

SUMMARY OF PARALLEL REPORT TO THE 4° REPORT SUBMITTED BY ARGENTINA ON THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR)

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*“The largest expense demanded to the State by the economic, social and cultural rights, does not concern assets, but Justice and Dignity”
-Rolando E. Gialdino*

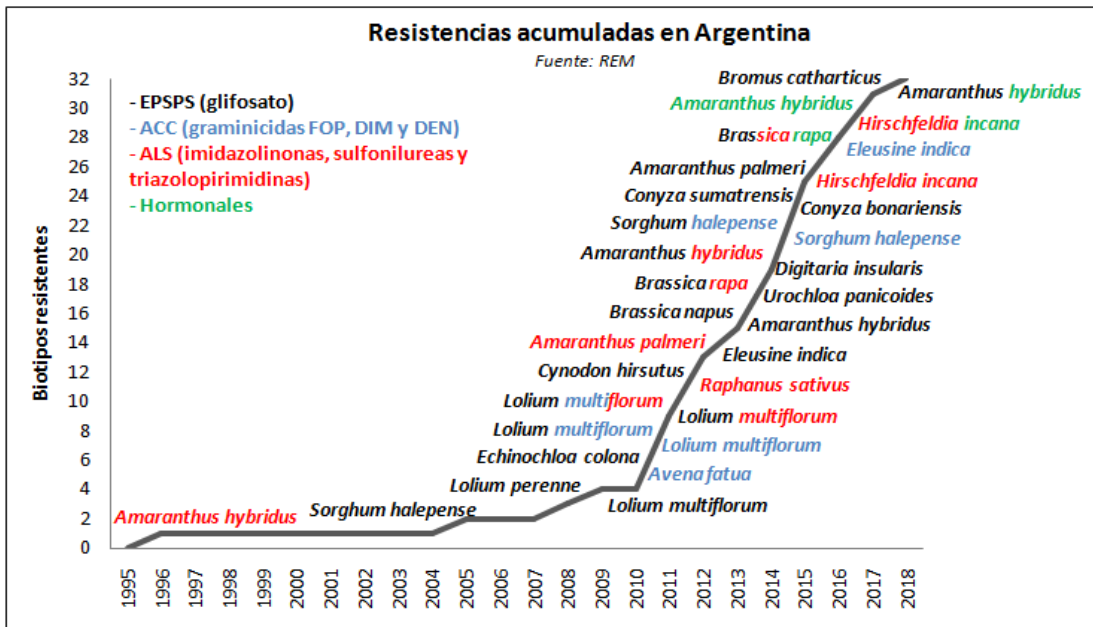
SUMMARY

The "Parallel" Report indicates violations of human rights incurred by the Argentine State by failing to comply with its "state obligations" in relation to the protection of the environment and health by not applying environmental legislation to agriculture based on intensive use of pesticides.

Since the agro-industry based on transgenic seeds and massive and intensive usage of pesticides, seemed at the beginning, to bring marvelous solutions to agriculture, promising harvesting yields with less effort and work, by replacing hand labour with technology and chemical synthesis products. We now know that this is seriously harmful to the environment and to human health.

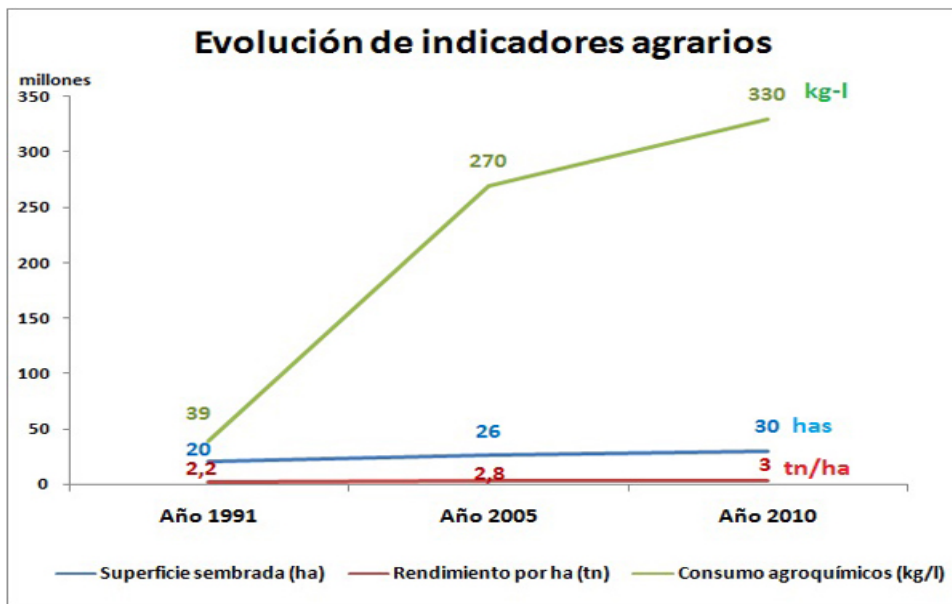
Based on a "logic of death" that seeks to kill everything that does not represent a monetary gain, added to a logic of "addiction", given that the intensive use of biocides produces an acceleration of the natural selection of undesirable vegetable and animal species, making them tolerant and resistant to pesticides.

