

## Situation of Human Rights in Nicaragua

SEPTEMBER 2019

### Latest press releases about Nicaragua

[230/19 - IACHR Grants Precautionary Protection Measures in Favor of Freddy Alberto Navas Lopez, Leader of the Campesino Movement in Nicaragua.](#) Washington, DC, September 17, 2019

[234/19 - IACHR presents the Report on Forced Migration of Nicaraguan People to Costa Rica.](#) Washington D.C., September 20, 2019.

### MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	64
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,566
Trainings provided	20
Persons trained	435
Precautionary measures granted to date	74

#### ■ Selective persecution

The siege and selective persecution of opponents has continued to be documented. The main patterns consist of pints with threatening messages in their homes. As part of this siege, house raids are also reported. At the same time, new arrests of opponents continue. MESENI is verifying information on reports of forced disappearance of three people, in the context of the crisis.

#### ■ Impunity

To date, impartial and timely investigations into the circumstances of the death of victims of state repression in the context of the crisis remain unreported. The murders of peasants, in 2018 and 2019, continue without investigation, while civil society denounces several of them as a result of State action. The foregoing in the context of the enactment of an Amnesty Law whose content, as the IACHR already indicated in a [press release](#), due to its ambiguous content, could promote impunity.

#### ■ Prohibition to protests

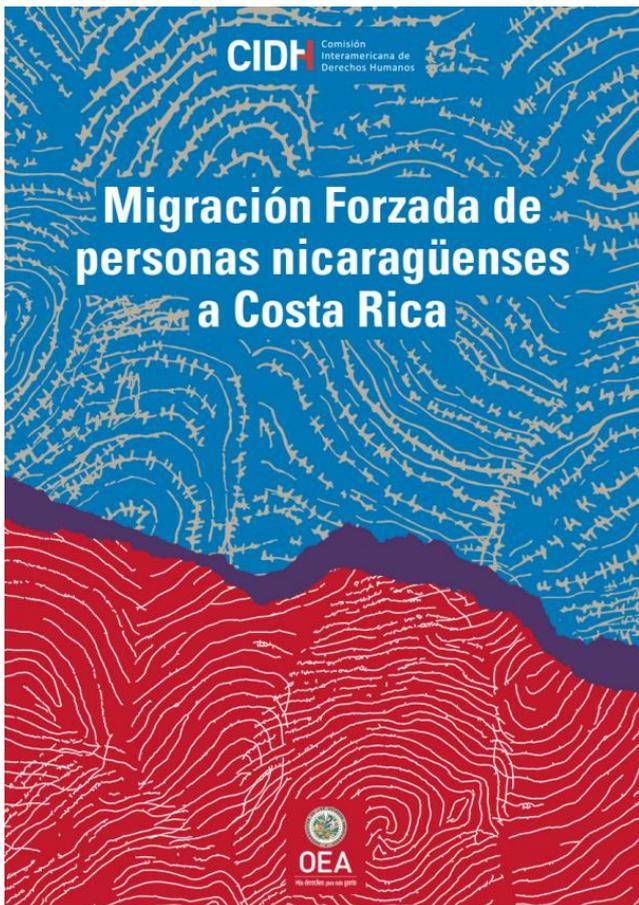
The closure of all democratic spaces continues. This month the National Police continued to reject permits to march in Managua, including requests from the Nicaraguan Medical Unit and the Union of Nicaraguan Political Prisoners (UPPN). On Saturday, September 21, in Managua, a wide police deployment was reported to prevent the march announced by the *Unidad Nacional Azul y Blanco*. According to the systematic pattern already registered by the IACHR, bus arrests and requisitions and the impediment to protesters to move towards the march, by the police, are registered very early. These actions led to the march being reduced to besieged seedlings and cornered by police in private commercial sites.

#### ■ Freedom of expression

An atmosphere of persecution and systematic repression is maintained against the media and independent journalists in the country. At the end of September, *El Nuevo Diario* announced the cancellation of its print and digital editions. This closure occurs in the context of two recent media closures, *Confidencial* media and *100% Noticias*.

This month, the siege to independent media outlets was also documented, including Radio *La Corporación* and *Radio Darío*. In the case of the journalist Aníbal Toruño, his house and the facilities of *Radio Darío* were painted with death threats after he announced his return to León.

