

Situation of Human Rights in Nicaragua

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Repression data

Information updated to April 13th, 2020



328 deaths | 24 children and adolescents | 21 police officers



+70 political prisoners remain detained



+ 405 health professionals have been dismissed and **144** students have been expelled



+ 90 journalists and media workers have been forced into exile



+ 103, 600 Nicaraguans have fled to neighboring countries

MESENI in numbers

Press releases published	76
Testimonies received by the IACHR	1,603
Trainings provided	29
Persons trained	604
Precautionary measures granted to date	83

Chapter IV.B. Nicaragua

On [April 6](#), the IACHR published its 2019 Annual Report, which includes in its Chapter IV.B an analysis of the serious human rights situation that persists in Nicaragua in the context of the closure of democratic spaces in the country. The inclusion of Nicaragua in this chapter was determined according to the grounds established in article 59.6 of its Regulations.

In this regard, during 2019, the Commission documented the arbitrary exercise of the State in its different entities as a consequence, among other issues, of the lack of independence of the Judiciary and other public bodies.

Likewise, the IACHR warned that the serious human rights crisis in Nicaragua has persisted, due to the de facto installation of a state of emergency characterized by the abusive exercise of public force to repress voices dissident to the government, the raid, closure and censorship of the media, closure of civil society organizations, as well as the interference and control of the Executive Power in the other public powers.

The Commission also considered that the situation in the country falls within the provisions of subsection 6.c. of the same article of its Regulations, which refers to the commission of massive, serious and systematic violations of human rights guaranteed in the American Declaration, the ACHR and other applicable human rights instruments. In 2019, the IACHR also observed that the prolonged weakening of democratic institutions in Nicaragua has led to the perpetuation of the human rights crisis in the country, as well as the generation of a situation of structural impunity with respect to serious violations of the human rights committed.

Finally, for the inclusion of the Nicaraguan State in its Annual Report, the IACHR considered the non-compliance with the precautionary measures granted in the context of the crisis and with the 15 recommendations made, both in its Preliminary Observations and in the Report on its visit to the country.

[Consult Chapter IV.B. on Nicaragua](#)



IACHR and its REDESCA express serious concern about the human rights situation in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nicaragua

Through a press release, the IACHR and its REDESCA expressed their concern about the lack of measures to prevent contagion in Nicaragua, as established by the World Health Organization (WHO), such as physical distancing, suspension of massive events, closure of educational centers and borders. Furthermore, the IACHR expressed its concern regarding the following issues:

- **The lack of transparency and detailed information** on the measures for the prevention of contagion and the containment of the pandemic, as well as on essential aspects in understanding the general situation in the country, which contributes to increasing existing public mistrust, as well as to the reduced capacity of the authorities to take articulated measures to protect and guarantee the health of the population.
- **Situation of persons deprived of liberty.** The IACHR received information indicating the absence of specific prevention measures and protocols in detention centers; in addition, prison staff would be rejecting the entry of supplies such as alcohol gel, gloves, masks and disinfectants. In this regard, the IACHR recommended that the States adopt measures such as the reevaluation of the cases of preventive detention and the granting of alternative measures to the deprivation of liberty, especially for people considered in the risk group category as older people, people with chronic diseases, pregnant women or with children in their care.
- **Situation of the health professionals.** REDESCA received worrying information on the following: lack of hospital materials and equipment to deal with the pandemic; indications that the job stability of health professionals is linked to political preference or participation in official party networks; resignations of highly qualified medical personnel due to lack of conditions to confront the pandemic, among others. Furthermore, both the Commission and REDESCA view with concern the decrease in the response capacity of the public health system, partly as a consequence of the dismissal of more than 400 public health professionals and workers that occurred during the human rights crisis.

SACROI-COVID19

— Sala de Coordinación y —
Respuesta Oportuna e Integrada

The IACHR installed its [Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Unit for the COVID-19 pandemic crisis](#) (SACROI COVID-19) to strengthen institutional capacities for the protection and defense of fundamental freedoms and human rights in this context, especially the right to health and other DESCAs.

Among other actions, SACROI is responsible for closely monitoring the human rights situation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring actions taken by States, and identifying opportunities to provide technical assistance for the development of policies and actions for with a focus on human rights.

Learn about the latest pronouncements and recommendations of the IACHR in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- [IACHR adopts Resolution on Pandemic and Human Rights in the Americas](#)
- [COVID-19: Governments must promote and protect access to and free flow of information during pandemic – International experts](#)
- [The IACHR urges States to guarantee the health and integrity of persons deprived of liberty and their families in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [The IACHR urges States to guarantee the health and integrity of persons deprived of liberty and their families in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Main events elevated in social media

MARCH 4

#IACHR condemns violence perpetrated by civilians affiliated to the Government during the mass held in the Cathedral of Managua for #ErnestoCardenal, an attack on his memory and freedom of assembly, religion and expression in #Nicaragua. Events observed by @RELE_CIDH and #MESENI

IACHR Inter-American Commission on Human Rights



MARCH 5

#IACHRHearings #Nicaragua Case 13.615 Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples @CALPI presents testimony indicating lack of consent from communities for the construction of the Grand Interoceanic Canal of Nicaragua. #175PeriodIACHR #IndigenousCommunities #IACHR #HumanRights

MARCH 8



"Our highest concerns pertain to human rights in #Venezuela and #Nicaragua," @JoelHernandezG Interview via @ELPAÍS <https://bit.ly/3aUDulu>

8M2020 #IACHR observes harassment and police violence against women and feminist groups before and during the celebration of #InternationalDayOfWoman in #Nicaragua. Activists were locked up by riot police in @LaCorrienteNica. Facts identified by #MESENI.

MARCH 13

The @IACHR presents its observations in a hearing before the @CorteIDH on protection measures in favor of the Miskitu Communities' inhabitants who are at extreme risk in the Caribbean Coast Region #Nicaragua #134PeriodCourtIHR #MESENI



MARCH 23

#Nicaragua @IACHR calls on the State to cease violations to the rights of indigenous peoples and communities.

#Nicaragua @IACHR, its #MESENI and @DESCA_CIDH see with deep concern the effects that #COVID19 could generate for Nicaraguans if they do not take urgent measures in accordance with international health standards and #HumanRights

APRIL 6

#Nicaragua #MESENI learned of an initiative of @DiocesisdeMat to create medical prevention centers for #COVID19 was rejected by #MINSa. The @IACHR regrets that the State does not accompany this project and indicates that it is urgent to take health care measures in the face of the pandemic.

Latest press releases on Nicaragua

[72/2 - IACHR and its REDESCA express serious concern about the human rights situation in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nicaragua.](#) Washington, D.C., April 8th 2020.

[61/20 - IACHR Urges the Nicaraguan State to Cease Violations of the Rights of Indigenous People and Communities.](#) Washington, D.C., March 23 2020.

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

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