

## Situation of Human Rights in Nicaragua

### Repression data

Information updated to September 30, 2020



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



**+94** 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

### The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression express concern about new legal threats to freedom of expression and indirect measures against the media and journalists in Nicaragua

The IACHR and its RELE expressed their concern over the escalation of repression in Nicaragua, marked by the presentation of two bills before the National Assembly, which could affect civil society organizations and independent media. In particular, the Law for the Regulation of Foreign Agents that forces natural or legal persons who receive funds directly or indirectly from foreign governments, agencies, foundations, companies or associations and; the *Special Law on Cybercrimes* that establishes prison sentences and fines for various behaviors related to the use of digital media.

In this regard, the IACHR called on the State to impede the progress of said initiatives as they could seriously affect the rights to freedom of association, to defend human rights, as well as the exercise of the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs.

Likewise, the IACHR and its RELE expressed their concern about the embargo on Nicavisión SA, owner of Channel 12, for alleged tax debts, and regarding the tax process initiated against Channel 10. These open television signals are the only ones that would continue to operate independently in Nicaragua.

Finally, the IACHR and its Rapporteurship observed with concern the increase in criminal cases against journalists, invoking crimes incompatible with the American Convention, such as contempt, defamation, and insults. One of the most recent cases is that of La Costeñísima radio journalist Kalúa Salazar, who was convicted of slander after denouncing acts of corruption in the Mayor's Office of El Rama. According to available information, the journalist and director of the digital platform Ecological Bulletin David Quintana and the journalist William Aragón have also been reported for the same crime.

### MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	85
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1687
Trainings provided	35
Persons trained	802
Precautionary measures granted to date	87

## Main events elevated in social media

SEPTEMBER 10

#Nicaragua #MESENI was informed that the National Police detained the student leader Angel Rocha, of the @AlianzaCivicaNi. This arbitrary detention adds to more than 45 arrests in the last month of protesters and opponents

SEPTEMBER 12

#Nicaragua The IACHR was informed of the police attack, including firearm shots, on Marcos Carmona of @CPDHNicaragua and his family. Police have prevented them from making the respective complaints #DDHH #MESENI

SEPTEMBER 24

The #IACHR expresses its deep concern about a draft Law for the Regulation of Foreign Agents that a group of pro-government deputies presented in #Nicaragua #MESENI

The #IACHR urges the State of #Nicaragua to prevent this project, which is part of a broader strategy for the closure of democratic spaces, from advancing. And once again she calls on the authorities to promote the restoration of public freedoms in the country.

SEPTEMBER 25

The #IACHR learned through reports and testimonies raised by the #MESENI of persecution and intimidating acts carried out by police agents against feminist organizations.

Agents surrounded and blocked entry to the organizations' headquarters and threatened to criminalize activists from the Mujeres Rurales, La Corriente and María Elena Cuadra groups, whose leader, Sandra Ramos, is a beneficiary of precautionary measures from #IACHR



### [MESENI launched new website](#)

#### Last press releases

214/20 - [IACHR Extends Precautionary Measures in Favor of Two Mothers of the "Asociación Madres de Abril" \(AMA\)](#). September 9 (only available in Spanish)

R246/20 - [The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression express concern about new legal threats to freedom of expression and indirect measures against the media and journalists in Nicaragua](#). Washington, D.C., October 7, 2020

#### Public hearings held

**Case 13.465 Dina Carrión** The @CIDH received testimonies at the hearing in the case of Dina Carrión and others vs. #Nicaragua.

**Repression, persecution and imprisonment of student leaders in Nicaragua.** Students denounce attacks on university autonomy, murders, expulsion without due process, persecution, detentions and criminalization since April 2018, which also caused forced displacement.

#Nicaragua #MESENI learned today of public information that indicates that @MadresdeAbril were besieged and harassed by police personnel in #Managua, in the context of a sit-in organized for the celebration of the second anniversary of that organization. (1/2)

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PERIOD OF

SESSIONS

VIRTUAL  
IACHR

September 25 to  
October 9, 2020

**PUBLIC  
HEARINGS**  
#IACHRhearings

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