Already in 2018, 32 species of plants resistant to different pesticides have been developed in Argentina, leading to an increase in the dosage and new combinations of biocides, with the inherent risks of such synergistic effects. The time projection of this model reveals that chemical synthesis pesticides become inefficient.



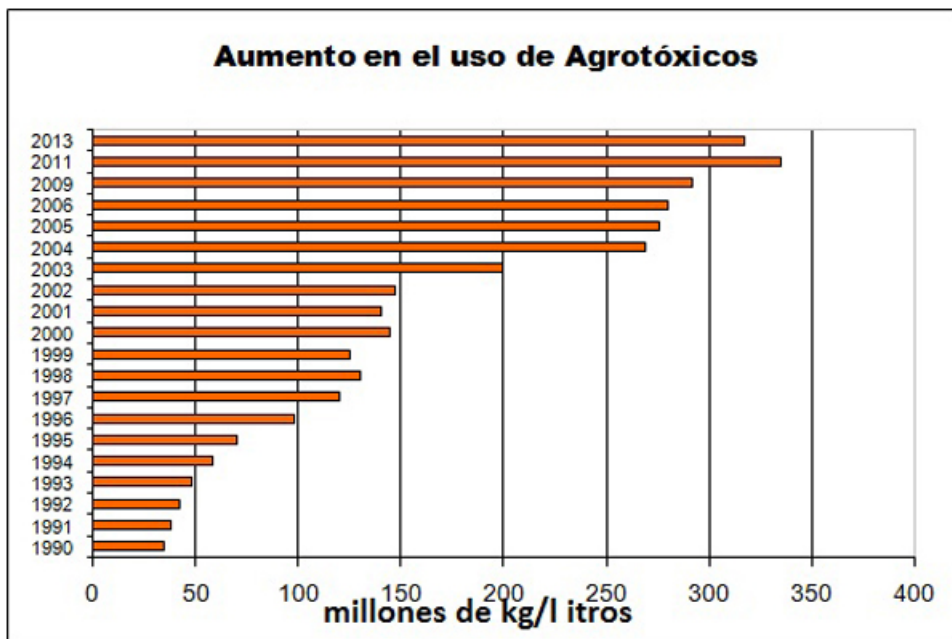
¹ Submitted in July 2018 before the Committee of Economic and Social Rights (Geneva, Switzerland).

Those developed resistances demand increases in the quantities of pesticides used to obtain the same or worse result.



Source: <http://ecoscordoba.com.ar/el-consumo-de-agrotoxicos-en-argentina-aumenta-continuamente/>

Consequently, this inevitably leads to a constant rise in the amount of pesticide used.



Source: <http://ecoscordoba.com.ar/el-consumo-de-agrotoxicos-en-argentina-aumenta-continuamente/>

It has been shown that pesticide application is unmanageable. Scientific studies by the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, provide exemplary evidence of pesticide presence (glyphosate, atrazine and others) in the atmosphere and in rain water². They also observed manifestations of glyphosate and other pesticides in the

² http://www.exactas.unlp.edu.ar/articulo/2015/2/9/lluvia_glifozato

bed of Paraná River (4,880 km) and its tributary streams, as well as the presence of pesticides in fruits and vegetables³.

Researchers, from said University, as well as others –all duly indexed in the report- submitted evidence that supports how pesticide use damages biodiversity and all necessary means and goods for food production.

Presence of different pesticides have also been traced in our bodies (blood and urine⁴).

Mere presence of pesticides in the environment is harmful in itself, but in our bodies, it constitutes a violation to people's right to integrity as well as to the inviolability of the human body.

Said pesticide presence in air, water, food and human bodies, enables a direct connection to diseases increase.

Illnesses caused by the intensive use of pesticide has been widely proven.

Pesticide-resilient transgenic-based agriculture interferes with territories' natural life cycles, endangering both human and environmental health.

400 million litres of pesticide a year are applied in Argentina (increasing said volume year over year⁵), where the inhabitants of the affected territories suffer severe health harm due to the involuntary absorption of pesticides via contaminated air, water and food, without them being alerted of it, subjecting them to even greater vulnerability.

