

Doc. 28/2014

RESOLUTION OF THE 44 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VENEZUELA

WHEREAS:

The National Telecommunications Commission of Venezuela (CONATEL) ordered the sudden and unjustified closure of the station 94.7 FM RADIO SENSACIONAL of the city of Barinas in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on August 19, 2014, claiming the alleged "expiration of the concession".

CONSIDERING:

That the station **RADIO SENSACIONAL FM 94.7** had transmitted its signal for 22 consecutive years, in strict compliance with all its legal obligations towards the Venezuelan State.

That less than half an hour after the closure of **RADIO SENSACIONAL FM 94.7**, another station started transmitting from the same frequency (which is impossible to achieve without legal and technical arrangements that usually take several months), making worthless any right of representatives of the closed station to seek the legal remedies that correspond to them.

That despite the Venezuelan Organic Telecommunications Law provides the mechanisms and procedures for transformation and renewal of administrative titles for the operation of broadcasting stations, such processes of "Transformation and Renewal of Titles" have not been completed since 2002 and a significant number of radio stations are not receiving their operating permits due to omission by CONATEL itself.

THE 44 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTING - IAB - MEETING IN PANAMA CITY, RESOLVES:

1. - To express its categorical rejection to this measure against a broadcaster affiliated to the Venezuelan Chamber of the Broadcasting Industry (CVIR).
- 2.- To urge CONATEL to reconsider the closure of station 94.7 FM RADIO SENSACIONAL and return the frequency to whom has been operating it legitimately, continuously and peacefully.
3. - To urge CONATEL to transform and renew, as the case may be, the concessions and the administrative authorizations requested several years ago, in compliance with the law and thus to put an end to the "serious legal uncertainty" affecting broadcasting activity in Venezuela and vindicate the right of broadcasters to request and obtain the renewal of their concessions according to the law.

4- To report on the contents of this Resolution to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS, the European Commission of Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the OAS.

Panama City, October 11, 2014