

Situation of human rights in Nicaragua

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Repression data

Information updated to December
20th, 2019



328 deaths;
24 children and
adolescents | 21 police
officers



+160 political
prisoners remain
detained



+ 405 health
professionals have been
dismissed;
144 students have
been expelled



+ 90 journalists and
media workers have
been forced in to exile



+ 96, 966 Nicaraguans
have fled to neighboring
countries

Conditions of imprisonment and persistence of the detention and criminalization of opponents as a form of repression

During the months of November and December, numerous arrests were made while the following denunciations persisted: charges without evidence; violation of the constitutional rule of presenting detainees to a judge within 48 hours; application of preventive detention without exception; physical abuse, undressing and inappropriate touching; limited water supply; lack of blankets for the cold of the nights; serious limitations in access to medicines and medical treatment of health problems. Some of these behaviors could be described as torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In particular, several of these practices are observed in women and LGBTI individuals. During the months of November and December the number of women detained increased from 1 to 9 and the detention and criminalization of a transgender woman was recorded.

Since June 11, 2019, when approximately 90 people were deprived of liberty, there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals detained in the context of the human rights crisis: more than 160 people as of December 20. These arrests, the unjustified criminalization of those that are often followed, as well as the conditions of reclusion, show a repressive pattern through which the State of Nicaragua punishes dissenting voices.

The above occurs in the context of the continued persistence of the closure of any democratic space and a lack of independence of all public powers. The Commission has urged the authorities to promptly release detainees and has supported the campaign of victims, relatives and civil society of a *Christmas without political prisoners*.

Situation of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in the Caribbean Coast

The Commission has received concerning information about the significant increase of violent incidents consisting of harassment, threats, interrogations, kidnappings and territorial dispossession against communities and defenders in the Caribbean Coast. According to the complaints, these situations which violate human rights, correspond to practices supported and sometimes carried out by the State.

MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	67
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,582
Trainings provided	27
Persons trained	572
Precautionary measures granted	76

Working Visit to Costa Rica: December 11-13, 2019



Presentation of the Report on “Forced Migrations of Nicaraguans to Costa Rica”

On December 13, Commissioner Luis Ernesto Vargas Silva, Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, presented the Report on [“Forced Migration of Nicaraguans to Costa Rica,”](#) in San Jose, Costa Rica. The event counted with the presence of Costa Rican Foreign Minister, Manuel Ventura Robles, other state authorities, diplomats, international organizations and members of civil society.

The recommendations of the Report on the granting of refugee status or other forms of international protection, call for simplifying and accelerating procedures based on the objective conditions of the human rights crisis in Nicaragua. Regarding social and cultural economic rights, the report recommends measures to ensure the effective exercise of these rights, such as granting a work permit from the moment the asylum request is made, creation of more shelters in border areas, access to physical and psychological health, and access to education, especially primary and secondary. The recommendations also seek to promote the fight against discrimination and xenophobia by urging positive measures and campaigns on trainings and awareness raising. In complying with these recommendations, the principle of international co-responsibility must be taken into account and, in that context, a call is made to the international community to collaborate with the efforts of the Costa Rican State in the matter.



Contact with state authorities and civil society

The delegation of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants and the MESENI met with authorities of the Directorate of Migration and Immigration, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Labor, in order to promote compliance with the recommendations made by the Commission.

The delegation also held working meetings with representatives of CEJIL and the Human Rights Collective *Nicaragua Nunca Más* in San José.

During the visit, MESENI carried out a panel on forced migration from Nicaragua to Costa Rica, which included the participation of more than 22 organizations of exiled persons.

The IACHR delegation also traveled to the border area with Nicaragua to learn about the situation of displaced rural individuals and families. As part of this visit, information was collected from around 30 families about their conditions of survival in Costa Rica, as well as about the processes of requesting asylum.

Of particular concern was the information obtained regarding the lack of adequate and timely access to specialized maternal and child health care, as well as family planning methods, aspects that were brought to the attention of the competent health authorities for the purpose of promoting the provision of such services, as well as for providing useful information to displaced persons for the exercise of their rights.



Main Events

November 19th

The High Level Commission of the #OAS published its report on #Nicaragua <http://bit.ly/35iAbBs>, which recommends: cessation of repression, restoration of rights and return of #MESENI and #OACNUDH to the country.



November 25th

“You are not alone; your courage overwhelms us and moves us to obtain justice for the victims and the restoration of human rights in #Nicaragua.” #IACHR Commissioner @totonia68 to Nicaraguan victims' organizations, in the Permanent Council @OAS_official.



December 4th

#MESENI of #IACHR received information about persons still detained in the context of the human rights crisis in #Nicaragua. #IACHR shares the relatives' concern about the conditions of seclusion and insists on their call to the State for the quick release of prisoners.



December 19th

A year ago, the State of #Nicaragua temporarily suspended the visit of #IACHR #MESENI and #GIEI to the country. Since then, we continue to monitor the human rights situation in close contact with victims and civil society, and reiterate the willingness to return to #Nicaragua.



December 20th

#IACHR #MESENI support #ChristmasWithoutPoliticalPrisoners in #Nicaragua, a campaign started by relatives of detainees. Social protest is a right. The #IACHR urges the State to the prompt release of prisoners in the context of the demonstrations.



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

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