

## Situation of human rights in Nicaragua

APRIL 2019

### Last presentations to the OAS

- [Speech by the Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion and Technical Cooperation on Human Rights, María Claudia Pulido](#), on April 26, 2019.
- [Speech by the Commissioner Joel Hernández](#) regarding “the situation in Nicaragua”, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	49
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,407
Trainings provided	15
Persons trained	368
Precautionary measures granted to date	69

On February 27, the Government of Nicaragua convened a Negotiation Table to move towards finding a solution to address the human rights crisis.

In the context of the negotiation, the parties reached agreements to release all persons deprived of liberty for their participation in the protests that began on April 18, 2018. The IACHR acknowledges that the agreements that were published on March 27 and 29, 2019, were a step forward. Despite this, after 30 days of its publication, only **236 people have been released**. Also, according to information received by the MESENI, many of the ex-detainees have been **victims of surveillance and new arrests under various charges**, including ordinary crimes. According to information from civil society, at least **700 people are being subjected to criminal proceedings** and many of these people are still deprived of their liberty.

A year after the onset of social protests in Nicaragua, the IACHR has denounced the continuation of state repression and the imposition of a police state throughout the country. Among the main aspects of concern registered are:

- Prohibition of the realization of social protests and public demonstrations.
- Continuation of arbitrary detentions.
- Repression of persons who remain deprived of their liberty.
- Lack of security guarantees for the return of exiles.
- The serious violations of human rights documented by the IACHR.
- The grave human rights violations that the IACHR has documented remains unpunished.

In the previous context, the Commission recorded that the demonstrators have varied and limited their forms of protest. During March and April, express pickets; brief acts of protest in private places; whistles; sitting or short plantings; throwing of paper or straw, and paint marks on streets with national colors, have multiplied.

In this period, the IACHR also registered **new patterns of repression**, such as **brief or temporary detention** of persons who are not taken to detention centers. These arrests occur as a result of a massive and permanent police surveillance of public spaces in which demonstrations could take place.

## Main events

APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup>

Expiration of the term established by the parties to continue the Negotiation Table.

APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>

Release of 50 persons identified as "political prisoners".

Presentation by Commissioner Joel Hernández before the Permanent Council.



APRIL 16

Release of 636 people. Of these, only 36 were detained for events related to the crisis.

APRIL 17

[MESENI denounced](#) the police ban on the protest called for this day in Nicaragua. One year after the start of the protests, the IACHR urged the State to guarantee freedom of expression and not to repress the opposition, as happened on March 17 and 30.

APRIL 18

The IACHR denounces that, one year after the beginning of the crisis, the graves human rights violations remain unpunished.



APRIL 19

[#MESENI learned of a police operation](#) this morning in Bluefields, in front of Radio # LaCosteñísima, with siege and intimidation to Sergio León, its director. The IACHR urged the State to respect freedom of expression in #Nicaragua

[#MESENI learned of the attack perpetrated](#) by the National Police against a group of young people who demonstrated outside the Cathedral of #Managua.

APRIL 25

[#MESENI learned of punishment of detainees in #Nicaragua](#). The #IACHR is concerned about reports of water rationing to people in #LaModelo. Also, the IACHR urged the State to immediately improve the prison conditions of the imprisoned protesters.

APRIL 26

Presentation by the Deputy Executive Secretary, María Claudia Pulido, before the OAS.



## Latest press releases about the situation in the country.

**108/19** - [Amid Ongoing Restrictions on Public Protest, IACHR Urges Nicaragua to Comply with Implementation of Agreements.](#) Washington, D.C., April 30, 2019

**101/19** - [One Year after the Onset of the Crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR Once Again Expresses Its Permanent Commitment to Victims of Human Rights Violations.](#) Washington, D.C., April 17, 2019

**90/19** - [IACHR Condemns Continuing Acts of Repression in Nicaragua during Negotiating Table Talks.](#) Washington, D.C., April 5, 2019

## Repression data

*Information updated to April 18, 2019*



**325** deaths, 24 children and adolescents | 21 police officers



**+700** people are being subjected to criminal proceedings



**300** health professionals were dismissed and; **144** students have been expelled



**+70** journalists and media workers have been forced into exile



**+62,000** Nicaraguans have fled to neighboring countries

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

[Web Page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)