

## Situation of Human Rights in Nicaragua

JULY 2020

### Repression data

Information updated to July 31, 2020



**328** deaths | 24 children  
and adolescents | 21  
police officers



**+86** political prisoners  
remain detained



**+ 405** health  
professionals have been  
dismissed and **150**  
students have been  
expelled



**+ 90** journalists and  
media workers have  
been forced into exile



**+ 103, 600**  
Nicaraguans have fled  
to neighboring  
countries

### MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	84
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,629
Trainings provided	34
Persons trained	772
Precautionary measures granted to date	86

### IACHR urges to guarantee the rights of Nicaraguans who return in the context of the pandemic

On July 31, the IACHR expressed its concern about the situation of Nicaraguan people seeking to return to their country in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it urged the State to guarantee the immediate return of its nationals. Also, the IACHR called the States of the region to carry out and strengthen cooperation actions towards that end.

The IACHR has recognized the importance and complexity of the exceptional measures required by States to respond to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, including those that restrict human mobility. However, the Commission recalled that said restrictions must be strictly proportional to meet the legitimate purpose of protecting life and health.

In this regard, the Commission has reiterated that, in accordance with the applicable instruments on the matter, this cannot prevent the return of persons to their States of nationality and, particularly, cause the precarious conditions experienced by Nicaraguans who try to return to their country.

In the aforementioned circumstances, the IACHR urged the Nicaraguan State to guarantee the life, integrity, and health of people stranded on its borders, facilitating and prioritizing the issuance of protocols on medical and admission processes for that purpose; which must be objective, transparent and of public access, integrating an intercultural perspective; thus avoiding that people remain on hold and at the discretion of the authorities' decision in each case.

Finally, in the face of the thousands of Nicaraguan people who were forced to flee in the context of the human rights crisis that began on April 18, 2018, the Commission reiterates the duty of the State of Nicaragua to ensure real guarantees of protection and, in particular, that they will not be victims of persecution once they are back in Nicaraguan territory.

## Main events elevated in social media

JULY 9

**#Nicaragua** The **#IACHR** received information from **#Panama** about more than 1000 Nicaraguans who are trying to return to their country and, given the refusal of the Nicaraguan State to allow their entry, they remain in border shelters. **#Migration #DDHH**

The **#IACHR** also reported the situation of more than 100 Nicaraguans prevented from returning to their country from **#Guatemala**, due to the refusal of the State of **#Nicaragua** to allow their return. About 45 people would be in a border shelter **#Migration**

**#Nicaragua** The **#CIDH** makes an urgent call to the State to allow the immediate return of its nationals, as well as to the States of the Region to carry out cooperative actions to that end, in accordance with recommendation no. 60 of its Res. 1/20 **#Migration #MESENI**

JULY 11

**#Nicaragua** The **#IACHR** condemns the attack by settlers on the Ahsawas community, Mayangna Sauni Bu territory, Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, which occurred on July 10th. According to public information, the events resulted in the death of one person and another seriously injured.

The **#IACHR** urges the State to protect the life and integrity of members of the indigenous and Afro-descendant communities of **#CostaCaribe**, who were affected by the intensification of settler attacks in recent months. **#IndigenousPeoples #Afrodescendants**

JULY 20

**#Nicaragua** The **@IACHR** received information about the murder of Jorge Rugama in La Trinidad, Estelí. The events would have occurred last night after the victim shouted anti-government slogans at the end of an official demonstration. **#MESENI (1/2)**

**#Nicaragua** Testimonies indicate that he was murdered by a state agent in retaliation for his expressions of protest. The **#IACHR** urges the State to investigate the facts in a timely, exhaustive and impartial manner and determine responsibilities in this crime.

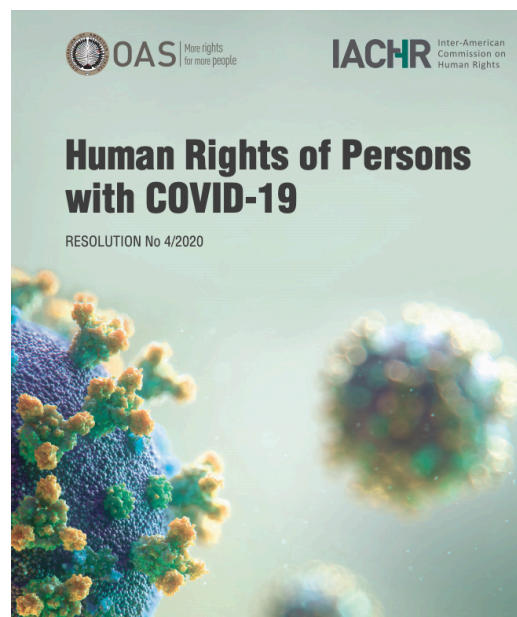
AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>

**#Nicaragua** The **@IACHR** condemns the arson attack on the Cathedral of Managua, on #July31. This act affects religious freedom and cultural rights. **#MESENI** reports that this would join several other attacks on temples in the country in recent weeks **#DDHH 1**

**#Nicaragua** The **#IACHR** received testimonies indicating that the attacks could be reprisals for the defense of the Human Rights by the Catholic Church in the country; and urges the State to investigate and punish those responsible, through diligent and impartial processes.

## Last press releases

186/20 - [The IACHR urges the State of Nicaragua to guarantee the rights of Nicaraguan people who return in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#). (Spanish version) Washington, D.C., July 31, 2020



## SACROI-COVID19

— Sala de Coordinación y —  
Respuesta Oportuna e Integrada

On July 27, the IACHR adopted its [Resolution No. 04/20](#) which establishes the “Inter-American Guidelines on the Human Rights of Persons with COVID-19”. The resolution represent a continuity to the essential contribution that the IACHR, since its SACROI COVID-19, makes available to States and civil society for the defense of human rights in the hemisphere in the current context of the pandemic.

You can follow the MESENI activities in our web section and in our social media:

[Web page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [TV CIDH/MESENI](#)