



 OBSERVATORIO DE
DERECHOS HUMANOS
N I C A R A G U A

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE NICARAGUAN STATE

(JUNE 2022 TO APRIL 2023)



FOUNDATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND
SOCIAL
INNOVATION

Foundation for Development and Social Innovation (FDSI) through the Human Rights Observatory for Nicaragua, presents this report with the interest of continuing to provide confirmed information on the political, economic and social situation in Nicaragua since 2018.



FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

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We are a team of professionals that helps promote sustainable development and social innovation in vulnerable populations in challenging environments. Accompanying local communities to improve their living conditions is one of our commitments.

FDSI focuses on fostering meaningful change in people to achieve healthier, more productive, safer and prosperous environments to improve the quality of life of young people, men, women, boys and girls.

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Promoting democratic governance and human rights.

Our program seeks to encourage the active participation of young people and women in political and economic decision-making in their communities, as well as to support the defense of human rights and democratic governance.

Our approach is to promote educational initiatives in civics, provide advice and support to organizations and social movements to strengthen people's capacity to understand the functioning of the state and society, ensuring compliance with human rights and citizen responsibility to achieve more sustainable, productive, safe and prosperous environments.

As of April 18, 2018, FDSI's team of volunteer promoters has been promoting human rights advocacy actions and urging the population to continue to be part of the peaceful, civic and non-violent resistance that has characterized the struggle of Nicaraguans.

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DERECHOS HUMANOS**
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The report on human rights violations by the Nicaraguan state, June 2022 to April 2023, is published by the Foundation for Development and Social Innovation (FDSI) through the Human Rights Observatory. This report is available in pdf version at the address: www.derechoshumanosnicaragua.org and www.developmentfoundation.org

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PRESENTATION

April 2023 marked five years since the beginning of the citizen protests that marked a social and political change in Nicaragua. Reports from national and international organizations, such as the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), conclude that the State committed crimes against humanity against the people of Nicaragua, which are murder, imprisonment or other deprivation of physical liberty, persecution, rape, torture and forced disappearance.

According to the [register of fatalities](#) systematized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), "in the context of the crisis accounts for at least 355 victims during the repression of social protests between April 18 and July 31, 2019. According to the gender breakdown, 15 would be women and 340 men. In addition, 27 of the total number of victims would be children and/or adolescents. The data also shows that 23 agents of the National Police lost their lives in this context".



On the other hand, on March 2, 2023, the United Nations Human Rights Council's Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua (GHREN) presented a report on the violations of fundamental rights by the State of Nicaragua, in which they conclude that these are "crimes against humanity" and encourage the international community to investigate these acts and take legal action against those responsible.

"We can conclude that systematic and widespread human rights violations have been carried out and are politically motivated and have been committed against civilians by the Government of Nicaragua since 2018. These violations continue to this day," stated Jean-Michael Simon, president of the Group," according to [La Prensa](#) publication.

Therefore, the Human Rights Observatory (ODH) presents this report built from the review of reports from national and international organizations, as well as independent media whose sources of verification are found on internet sites, with the interest of continuing to document these facts and providing confirmed information on the political, economic and social situation in Nicaragua from 2018 to date.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

• On February 9, 2023, a total of 222 political prisoners were banished and stripped of their Nicaraguan nationality. To date, 36 people remain in Nicaraguan prisons, a figure that will increase during the month of April due to activities to commemorate the memory of the victims of state repression in 2018.

• Another 94 people were stripped of their nationality on February 15, 2023, including writers, journalists, human rights activists, businessmen and religious leaders.

• Released political prisoners and their families were victims of physical and psychological torture. The Nicaraguan Observatory against Torture documented 150 cases between April and September 2022, including burns with tasers or cigarettes, the use of barbed wire, beatings with fists and pipes, and attempts at strangulation, as well as psychological torture, death threats, sexual violence (including rape), threats of sexual abuse, lack of timely medical attention, and others.

• Released political prisoners recounted various cases of psychological torture, as well as punishment and inhumane treatment inside prisons, including shackling, water rationing, rotting food and overcrowding.



• As of the date of finalization of this report, a total of 3,321 civil society organizations have been closed in Nicaragua by various state institutions. 3,247 of these organizations were closed between 2022 and so far in 2023. A report by the Fundación del Río estimates that this has resulted in the unemployment of more than 23,000 Nicaraguans and losses of more than US\$250 million in aid for education, health, social inclusion and other issues.

