

Situation of Human Rights in Nicaragua

JUNE 2019

Repression data

Information Updated to June 25, 2019



327 deaths, 24
children and
adolescents | 21
police officers

491 political prisoners have
been released



91 remain detained



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



+70 journalists and
media workers have
been forced into exile



70,000
Nicaraguans have fled
to neighboring
countries

Precautionary Measures granted in June

- [MC 921/16](#) – Twenty-four members of the Permanent Commission of Human Rights (PCHR). Expansion.
- MC-399-19-NI. Sergio Warren León Corea. General-Director of “La Costeñísima”.

In the month of June 2019, the IACHR warned the continuation of human rights violations in Nicaragua, among them:

▪ Gross restrictions to public liberties

MESENI denounced the increase of harassment and intimidation acts against any kind of convening that could lead to demonstrations, now including **repression against religious celebrations**. These events occurred in the context of escalation of threats against the Catholic Church and religious leaders. Inclusively, because of death threats, a priest of Estelí has decided to leave the country.

▪ Persons released from detention

In recent days, the IACHR received information about the emission of judicial resolutions that ordered the closing of different criminal cases based on the Amnesty Law.

Despite this, the IACHR warns that the majority of the persons released from detention remain without information about their release, in addition, they remain being summoned for hearings and their lawsuits are still in progress. In many cases, the National Police would not have returned personal goods and objects, such as identifications, mobile phones, and other electronic equipment. Moreover, they are victims of siege, surveillance, harassment and threats.

▪ Nicaraguan people that have been forced to flee their country

The IACHR regretted that some people that had to flee the country because of the repression had lost their lives in unclear circumstances. Among them: Edgar Montenegro Centeno and Jalmar Zeledón Olivas murdered on June 27, in El Paraíso, Honduras.

Additionally, the IACHR keeps receiving testimonies of young students exiled and released from detention, who were victims of the repression. Many of them informed that they have been expelled of their universities and that their academic records had been erased from the university systems, reason why they are facing difficulties to continue their life projects in the exile.

Visit to Florida to follow-up on the situation of human rights in Nicaragua

On June 17 and 18, the IACHR organized a working visit to Miami, Florida, United States. During the visit, the IACHR presented a report about the situation of human rights in Nicaragua in Chapter IVB of the 2018 Annual Report.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held meetings with 19 civil society organizations; representatives of the student movement and Nicaraguan peasants, and other direct victims of the State's repression.

Additionally, the technical team of the Executive Secretary heard 30 testimonies of persons affected in the context of the crisis and developed a training session about the Inter-American System to 31 human rights defenders that perform their work in Nicaragua and outside the country, especially in Costa Rica and in the United States.

In the context of the visit, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reinforced its call to the region's States to implement a strategy based on shared responsibility and with an approach focused on human rights in light of the forced displacement of Nicaraguan people. Moreover, the IACHR called to take all the necessary measures to assure the reestablishment of the life projects and rights of the students exiled and expelled from universities.



■ Impunity to gross violations of human rights

During 2019, the Commission has stated its concern about the expeditious adoption – and in complete absence of broad consultation processes – of laws inconsistent with the right to the truth, right to access to justice, and to a comprehensive reparation to the victims of the repression, which started on April 18, 2018.

On June 3, in a [joint press release](#), the IACHR and the OHCHR demonstrated their concern about the expeditious approval of the Comprehensive Care for Victims Act in Nicaragua, since it does not comply with the international rules and standards regarding the right to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

The IACHR, subsequently, manifested its concern about the approval of the [Amnesty Law](#) on June 8, 2019. The ambiguous and broad content of this law can lead to the impunity of gross violations of human rights that have already been documented, avoid the establishment of the truth, justice, reparation, and restrict the rights and guarantees of the Nicaraguan society included in the American Convention on Human Rights.

Principales acontecimientos

JUNE 3

The Inter-American Commission and OHCHR express concern over the Passing of the Comprehensive Care for Victims act in Nicaragua

JUNE 4

The Institute of Legal Medicine confirms that the remains found in Jinotepe correspond to Bismarck Martínez. The IACHR regretted the death of Mr. Martínez and called on the State to investigate these facts.

