads Susana Manzano has continued her practice. The biochemist through blood tests. "Statistically, we all die in San Jorge to respiratory arrest. But the reasons for this not to be found in the statistics," she says. Although the increase of cancer and suffer more and more young men to infertility. " (*"Agriculture - the poison into the lungs "Taz 20.07.2010*).

These facts also show that the use of GM crops, as GM soy, involves a violation of Human Rights to health - and should be stopped immediately by the government!

5) Violations of the Rights of People concerning self-determination (Article 1)

Section 1: "All People have the right to self-determination"

Section 2: " All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources - in no case may a people be deprived of their means of existence!"

Monoculture promotes desertification of soils and loss of fertility. The deforestation destroys the basis of life of the indigenous people, small farmers and rural people. The expulsions, with the result of the exodus of small farmers in the suburbs of large cities, do the rest to increase poverty and steal the resources of the nation.

In the lasts years, especially the growing areas of soybean threatened forest types in South America and promoted its destruction. They are threatened for example the tropical fog forests of Argentina, particularly in the lower elevations below 600 meters (over sea level), called Selva Pedemontana (forests at the foot of the mountain).

What is needed is a guarantee of access by indigenous and rural residents to own land, which provides them. (*Eat the food ... enjoy! GeN December 2004 page*)

"Those who use glyphosate as an herbicide] change not only our environment, soil and water - they change our lives." Illustrates the scientist: "This type of soy production, everything changes. It changes the culture, social networks, it changes the whole life, everyday life. The soil is contaminated, the water is contaminated, and there are no butterflies, no birds. ... The animals in the local communities are being poisoned" (" *From frogs, chickens and eggs man "GeN from October 2010*)

The need of thinking proposals for agricultural models for our Latin America is urgent. This comes from various reasons, including and especially from the way global capitalism impose in our countries and across transnational corporations new colonial situations that determine primarization of our economies and mass production of commodities. Those new units also involve the appropriation of natural resources, with destruction of ecosystems and a strong impact on rural populations. We need to find the intellectual elements that allow us to see and confront these new situations neocolonial, be able to rethink the relations of the city and the countryside in times of globalization, while demonstrating that the advance of agribusiness and industrial models of agriculture GM crops are not inevitable as we are taught and as we are naturalized through pedagogical colonization, and which form an attack on cultural

identity, on the roots of the people, on their food heritage and on their immediate survival chance in the society colonized by corporations.

We believe that both the farmers as indigenous populations, as well as many small farmers and industries from the city who are called by a vocation to life in the country, naturally tend to preserve ecosystems and their key elements. However, the pressure of consumerism and input dependence models on them, as well as the temptation of the high-end technologies, the demands for export and urban lifestyles, are constant and growing on these sectors. It is urgent, then, the necessity to set criteria and paradigms of both liberation and local rural development. Lifestyles that can recover the self esteem of rural labor and land, while figuring out production models increasingly friendly to nature, that can allow the restore those intelligent relationships of observation and exploitation of resources, which have gone astray in the long gradual process of acculturation.

6) Violations to the Right to Freedom of Science & Research (Article 15)

On the last few years, "the funds for the health system as well as for educational and research sector have been reduced. Scientists, who threatened the loss of their positions and their research resources have been welcomed by the large agricultural corporations. The result was an alliance of interests. The scientists sat on the committees that approved the field trials. Central to this is the role of the "National Advisory Committee on Biotechnology Agricultural" (CONABIA - National Advisory Committee on Agricultural Biotechnology). This committee approved hundreds of field trials with genetically modified varieties. But people on the committee are not independent, their jobs depend directly on the biotechnology sector. " (*" Soy, soy and soy again .. "GeN, June 2004 Page 1)*

Science today "does not investigate what does not rent" and in this thought, genetic modification has become the central dogma of projects research paid for by the Federal Government and such modifications shall always have as final aim the production of "commodities" for export. It is in this monoculture of Argentine thought, that RR soya is released not "to end with the world hunger and fight against European subsidies" but for the simple reason that "no-till monoculture" is the most profitable crop and fundamentally is the one who requires less use of labor.