• The Catholic Church has been the victim of siege, imprisonment of leaders and parishioners, prohibition of religious activities, intimidation, physical and verbal aggressions, as well as discrediting by the president of Nicaragua and other public officials.

• A study by an independent researcher indicates that between 2018 and October 2022 there were 396 assaults against the Catholic Church.

• A New York Times investigation reflected that more than 180,000 Nicaraguans migrated to the United States in 2022, in addition to more than 154,000 Nicaraguans requested political asylum in Costa Rica between 2018 and 2022.



UPDATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NICARAGUA

This ODH report is focused on compiling cases of human rights violations and events that occurred in the period from June 2022 to the first half of April 2023, among which stand out the banishment and stripping of Nicaraguan nationality of 222 political prisoners and the continued imprisonment of 36 others, the closure of civil society organizations through discretionary mechanisms promoted by the Ministry of the Interior (MIGOB), the siege of the Catholic Church, the attacks on journalists and independent media, all of which have caused more Nicaraguans to go into exile for protection and in search of better development opportunities in the face of the economic crisis the country is experiencing.

On March 2, 2023, the United Nations Human Rights Council's Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua (GHREN) presented a report on the violations of fundamental rights by the Nicaraguan State, in which they conclude that these are "crimes against humanity" and encourage the international community to investigate these acts and take legal action against those responsible.

In that regard, on March 22, 2023 some representatives of the April Mothers Association (AMA) testified to [Voice of America](#) that they expect justice, once GHREN has ruled in those terms.

Azucena López -mother of Erick Antonio Jiménez, who was murdered on July 17, 2018 during the cleaning operation executed by the National Police in the city of Masaya- said to that media "now there is hope that there is going to be justice, even if it takes up to 40 or 50 years, as in other countries, and justice has been seen, well we hope so". While Martha Lira -mother of Agustín Mendoza, who was murdered on June 14, 2018 in Managua- expressed "we see a little bit of the beginning of justice, but the time we have is already for us to have advanced more, but we understand the context of the country".

On the other hand, on March 10, 2023, an IACHR Hearing was held in which activists, former political prisoners, human rights organizations, exiled journalists, among others, presented their cases.



For example, according to the digital media [100% Noticias](#), the stripping of the nationality of more than 300 Nicaraguans (222 political prisoners who were exiled and another 94 later), the torture to which political prisoners were subjected in prison, the siege of the media, the persecution of relatives of opponents and other facts were denounced.

"After listening to the complaints and shocking stories of Nicaraguans stripped of their nationality, the IACHR commissioners said that Nicaragua is not alone and that they will continue to work for justice," said the media.



Political prisoners, banished and deprived of nationality

Lista personas
presas políticas
Nicaragua
MARZO 2023



NOTA DE PRENSA

- Se han registrado cuatro (4) escarcelaciones de personas presas políticas durante el mes de marzo. Paralelamente, se agregan a lista tres (3) personas capturadas en años anteriores para un total de 36 personas presas políticas a la fecha.
- Durante marzo de 2023 se continuó registrando el patrón de detenciones arbitrarias contra miembros de la Iglesia Católica. Continúa también la práctica violatoria de DDHH de desterrar a las personas detenidas por motivos políticos.
- Cinco (5) personas del grupo de 26 presos políticos de abril a la fecha y nueve (9) de los 10 presos políticos previo al contexto se encuentran en celdas de reclusión diferenciada en condiciones de mayor aislamiento, precariedad de las celdas y mayor vulnerabilidad ante malos tratos y torturas.
- De las 1310 personas reconocidas como presas políticas desde abril 2018 (ver informe del Mecanismo del mes de febrero), 139 han sido mujeres quienes han sido víctimas de violencia de género. Así como también las familiares mujeres de presos y presas políticas han sufrido algún tipo de violaciones a sus derechos.
- El Grupo de Expertos en Derechos Humanos para Nicaragua investigó la situación de personas presas políticas y afirma que las detenciones y judicializaciones han sido usadas de forma "sistemática y generalizada" como parte de una política del Estado que incluyó "la adopción de legislación penal contraria a los estándares internacionales de derechos humanos."

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The [March 2023 Report](#) of the Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners documents a total of 36 political prisoners, of which 26 were imprisoned from April 2018 to date and another 10 before the events of April 2018.

This despite the release of 222 political prisoners on February 9, 2023, who "were banished and stripped of their nationality through an illegal "deportation" sentence and a reform to the Political Constitution that lacks legal standing," according to the report, adding that "the mechanism registers a total of 1,310 people who have been recognized as political prisoners between October 2018 and February 2023 through the monthly lists. Of these, at least 72 have been imprisoned more than once for political persecution."

