

Newsletter about Pesticides

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Jurisdictional News



France: Nicaraguan farm workers go to court in Paris

Since [January 24, 2022](#), the magistrates of the Paris judicial court are looking at the [request for *exequatur*](#) initiated [on November 5, 2018](#), by the lawyers of more than 1,200 former Nicaraguan farm workers employed in banana plantations in which Nemagon and Fumazone, two pesticide products containing dibromo-chloro-propane (DBCP), were sprayed.

The procedure aims to implement the 2012 Nicaraguan Supreme Court judgment, which recognized the responsibility of three groups, The Dow Chemical Company, Occidental Chemical (now Oxy) and Shell Oil, in the importation, distribution and use of DBCP in farms between 1977 and 1983, even though the dangerousness of the substance was known at the time, as evidenced by the ban on it in the United States from 1977.

These three groups were [ordered](#) to pay 805 million dollars in damages to the victims, which today corresponds to more than 1 billion dollars with legal interests. However, due to the lack of seizable assets in Nicaragua, the court decision could never be enforced.

If the *exequatur* procedure is granted by the French Court, the Nicaraguan Supreme Court's judgment would become enforceable throughout the European Union. It would then be possible to seize the assets of the three groups and finally provide compensation to the farm workers. This would be a tremendous step forward in justice for the victims of pesticides.

Obtaining the *exequatur* is subject to three conditions, which are the competence of the Nicaraguan courts, the conformity of the decision to international public order and the absence of fraud to the Nicaraguan law. The decision of the judicial court is expected on May 11.

If you've made it this far, can you make one more tiny effort?

Justice Pesticides needs your help to continue this work of investigation and information to support victims of pesticides.

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