## Forced migration of Nicaraguans to Costa Rica



On September 20, 2019, the Commission published its Report on “Forced Migration of Nicaraguans to Costa Rica”.

To elaborate this report, the IACHR made a working visit to Costa Rica between October 14 and 18, 2018. During that visit, it conducted 259 interviews and collected 152 testimonies from Nicaraguan asylum seekers with international protection needs. Based on the analysis of the information collected, the IACHR looked at the causes that led these individuals to flee Nicaragua, the risks and obstacles they faced when leaving the country, and their current living situations in Costa Rica.

In this report, the Commission contextualizes the situation of Nicaraguans who were forced to migrate from their country. In addition, it addresses the causes of forced displacement in Nicaragua, the procedure for recognizing refugee status and the international protection provided in Costa Rica, access and effective exercise of rights in Costa Rica, and presents recommendations based on applicable inter-American standards.

- Download the [Report on “Forced Migration of Nicaraguans to Costa Rica” \(Only available in Spanish\)](#)
- Watch the [video of the IACHR working visit to Costa Rica and the border with Nicaragua](#)



### Working Visit to Panama

On September 16 and 17, the IACHR made a working visit to Panama to monitor the situation of Nicaraguans who have been forced to flee their country to Panama. The delegation was headed by the Country Rapporteur, Commissioner Flávia Piovesan.

During its visit, the IACHR met with state authorities, the Deputy Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UNHCR regional representative.

The IACHR took individual interviews and held two group sessions with Nicaraguans seeking refuge in order to learn about their perception and experience of the difficulties that exist regarding the completion of immigration procedures and recognition of their status as refugees.

Accompanied by UNHCR, the Commission visited the “Hogar Luisa” Refugee and Migrant Integral Accompaniment Center.

## Main events

SEPTEMBER 9

Organized by @raceandequality, @JoelHernandezG, vice president of #CIDH, participated in Geneva of the panel "Combat impunity and strengthen accountability: violations of #DDHH in #Nicaragua", with civil society and social movements. <http://bit.ly/2m7mT9x>

SEPTEMBER 10

The #IACHR highlights the participation of Commissioner Antonia Urrejola in the presentation of the @mbachelet Report on the situation of human rights in #Nicaragua, in the framework of the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council, to be held in Geneva.

SEPTEMBER 15

#CIDH regrets the decision of the State of #Nicaragua that banned the entry of the official @OEA\_Commission to initiate high-level diplomatic efforts to seek a peaceful and effective solution to the political and human rights crisis that the country is going through.

SEPTEMBER 17

The #MESENI made a work visit in Panama to monitor the situation of displaced Nicaraguans. The delegation was headed by Commissioner Flavia Piovesan, Country Rapporteur. The @CIDH thanks the State of Panama for the opening for the visit.

SEPTEMBER 21

#MESENI becomes aware of protesters who were repressed by the National Police of #Nicaragua when they tried to start their march in memory of #MattRomero in #Managua. There would be at least two injured so far. #CIDH condemns state violence against protesters.

SEPTEMBER 25

During the 173 Period of Sessions, the IACHR held public hearings on the persistence of repression in Nicaragua:

- Persecution, repression, criminalization and judicialization of the peasant population.
- Compliance with precautionary protection measures in favor of journalists.



SEPTEMBER 28

#MESENI and @RELE\_CIDH express great concern about the closure of @elnuevodiario in #Nicaragua, affected by limitations imposed by the Government on access to basic supplies for subsistence. The American Convention prohibits states from using indirect means to restrict the press.

## Precautionary measures granted in September

- **MC 621 – 19-NI. Freddy Alberto Navas López**, issued on September 14. The IACHR has been following the situation in Nicaragua closely, and has noted that social leaders or opponents of the current government are in a particularly vulnerable situation. In reaching its decision, the IACHR argued that the beneficiary, Freddy Navas, has a very high profile as one of the leaders of the peasant movement. As a consequence, the beneficiary was deprived of his freedom for over six months as part of the current criminalization of protest in Nicaragua.

## Repression data

Information updated to October 5th, de 2019



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



**+130** political prisoners remained detained



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



**+ 90** journalists and media workers have been forced into exile



**+ 88, 000** Nicaraguans have fled to neighboring

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