The 222 people released were sent by private plane to Washington DC, United States.

In this regard, the [U.S. State Department](#) published: "Today, the United States welcomes 222 individuals who were imprisoned by the Government of Nicaragua as a result of exercising their fundamental

freedoms and have endured unjust detentions for extended periods of time. The release by the Government of Nicaragua of these individuals, one of whom is a U.S. citizen, represents a constructive step toward addressing human rights abuses in the country and opens the possibility for continued dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua on issues of concern. Today's development is a product of concerted U.S. diplomacy, and we will continue to support the people of Nicaragua. Among those released from Nicaraguan custody are political and business leaders, journalists, civil society representatives and students. Upon their release by Nicaragua, the United States facilitated the safe transfer of these individuals to Dulles International Airport. The individuals arrived today and the United States is providing medical and legal support to facilitate their arrival".

The Nicaraguan Court of Appeals issued a statement quoted by 100% Noticias emphasizing that this was an immediate deportation of persons sentenced for committing acts that undermine the independence, sovereignty and self-determination of the people, for inciting violence, terrorism and ignition, for harming the supreme interests of the nation by altering peace, security and constitutional order.

That same day, the deputies of the Nicaraguan National Assembly met to reform the Political Constitution and approve the Special Law that Regulates the Loss of Nicaraguan Nationality, in order to strip the nationality of the 222 political prisoners who were released.

According to a press release of the National Assembly: "Article 21 of the Political Constitution establishes that the acquisition, loss and recovery of nationality shall be regulated by the laws; and with the reform approved in the first legislature, it adds that Traitors to the Homeland lose the quality of Nicaraguan nationals. The deputies approved the Special Law that Regulates the Loss of Nicaraguan Nationality, provided in article 21 of the Political Constitution. This Law establishes that the judicial authority will be the competent entity to apply it and notify it to the Supreme Electoral Council. Both legislations are based on the provisions of Article 1 of the Political Constitution of the Republic and Law 1055, Law for the Defense of the Rights of the People to Independence, Sovereignty and Self-Determination for Peace".

Another 94 people were stripped of their nationality on February 15, 2023, including writers such as Sergio Ramírez and Gioconda Belli; journalists from Artículo 66, Nicaragua Investiga, Radio Darío, among others; businessmen; human rights activists, such as Vilma Núñez, president of CENIDH; and religious leaders, such as Bishop Silvio Báez.

Countries such as Spain, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and the United States offered facilities to receive the released persons, granting them residency and even citizenship in accordance with their legislation.

Unjustified imprisonment and banishment were not the only ways to "punish" those the government considers "enemies of the homeland", but the use of torture as a method to obtain information from protesters and persons deprived of liberty has been denounced in cells throughout the country.

Among the complaints received by this organization are: burns with electric guns or cigarettes, the use of barbed wire, beatings with fists and pipes and attempts at strangulation, as well as psychological torture, death threats, sexual violence (including rape) and threats of sexual abuse.

For example, the Human Rights Collective Nicaragua Never Again, in its [Seventh Report](#) of the Nicaraguan Observatory against Torture, corresponding to the period from April to September 2022, states that the organization has documented a total of 150 cases of torture (125 men and 25 women, including a transsexual woman), cruel and inhuman treatment in police centers, prisons and clandestine or irregular centers.



According to the report, "the Collective has been denouncing a systematic practice of lack of timely and specialized medical attention aimed at eroding the physical condition of political prisoners. This situation has continued during the last six months. The lack of timely medical attention has led to an increase in cases of hospitalization in the population of political prisoners, and to the appearance and worsening of chronic illnesses. The lack of specialized medical care further aggravates this reality. Both elements are extremely serious and place political prisoners in a situation of grave risk to life and personal integrity. People with pre-existing or chronic illnesses, in general, have not had access to timely and adequate medical attention, nor to the prescribed medication; nor have they been guaranteed the timely supply of their medicines in the corresponding schedule, which aggravates the pre-existing conditions and could lead to the deterioration of their health until they die".

The Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners also [documented and denounced](#) throughout 2022 a series of reprisals and punishments against political prisoners and their relatives "sexualized aggressions against female relatives of political prisoners are recorded during visits. Political prisoners are punished by having their packages withheld. One of them was suspended the use of toilet paper for 15 days".