Oncologic diseases, leukaemia (significant increase detected in young people)⁶, malformations, sterility, miscarriages, allergies, dermatitis, endocrinal disorders (mainly hypothyroidism) are some of the proofs, based on medical records and from "Sanitary Camps"⁷, that match the wide spectre of scientific publications evidencing damage to biological systems inflicted by pesticides. **A clear example of this, during 2012, Argentina experienced an anual cancer incidence rate of 212/100.000, whereas in the areas were Sanitary Camps were carried out, the results showed an anual incidence rate of 397,4/100.000.** Sanitary Camps⁸ performed up to date in **36 destinations over 4 Argentine provinces**, where over **112.908 people** were interviewed at their homes (representing **65,4% of total population** of said destinations), and whose results were analyzed by the "Instituto de Salud Socioambiental de la Facultad de Cs. Médicas de la UNR", show that there have been changes in the epidemiological profiles of the locations that were surrounded by GMOs and biocide agroindustrial production territories, coinciding with the settlement timeline of this model, as submitted to the International Monsanto Tribunal.⁹

The report by the Ministry of Health of the Nation, "Assesment of the exposure to pesticidals in public health" ("Valoración de la exposición a plaguicidas en la salud pública", Argentina 2015),¹⁰ reveals that the Argentine State has explicit understanding of the damage caused by this GMOs and pesticide based agroindustrial production model.

Juridically, these damages constitute serious violations to life, human rights, people integrity, health, environment, free will (since it hinders all other healthy and sustainable models), wholesome and safe feeding, and even affects the very rights of future generations.

³https://www.conicet.gov.ar/new_scp/detalle.php?keywords=&id=26116&congresos=yes&detalles=yes&congr_id=5811544

⁴<http://www.telam.com.ar/notas/201507/113127-mar-del-plata-la-orina-del-90-por-ciento-de-personas-sometidas-a-un-estudio-contiene-glifosato.html>

⁵ Public information. https://www.clarin.com/rural/consumo-fertilizantes-2017-equiparo-consumo-anos-2010_0_HJiL2IQdz.html

Public information. <http://www.infocampo.com.ar/aumento-56-el-consumo-de-agroquimicos-y-fertilizantes-en-2017/>

⁶ http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/upload/asset_cache/718305640.pdf?rnd=qcMYle

⁷ Refer to "Sanitary Camps" info in item 8 ahead.

⁸ Sanitary Camps are a final assesment mechanism by UNR Medical School students, which consist in five-day field visits to locations of about 10.000 inhabitants, to carry out, among other activities, an epidemiological evaluation based on a residence sweep methodology. Up to date, 36 Sanitary Camps were performed, in 36 different locations of 4 different Argentine Provinces (Santa Fe, Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos, Córdoba), all 4 located at the core of the GMOs and biocide agroindustrial production model development.

⁹ <http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/Conclusions>

¹⁰ Source: <http://rasp.msal.gov.ar/rasp/articulos/volumen33/8-15.pdf>

Source: <http://www.lavaca.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/agrotoxicos-vs-salud-cap1.pdf>

In plain view of the Argentine State lack of compliance and enforcement of the current Environmental law towards transgenic affairs and intensive pesticide usage agriculture, it is inherently constituted as direct responsible of the before mentioned violations to human rights, many of which are acknowledged in the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**.

We petition the Economic and Social Rights Comitee: to exhort the **Argentine State to comply with its obligations towards environment, in the framework of protection and guarantee of human rights, as well as complying with, and enforcing the current and valid environmental legislation**, according to the National Constitution, Articles 41, 42, the laws of Budget Minimums for Environmental Protection 25.675, 25.612, 25.688, 25.831, etc.-, **given that the State is required to:**

a.- Perform a prior **Environmental Impact Assessment**, in order to prevent all activities liable to cause environmental damage, (according to Law 25.675 arts. 11 to 13), and to guarantee the right to enjoy a healthy environment (art. 41 National Constitution), as well as conducting an **Environmental Cumulative Effects Impact Assessment**, over all contaminating activities, as per Supreme Court of Justice ruling on the verdict: **“Salas, Dino y otros c/ Salta, provincia de y Estado Nacional s/ amparo” (26/03/2009)**.

b.- Promote and guarantee **access to public environmental information** (according to the Budget Minimums for Environmental Protection, articles 16 to 18, Law 25.675 and Law 25.831 , to grant free access to environmental information) via the creation and management of Environmental information Records and Environmental Impact Assessment.

c.- **Guarantee the right to citizen participation regarding decision making over environmental patrimony** (according to articles 19 to 21, law 25.675) via implementation of the “Citizen Involvement Procedure”.

d.- **Guarantee right to access unrestricted justice in face of the occurrence of environmental damages**, (article 32, law 25.675) and subjugation of said rights.

e.- **Prioritize communities Health care and preservation, as well as their food and territories.**

Everything in agreement to what is established by the Interamerican Court of Human Rights in their ruling **“OC-23/17” (15/11/2017)**¹¹.

f.- Classify chemical pesticides in accordance with the provisions established in the new classification of pesticide risks called **Highly Hazardous Pesticides**, recently developed by The International Programme on Chemical Safety dependent on WHO and FAO to protect health, the environment, food, agriculture and future generations.

¹¹ http://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/seriea_23_esp.pdf