JUNE 8

The IACHR express concern over Amnesty Law

JUNE 10

- The State announces the release of 50 people



JUNE 11

- The State announces the release of 56 people

The IACHR reminds the State of Nicaragua that at least 88 people continue to be detained in the context of the crisis. The released persons continue with open trials or sentences. The restoration of rights and guarantees in the country is pending #MESENI

JUNE 15

MESENI learned of the attack of civilians armed with sticks and pipes against feligrees gathered in the cathedral of León to remember #SandorDolmus. The allegations indicate that the attack would not have been prevented by the National Police

JUNE 16

- IACHR rejects attack of the National Police to the Cathedral of Managua after the celebration of a Mass for former political prisoners.
- The IACHR estimates that attacks on religious activities and social protest violate freedom of expression and religion.

JUNE 17

[IACHR](#) visits Florida to follow-up on the human rights situation in Nicaragua and to present the [Report of the Human Rights Situation \(Chap. IV. B AR 2018\)](#).

JUNE 27



The IACHR requested provisional measures from the Inter-American Court in favor of the members of the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH) and the Permanent Commission of Human Rights (CPDH) in the face of extreme risk in Nicaragua

JUNE 28

The General Assembly of the OAS approved a resolution about Nicaragua. The resolution approved insists in the need of allowing access to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and its Mechanisms in the country. See full text of the [Resolution](#).

The resolution on Nicaragua was approved with 20 votes, 5 against, 8 abstentions in the General Assembly held in Medellin, Colombia.

Latest press releases about Nicaragua

162/19 – [IACHR requests provisional measures to the Inter-American Court in favor of members of the Nicaraguan Center of Human Rights and the Permanent Commission of Human Rights in light of the extreme situation of risk in Nicaragua](#). Washington, D.C., June 27, 2019

160/19 - [IACHR Presents Performance Report and Results for the Special Follow-Up Mechanism for Nicaragua \(MESENI\)](#). Washington, D.C., June 25, 2019

146/19 [IACHR Concludes Working Visits to Costa Rica and Honduras to Monitor the Predicament of Nicaraguans Who Have Been Forced to Flee Their Country](#). Washington, D.C., June 12, 2019

145/19 - [IACHR Expresses Concern Over the Passing of the Amnesty Law in Nicaragua](#). Washington, D.C., June 12, 2019

137/19 - [IACHR and OHCHR Express Concern Over the Passing of the Comprehensive Care for Victims Act in Nicaragua](#). Washington, D.C. / Panama City, June 3, 2019



You can follow the MESENI activities in our web section and in our social media:
[Web page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [TV CIDH/MESENI](#)

Assessments and results achieved by MESENI

On June 24, 2018, before the invitation of the State of Nicaragua and the compliance with the recommendations included both in the Preliminary Observations as well as in the Final Report of its visit, the IACHR installed MESENI *in loco*. The initial position of the Nicaraguan State to allow the visit was essential to install MESENI and to perform the first actions.

Even though on December 19, 2018, the State informed the decision to suspend MESENI's presence in the country and the IACHR's visits, the Special Mechanism keeps monitoring the human rights situation in Nicaragua from the Commission's headquarters and through the performance of working visits to other countries of the region.

One year after MESENI's operation, the IACHR presented a Performance Report, which described the actions performed and the results and impacts reached by MESENI. In this report, the IACHR responded positively to the results and actions performed to protect the rights of the Nicaraguan population, to preserve the historical memory of what happened in Nicaragua and to insist in the path already initiated by the victims and their families in order to obtain the truth, justice, and reparation.

Petitions received in 2018

#MESENI registered 294 petitions in 2018 about human rights violations that occurred in the social protests. Of these, 73 requests were analyzed. The initial study team proposed to open 16 petitions, all for possible acts of torture, extrajudicial executions, kidnapping or arbitrary deprivation of liberty in #Nicaragua.

- Download [the Preliminary overview of MESENI's results.](#)
- Watch the [commemorative video to one year of MESENI's installation.](#)
- MESENI organizes the [Accountability Table](#) of the achieved results.

MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	57
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,505
Trainings provided	20
Persons trained	435
Precautionary measures granted to date	72

