

Situation of human rights in Nicaragua

MAY 2019

MESENI in numbers*

Press releases published	54
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,475
Trainings provided	19
Persons trained	402
Precautionary measures granted to date	69

* Numbers since April 18, 2018

Persons deprived of liberty

The IACHR denounced the deterioration of the prison conditions of inmates who have been identified as dissidents or who took part in the social protest that began on April 18, 2018. This deterioration primarily consists of the rationing of light, water and food. In addition, the IACHR expressed its concern about the repeated operations and aggressions by state agents against this group of inmates in "La Modelo" and "La Esperanza."

[On May 15](#), the IACHR submitted a request to the Inter-American Court for urgent measures to protect the rights of 17 persons whose situation of risk increased in the context of deprivation of liberty. [On May 21](#), the Court granted those measures to 12 persons.

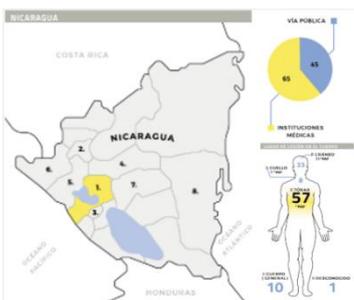
On May 16, the IACHR condemned the acts of violence in "La Modelo" that resulted in the death of [Eddy Antonio Montes](#). As a result, the Civic Alliance withdrew from the Negotiation Table.

Between May 1 and 31, the Government announced the release of 150 inmates detained for events related to the crisis. The Commission took note of other similar announcements of releases out of context. The IACHR called to report on the legal status of these persons and to release the other Nicaraguans detained and arbitrarily prosecuted according to the agreed protocols.

The IACHR urged the State to respond to the requests for information submitted and the repeated calls to compare, in a detailed and technical manner, the data on the victims of the crisis, including detainees and deceased persons.

IACHR rejected smear campaign and stigmatization in Nicaragua

The IACHR rejected the intensification of a disqualification and stigmatization campaign against civil society organizations, the members of the Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy and the IACHR itself. This practice has been observed in all stages of state repression. On the one hand, it seeks to discredit civil society organizations and those that have assumed a fundamental role in reaching a solution to the crisis. At the same time, the IACHR observed that



#1AñoMarchaDeLasMadres

On May 30, 2018, shock groups and state agents attacked the "March of Mothers". Review the full investigation of the GIEI about what happened that day in Nicaragua:

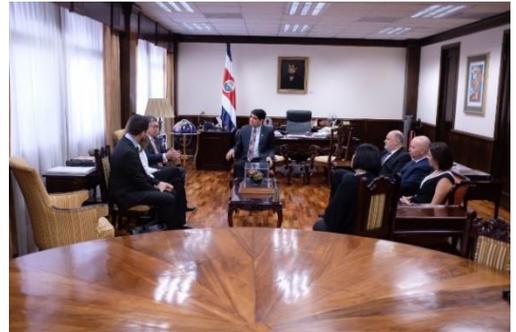
<https://gieinicaragua.org>

Visits to monitor the situation of Nicaraguans in Honduras and Costa Rica

Between May 19 and 24, 2019, as part of the work visits of Commissioner Joel Hernández to Costa Rica and Honduras, the MESENI monitored the situation of Nicaraguans in these countries.

In the framework of both visits, the IACHR received abundant information on the causes that forced people to flee their country, the obstacles and risks they have faced, as well as new patterns of state repression, even beyond borders.

The IACHR thanks the collaboration and solidarity of the Costa Rican and Honduran authorities to welcome the thousands of Nicaraguans who have been forced to flee their country. In addition, the IACHR expressed its solidarity with the clamor of thousands of people who expect effective and real security conditions to return to Nicaragua.



Other patterns of repression documented by the IACHR in May

- Persistence of acts of harassment and arbitrary detention of released persons. According to the information received, released persons would be detained again and they would be charged with common crimes.
- Persistence of arbitrary detentions against people who attempt to demonstrate or who are identified as government opponents.
- The persistence of the police state and the occupation of public space to prevent social protests, as well as the siege of places where symbolic acts of manifestation are carried out, such as churches and cemeteries.
- Threats and reprisals against companies that joined the national strike on May 23.
- Persistence of the restriction to hold demonstrations, for example: the Resolution of the National Police that denied the Blue and White Unit permission to hold the social protest on May 26.

Restitution of guarantees and human rights

On May 22, the IACHR expressed its concern regarding the "Work Program of consolidating Stability and Peace in Nicaragua" presented by the Government since it does not include the following topics:

- Immediate restitution of legal entities to civil society organizations
- International scrutiny with the presence of the MESENI of the IACHR and the OHCHR.
- Return of assets to media affected by withholdings, registrations or occupation of facilities.
- To guarantee a safe return for all displaced persons in the context of the crisis.
- To guarantee impartial and diligent investigations of all human rights violations.
- Comprehensive reparation to victims in accordance with international standards and guarantees of non-repetition through appropriate institutional reforms.
- Dismantle para-police groups and armed third parties that continue to harass the civilian population.

Main events

MAY 8th

#MESENI has received serious reports of deterioration of prison conditions in Nicaragua consisting of confinement, rationing of electricity, water and food; as well as new criminal accusations against protesters.

MAY 15

#IACHR requests for Provisional Measures for 17 Persons Deprived of Liberty in Nicaragua

MAY 16

The IACHR condemns the death of [Eddy Montes Praslín](#), a US citizen, who was detained in "La Modelo".

MAY 20

- Government announces the release of 100 people.
- Civic Alliance withdraws from the Negotiation Table.

MAY 21

The Inter-American Court resolves the granting of [urgent measures for persons deprived of liberty in Nicaragua](#).

OAS Permanent Council adopted [Resolution](#) in the situation in Nicaragua and calls the State to "allow the effective work of the IACHR and its mechanisms in Nicaragua, including the MESENI".

MAY 23

Civil society and the business sector carry out a national strike.

MAY 26

National Police prohibits demonstration called by the Blue and White Unit (Unidad Azul y Blanco).

MAY 28

After the discovery of the remains of #BismarckMartinez in Nicaragua, the IACHR reiterated its call to the State to clarify the truth about the acts of violence related to fatal victims in the context of the crisis.

MAY 30

- Government announces the release of 50 people detained for events related to the crisis.
- On the anniversary of the attack on the "March of Mothers," the IACHR urged the State to establish necessary processes related to justice, reparation and memory.



Latest press releases about Nicaragua

[133/19 - IACHR calls on the State of Nicaragua to guarantee memory, truth and justice in accordance with its international obligations](#). Washington, D.C., May 31 (only available in Spanish)

[122/19 - IACHR Condemns Acts of Violence and the Death of One Person at a Nicaraguan Prison](#). Washington, D.C., May 20, 2019

[118/19 - IACHR rejects stigmatization campaign in Nicaragua](#). Washington, D.C., May 16, 2019 (only available in Spanish)

[117/19 - IACHR Submits a Request to the Inter-American Court for Provisional Protection Measures for 17 People Who Are Being Deprived of Their Freedom and Are at Extreme Risk in Nicaragua](#). Washington, D.C., May 15, 2019

Repression data

Information updated to May 30, 2019



326 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

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

[Web Page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [TV CIDH/MESENI](#)