In this regard, during a discussion organized by Voice of America on February 16, 2023, former political prisoners Juan Lorenzo Holmann, Samantha Jiron and Medardo Mairena recounted some of the situations they experienced during their time in prison:

"We were never beaten, at least in my case and those who were with me, the aggression they made was emotional, mental," said Juan Lorenzo Holmann.

OBSERVATORIO NICARAGÜENSE CONTRA LA TORTURA

VII INFORME

Abril - Septiembre 2022

COLECTIVO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
NICARAGUA NUNCA MÁS

"At the moment we can't know how much it has affected us. Right now I don't feel that I need psychological accompaniment, but I know that this is going to manifest itself in some way (...) I keep having nightmares that I am in prison," acknowledged Samantha Jiron.

"Our families also suffered psychological torture," said Medardo Mairena.

For his part, former political prisoner Victor Sosa told AP News, quoted by [Infobae](#) on February 25, 2023, "they were three terrible years. I thought they would kill us at any moment".

In addition to narrating that many political prisoners were held in small, completely dark cells, with a hole in the floor used as a toilet, some were chained, sleeping on the floor, with rationed water and rotting food.

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"The mistreatment was mostly psychological. They provoked us by telling us that we were going to rot in jail, that we were going to get worm-eaten," said a former political prisoner who requested

anonymity from AP for fear of reprisals against her family.

At the time of finalizing this report, 36 political prisoners remain in Nicaraguan jails, and this number will surely increase during the month of April, due to the activities of protest, prayer and remembrance of the victims of state repression of 2018.

"We, the relatives of the political prisoners who were not released on February 9, 2023, ask the international community, human rights organizations, and governments friendly to the people of Nicaragua, to support us in the liberation of our relatives who continue to be held in the different penitentiary systems of the country in degrading conditions for any human being", expressed the relatives of these people in a [press conference](#) on February 14, 2023.



Organizaciones de sociedad civil clausuradas

The count carried out by the digital media [Confidencial](#) indicates that as of March 31, 2023, the Nicaraguan State has closed 3,321 organizations.

Of that total, "half a hundred have been confiscated, with a total of 87 properties verified by the journalistic alliance formed for this investigation. Other dozens of properties have also been seized from the media, businessmen and representatives of the private sector, diplomatic headquarters, and "denationalized" citizens by Ortega's orders, totaling more than a hundred and a half usurped properties, in a plot in which a dozen public institutions have participated", the newspaper indicates.

3,247 of those organizations have been closed between 2022 and so far in 2023, while 74 others were closed between November 2018 and December 2021. The figures by year are shown below:

- In 2018, the legal status of 9 organizations was cancelled.
- In 2019 another 3 organizations.
- In 2020 there were 2 organizations.
- In 2021, another 60 organizations.
- In 2022 a total of 1,277 organizations as of August 15.
- Between August 16, 2022 and April 10, 2023, 1,970 organizations have been closed.

Women, children, youth, the elderly, different ethnic groups and LGBTIQ+ communities, as well as those living in poverty have been deprived of essential supports to improve their quality of life.

Additionally, we point out that this situation is not over, and by the time you are reading this report the number of organizations eliminated will be higher.

The work of some Nicaraguan organizations included the management of international cooperation projects and/or private funds for the benefit of youth, women, children, the elderly, LGBTIQ+ groups and other groups, as well as the search for solutions to social conflicts (especially addressing violence in its various forms), the promotion of economic development, the allocation of scholarships and other activities.

Education, health, employment, culture, food and the full exercise of rights and freedoms were the main focus of their work in different geographical areas of the country, especially in the most impoverished regions where the implementation of public policies of the State fails to meet the basic needs of the population.

In other words, local organizations were responsible for complementing (and in some cases almost exclusively performing) the functions of the same State that has legally prohibited them from continuing their work.

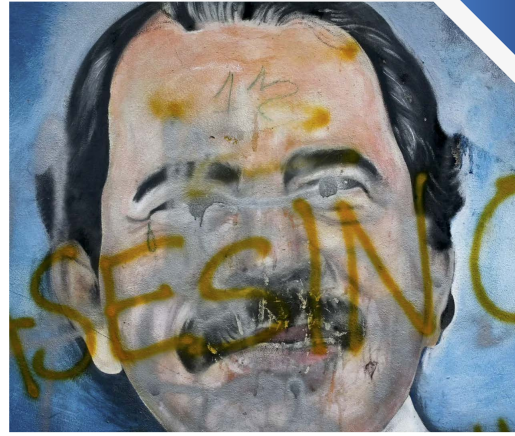
A report by the Fundación del Río, quoted by [Confidencial](#) on April 4, 2023, indicates that the closure of the organizations "has sent 23,483 Nicaraguans into unemployment and left losses in excess of \$250 million; it has also cut off aid to some 3.4 million beneficiaries in Nicaragua."