The national research institutes are subject to the CVT (Conventions Linking Technology) euphemism by which companies count with state employees and state facilities, to do researches of their own convenience, and which will be the ones that take the benefits.

In this vein, the GM market shows a marked "privatization" in the research and production of biotechnological innovations which has affected negatively both the development of scientific fields of social interest as the research funded with public funds due to being subordinated to private interests of biotech corporations, favoring, in short, some technologies such as GM, to the detriment of others.

In this scenario, the corporate emphasis on protecting the intellectual property, in particular the application of patenting of seeds and vegetables varieties obtained by genetic engineering, is closely related to the "privatization" of the results of scientific research and the development of biotechnological innovations in hands of corporations. The pressure for the

increased use of patents on genes and biotechnological processes by these great companies is designed to ensure not only their monopoly profits but also the control over its genetic research activities applied to industrial and commercial purposes. It should be noted the serious risks resulting from these conditions in terms of food sovereignty and public health.

7) Measures to ensure the Rights of Farmers, Peasants and Consumers

The following are necessary to ensure these rights:

- The immediate cessation of deforestation of the little amount of Mountains, Forests and Natural Forest that remains, which are homes and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and peasants as well as reservoir of biodiversity and Environmental Services providers.
- Begin to produce for local market before considering exporting. Return to produce variety of food, organizing agricultural production in the country with an eye on the food needs of our people and not in international markets, at least as a priority. This requires land colonization schemes, tax incentives to small producers and peasant life, counseling, low-cost loans.
- Recall basic food production nationally, based on our food sovereignty and with livelihoods in local developments.
- Back to populate our country with rural communities and small farmers who produce healthy food in an ecologically way and for local consumption, recovering the cultural value of such foods.
- Protect property or natural resources such as water, soil, forests and biodiversity from pollution and poisoning.

Therefore, we demand the government of Argentina:

- To recover our dignity and National and Food Sovereignty by dismantling "the model of soybeans" that has imposed to us a role as an exporter of commodities for feed and biodiesel for cars of "developed" countries.
- Stop the biotechnological experiment of which we are now more than 40 million "lab rats".
- Recall basic food production nationally, based on our Food Sovereignty and with livelihoods in local developments.
- Colonization plans to repopulate our land with rural communities and small farmers who produce healthy food in an ecologically and for local consumption.
- Restore the export control and reorganize the National Grain Commission, to re-create a low-cost sector with production of food for our population.
- Produce and maintain our own seed, rediscovering our lost genetic inheritance, by prohibiting the production, introduction, handling, transit and / or cultivation of

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and create the basis for another agriculture model in the country.

In summary, it is absolutely clear that the Argentine government fails to meet its obligations by signing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The people of Argentina is going through a great loss of cultural and food diversity, as a consequence of the "monoculture" imposed by what we call "the model of soybeans," by destroying the traditional foundations of food of our people, by deepening the banishment of thousands of families, rather than encouraging and deepening the cultures and the roots of communities and by simplifying the rich diversity of food that Argentina used to have, implementing and encouraging from the government policies to the planting of GM soy monocultures at the expense of production to meet local food needs.

As a consequence of this destructive system of life, biodiversity and culture, the Argentine people lose every day their food sovereignty.

The health of our people, which is directly related to lifestyle and the pollutants to which they are exposed, day after day is degraded, since every time more and more forests are cut, the fields are planted with monoculture of high toxic inputs rather than the various forms of agriculture that used to coexist.

All this can be defined as the depth of a model by the Argentine government that brings serious health damage, poverty, loss of diversity and culture, deforestation and pollution, increased hunger and rural exodus, with the paradox of having rates exports and increasing profits in one of the richest agricultural countries in the world.

We ask the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to express their concern at the violations of the rights to food, health and integrity and our self-determination, which are dramatically violated by the intensification of monoculture transgenic model for export and we ask to act urgently to achieve the cessation of these injuries to our most basic Human Rights.