

Situation of Human Rights in Nicaragua

JULY 2019

Latest press releases about Nicaragua

187/19 - [IACHR conducts Working Visit to Miami to Present Report on Human Rights Situation in Nicaragua](#). Washington, DC, July 31, 2019

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MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	59
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,512
Trainings provided	20
Persons trained	435
Precautionary measures granted to date	73

■ Nicaragua's announcement that it will Not Continue Dialogue

On July 19, 2019, the president of Nicaragua allegedly stated in an official speech that the government would not resume the dialogue process. On July 30, 2019, this position was made official through state communications to international organizations who were taking part in the Negotiating Table as witnesses and providing support for this process. The IACHR regretted the state's decision to close this dialogue down, particularly its lack of willingness to effectively reinstate the fundamental rights and guarantees that have been restricted as part of the police state that has been implemented and the serious institutional decline the country is experiencing.

■ Continuation of repression and the police state

The IACHR denounced the ongoing patterns of state repression in the country, such as indirect censorship of media outlets, the disproportionate occupation of the public space, and the prohibition of social protests. In response, MESENI has spoken out against ongoing police harassment of those who organized events to celebrate the memory of the people who were killed during "[clean-up operation](#)"; the National Police Force's refusal to authorize the demonstration to mark Student Day; and the repression of those who attempted to demonstrate. Likewise, the IACHR has spoken out against the increase in surveillance, police monitoring, and the harassment of human rights organizations, particularly the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH) and the Permanent Commission on Human Rights (CPDH). Both organizations have been granted [precautionary measures](#) by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

■ Increase of violence within the country

In July, the IACHR received concerning information on the alleged increase in violence in rural areas and on the border with Honduras, which included reports on the murder of people who members of Nicaraguan civil society identified as government dissidents. The IACHR warned that victims' family members lack of trust in state institutions or their fear of reprisals, the lack of independence of the judiciary, and the limited geographic access that independent media outlets and human rights organizations have to these areas are all factors that make it difficult to obtain accurate information on the circumstances in which these events are occurring.

In this regard, the IACHR recalled that these events must be investigated by the state of Nicaragua itself as a legal duty and not just as a mere formality that is doomed to failure. The state must comply diligently with this obligation to investigate in order to avoid impunity and prevent such events from occurring again. Moreover, the IACHR stressed that this obligation stands regardless of who the violation is eventually attributed to, even if they are private individuals: if such events are not seriously investigated into, then the state would be aiding and abetting them, which would compromise its international responsibility.

Main events

JULY 5

Mothers of April denounced yesterday that the Church of San Pedro in Suitaba, in which dead young people were remembered, was besieged by the National Police of Nicaragua. The [#IACHR](#) reiterated that the right to memory is fundamental to guarantee non-repetition. [#Nicaragua1Year](#)

JULY 12

A few hours before remembering the first anniversary of the attack on the Church of the Divine Mercy and after the announcement of the acts in memory of the deceased, the [#MESENI](#) of the [#IACHR](#) received information about a police operation deployed near the temple. [#Nicaragua1Year](#)

The [@IACourt](#) ordered [#Nicaragua](#) to adopt urgent measures to protect the life and personal integrity of the members of CENIDH and CPDH [You can consult the Resolution](#)



JULY 17

[#MESENI](#) learned of the death of Bryan Murillo López and the injuries caused to his brother, in León. His relatives reported that the house was attacked at dawn by the National Police of [#Nicaragua](#)

23 JULY

The person convicted of the murder of Rayneia Da Costa Lima, a Brazilian student, would have been released pursuant to the Amnesty Law.

A year after the crime of [#Rayneia Lima](#), [@PauloAbrao](#), Executive Secretary of the [#IACHR](#) said "Serious violations of human rights cannot be subjected to an amnesty procedure. This is an inter-American standard consolidated in different decisions of the Court"

25 JULY

The [#MESENI](#) of the [#IACHR](#) learned of a strong security operation deployed in Managua after the march was confirmed to commemorate the student's day in [#Nicaragua](#) despite the National Police ban.

26 JULY

The [#MESENI](#) was aware of the arrest in Masaya of María Oviedo, a lawyer of the CPDH and beneficiary of provisional measures. The IACHR demanded the release of the lawyer and reminded the State of its duty to immediately cease arbitrary detentions and the persecution of human rights defenders in Nicaragua.

Precautionary measures granted in July

MC 697 – 19-NI. Erick Antonio Robleto and family, adopted on July 29, 2019. The proposed beneficiary, a former member of the National Police special forces, would have faced several threats from groups identified by him as paramilitaries or police, after the start of the protests in April 2018 after his refusal to return to his post and participate in the barricades. Additionally, he would have been deprived of liberty for several months, allegedly subject to several aggressions. Once released in June 2019, he and his family were still under surveillance and death threats.

Repression data

Information Updated to July 31, 2019



328 deaths; 24 children and adolescents | 21 police officers



+120 political prisoners remain detained



+ 400 health professionals have been dismissed;
144 students have been expelled



+ 90 journalists and media workers have been forced into exile



+ 76, 000 Nicaraguans have fled to neighboring countries

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