In addition, the organizations involved in the collection and dissemination of complaints of human rights violations, as well as the accompaniment of victims, are also in the packages of cancellation of legal personality.

In this case, the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH), the Permanent Human Rights Commission (CPDH) and the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights (ANPDH) will continue their work from exile, as they are able to do so without a presence in the country.

In addition, the mechanisms for the closure of these organizations have been modified. First, the Ministry of the Interior and the National Assembly made a first wave of closures between November 2018 and August 2020.

Then, between September 2020 and February 2021, the State of Nicaragua **approved** a total of seven legal instruments (laws, decrees and regulations) to increase control over non-governmental organizations that manage international cooperation funds on democracy, human rights and similar issues; also, to punish those who the State considers that they are producing and disseminating "false news", imprisoning opponents for at least ninety days without trial and even leaving open the possibility that these people can be tried for committing "hate crimes" and receive life imprisonment for it.



And finally, on August 11, 2022, the National Assembly approved an amendment to Law 1115 (General Law of Regulation and Control of Non-Profit Organizations), Law 522 (General Law of Sports, Physical Education and Physical Recreation) and repealed Law 849 (General Law of Chambers, Federations and Confederations of Business Associations), to pass the regulation of NGOs directly to the Ministry of the Interior, thus allowing this entity to close organizations without having to go through the approval of the National Assembly.

The latter has prevented a more effective and specific follow-up of the list of organizations closed since then, since the respective information is not public and is handled with total discretion.



Siege of the Catholic Church

Monsignor Rolando Álvarez, Bishop of the Diocese of Matagalpa, was sentenced on February 9 to 26 years and four months in prison, in addition to paying a fine of more than 58 thousand córdobas (more than \$1,500 US dollars), for allegedly committing crimes of undermining national integrity, propagation of false news, aggravated obstruction of functions and disobedience to authority.

Monsignor refused to leave the country as part of the group of 222 political prisoners who were banished that day to the United States.

That same day he was transferred to La Modelo Penitentiary System. On March 24, 2023, several human rights organizations **demand** proof of Monseñor's life, since his physical and psychological health conditions are unknown.

This is in addition to other actions by the Nicaraguan government against the Catholic Church, including the harassment of priests, the prevention of religious activities, the intimidation of parishioners and the exile of some religious leaders.

"It also occurs in a context in which there are attacks against the Church and religious symbols are attacked, while the municipalities controlled by the regime also begin to assume activities that merely correspond to the Church, such as processions, and when they fail to do so, they deny permits to hold religious festivities on public roads," lawyer Yader Valdivia, member of the Human Rights Collective Nicaragua Never Again, told [Deutsche Welle](#).

Holy Week activities were carried out inside churches. More than 3 thousand processions throughout the country were prohibited by the Government of Nicaragua.

According to ACI Prensa on April 8, 2023. The prohibitions of these celebrations were notified verbally to the clergy by police officers, so officially they do not leave a record of such prohibition.

In addition, President Daniel Ortega has publicly and repeatedly offended the Church and its leadership.

An example of this occurred during the national chain of February 21, 2023 in which he said "the papacy gave all the support to [Benito] Mussolini, ally of [Adolf] Hitler." "The bishops, the priests, the popes are a mafia. Look how many crimes they have committed. Crimes for having absurd regulations. That they commit in the financial field, for embezzling millions. We are burdened with these horrors of those who present themselves as saints", according to the newspaper [El País](#).

The total number of aggressions by the Nicaraguan State against the Catholic Church, its leaders and its parishioners is unknown. However, a study conducted by researcher Martha Patricia Molina, indicates that between 2018 and October 2022, 396 aggressions have been documented, of which 127 occurred in 2022.





The attacks include offensive graffiti on temples, profanations and insults, armed attacks, imprisonments, banishments of religious, prohibitions of religious activities, among others, according to [Infobae](#) on November 19, 2022.

In addition, property confiscation is also being applied to the Catholic Church.

