

Watch CNN's "Toxic America" Tonight, June 2, 2010 at 7pm CST Join Mossville, LA Residents' Fight for a Healthy Environment

On June 2, 2010, CNN will broadcast "Toxic America" that presents the human rights struggle by residents of Mossville, Louisiana to live in a healthy environment. Mossville is a historic African American community in southwest Louisiana where people once fished, farmed, and hunted for a living. This way of life changed as a result of governmental permitting that allows 14 industrial companies to build and operate in Mossville some of the most toxic facilities in America. With environmental permits to pollute, these industrial facilities have poisoned fish, made the air unhealthy to breathe, and contaminated bayous, soil, and groundwater. Seven of these facilities are known to release the same kind of dioxins – a group of cancer-causing, hormone damaging chemicals – that have been detected at elevated levels in the blood of Mossville residents. Children and adults in Mossville suffer and die from severe health problems linked to industrial pollution.

Long before the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico made it clear that our government has placed our safety and health in the hands of polluting companies, Mossville Environmental Action Now has been confronting industry and government to defend the right to a healthy environment. With the support of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, the group has taken this fight to an international human rights panel known as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. The Commission investigates and rules on human rights issues occurring in the United States and 34 other member countries located in the Western Hemisphere. In March 2010, the Commission ruled that it will conduct a judicial review of the Mossville human rights petition that centers on the U.S. Government's permitting of industrial facilities in violation of Mossville residents' basic human rights. The petition seeks remedies in the form of health services, relocation of consenting residents, pollution reduction, and reform of the U.S. Government's deeply flawed environmental permitting standards.



Members of Mossville Environmental Action Now and Advocates for Environmental Human Rights in front of the Organization of American States building in Washington, DC, where they filed the Mossville human rights petition.

What you can do to support Mossville Environmental Action Now:

- Call or send an email to President Obama that demands health protections for Mossville residents and all communities across America suffering from toxic pollution. Send an email at www.whitehouse.gov/contact or call the White House at 202.456.1111.
- Learn more about the Mossville human rights case at www.ehumanrights.org and share it with others.
- Make a tax-deductible donation to Mossville Environmental Action Now to build a health clinic and continue advocating for our human right to a healthy environment.

Mossville Environmental Action Now (M.E.A.N.)
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