

Nicaragua  
November 3, 2021

PUBLIC STATEMENT

***Dictatorship and Repression in Nicaragua:  
Without human rights there is no democracy.  
There is no democracy with impunity.***

**For more than three years, human rights and victims' organizations, independent journalists, and social movements in Nicaragua have been working tirelessly to accompany victims, as well as document and report on the destruction of institutions, repression, and serious human rights violations in Nicaragua. We have maintained the guiding principle that the human "the human rights of Nicaraguans are non-negotiable" and that our struggle for freedom and justice is unwavering.**

In the face of the upcoming illegitimate elections, we find it necessary to reinforce the **fight against impunity** and renew our **commitment to liberty, justice, human rights, and true democracy** for current and future generations.

The undersigned organizations – together with others, who for obvious reasons are forced to omit their names – assume the shared commitment to **confront the denial** of truth and facts and the state policy of disinformation. For eight months we have been working in a participatory, coordinated manner **to compile and analyze evidence of crimes against humanity, state terrorism, and the situation of impunity in Nicaragua**. This documentation corroborates the massive and systematic nature of these crimes, which continue to be committed in our country. These grave human rights violations (life, physical integrity, expression, to inform and be informed, association, mobility, protest, health, and more) took place within the framework of **state terrorism** and a **de facto police state of emergency**.

Based on the information gathered since 2018, the Daniel Ortega dictatorship has clearly bolstered an oppressive and authoritarian regime with absolute control over all branches of government and security forces. There are repeated patterns in human rights violations in Nicaragua, in which state and para-state actors carry out a variety of organized attacks: institutional violence; criminalization of social protests and the defense of human rights; stigmatization, detention and prosecution of political opponents and harassment of their families; violence and threats against journalists; aggression against peaceful pro-human rights demonstrators; excessive and abusive use of force; persecution and threats, which continue to result in very high numbers of political exiles; and an absolute denial of access to justice, which fosters impunity.

Students and student leaders; journalists; human rights defenders; families of victims; leaders from various fields; rural leaders; indigenous and afro-descendant communities; members of the political opposition; religious leaders; women; and the LGBTIQ+ community continue to be persecuted, threatened, and criminalized and have become the **primary targets of repression**.

Likewise, the prevailing impunity in Nicaragua stems from a lack of rule of law that guarantees compliance with individuals' minimum guarantees and fundamental rights. As long as state institutions continue to answer to the Ortega-Murillo dictatorship, the victims will remain defenseless and grave human rights violations will continue escalating to magnitudes similar to those that took place under the totalitarian regimes that left deep scars on Latin America. We must continue to fight against this.

For all the reasons above, it is essential that the international community – and the entire world – closely follow the facts and that we continue to disseminate information through **documentation and reporting**. This will ensure that this effort becomes part of the history of the struggle of the entire Nicaraguan people so that the people whose rights were and continue to be violated can demand justice, the guarantee and protection of their rights, heal their wounds, and contribute to preventing similar situations in the future.

**Therefore, it is essential to generate processes of memory, truth, justice, reparation, and an imminent return to democracy. With an autocracy, with political prisoners and exiles, with no guarantee of human rights and under a framework of impunity, there is no possibility of free, fair, and transparent elections capable of contributing to the construction of a democratic state.**

#### Signatory Organizations

- o **Acción Penal**
- o **Articulación de Movimientos Sociales (AMS)**
- o **Asociación Nicaragüense Pro-Derechos Humanos (ANPDH)**
- o **Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos (CENIDH)**
- o **Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua (CEJUDHCAN)**
- o **Colectivo de Derechos Humanos Nicaragua Nunca Más (Nicaragua Nunca +)**
- o **Comité Familiares Presos y Presas de Nicaragua**
- o **Popol Na**
- o **Grupo de Reflexión de Excarcelados Políticos (GREX)**
- o **Movimiento Autónomo de Mujeres (MAM)**
- o **Nicaragüenses en el Mundo (NEEM)**
- o **Periodistas y Comunicadores Independientes de Nicaragua (PCIN)**
- o **Unión de Presos y Presas Políticos Nicaragüenses (UPPN)**