According to a publication of [La Prensa](#) of April 11, 2023, "almost two months after having publicly announced their "voluntary" departure from the country, the Congregation of Trappist Sisters of Nicaragua, who were in San Pedro de Lóvago, Chontales, denounced that officials of the MICOB verbally informed the bishop of the Diocese of that department that the facilities would pass into the hands of the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA). In a publication made on Facebook, they indicate that on March 1 they presented to the authorities the deed of voluntary closure, but on March 3 the authorities informed the bishop "that they could no longer go to the monastery and that INTA would operate there".

More Nicaraguans in Exile



One of the main consequences of the socio-political crisis Nicaragua has been in since April 2018 is forced migration.

According to a December 27, 2022 [New York Times](#) publication, "more than 180,000 Nicaraguans crossed into the United States this year through the end of November, about 60 times more than entered during the same period two years earlier, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data. Last

month alone (November 2022), more than 34,000 Nicaraguans turned themselves in to U.S. immigration authorities; five years ago, the figure for the entire year was just over 1,000."

According to an investigation by [Confidencial](#), the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recorded 72,192 apprehensions of Nicaraguans at the borders, an indicator of the irregular migratory flow to the U.S. The number of apprehensions of Nicaraguans at the U.S. border is estimated to have increased to 72,192, an indicator of the irregular migratory flow to the United States.

Meanwhile, Costa Rica received 52,928 refugee applications from Nicaraguans, according to updated data as of December 22, 2021. To this figure must be added those who entered the country irregularly, through one of the numerous blind spots on the border with Nicaragua.

In this regard, the [New York Times](#) publication detailed that the updated number of Nicaraguans who have applied for asylum in Costa Rica exceeds 154,000 between 2018 and December 2022. That is, more than 100,000 applications difference between 2021 and 2022, comparing both figures.

"Nobody wants to leave the country, in my case I am young, I was working, I had my own office, I had my house, I had my family and to have to leave again in the circumstances in which I left is very difficult. It is a sum of unhealed grief, then it is very complex, it is very sad what one lives," according to Francis Valdivia - sister of Franco Valdivia, who was killed on April 20, 2018 during a citizen protest near the Mayor's Office of Estelí, in northern Nicaragua - in [Despacho 505](#) publication on April 19, 2022.

"Exile is not easy. My children are still in Nicaragua under threats and siege. Here you fight with everything, for everything, to survive. I have to work in parallel between my fight for Nicaragua and to survive in this country. (...) I work in what I can, but it is nothing fixed. Sometimes I am out of work, but I keep on searching like everyone else everywhere", said Lizeth Dávila mother of Álvaro Conrado, who was murdered on April 20, 2018, during the citizen protests in the vicinity of the National University of Engineering (UNI) in Managua- in an interview with [Despacho 505](#) published on April 20, 2022.



Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Immigration offices have reported long lines since September 2022 to date, due to the number of Nicaraguans who are processing their passports to leave the country.

Sometimes the wait to be attended to lasts all day, and the document is delivered up to a month after the procedure has been carried out.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Five years after the outbreak of the citizen protests of 2018, the Government of Nicaragua continues to repress the citizenry and violate individual and collective citizen rights. Despite having released 222 political prisoners, it still keeps 36 in prison and had to reform the country's Political Constitution, in addition to creating a new law to strip the nationality of those and 94 other people it considers "traitors of the homeland".

2. The closure of 3,321 civil society organizations has left vulnerable people, such as women, children, adolescents, youth, and LGBTIQ+ groups, homeless. This has resulted in the loss of millions of dollars in social support that compensated for the government's efforts in this regard, and has limited access to basic rights for the population.

3. Aggressions against the Catholic Church have been increasing. Although almost 400 cases have been documented, this does not represent the totality of violations of the rights of Catholic citizenship and the government's efforts to limit the work of the church in the country, as a spiritual guide and even as a reference in the protection of people from the repressive actions of the State.

4. More and more Nicaraguans are applying for passports to leave the country, which represents a reality of desperation due to the political and economic crisis, as well as the lack of confidence that the situation will change in the short and medium term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the adverse and aggressive context towards human rights defenders and citizens, it is essential to continue the work of documenting the ongoing human rights violations that serve as inputs for the development of traditional justice processes now and in the future.

2. The demands for the release of those who remain political prisoners, the generation of conditions for peace and the rule of law, justice for the victims of crimes against humanity committed by the State of Nicaragua and the promotion of citizenship and human rights must continue to be the banners of the civic struggle from Nicaragua and exile.

3. Citizens, human rights activists, independent journalists, Catholic Church leaders and other groups that have been the focus of state repression must strengthen their security and protection measures in their continued quest for justice and the defense of human rights in Nicaragua.





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