

July 18, 2018

U.S. Civil Society Organizations Condemn Repression of Protest in Nicaragua

We strongly condemn the repression of protests taking place in Nicaragua. The killing of two students taking refuge in a church on July 15, 2018 was the latest of many brutal acts. Over 300 people have been killed over the last three months.

We urge the Nicaraguan government to:

- immediately stop its security forces from responding with excessive force against protesters and take action to dismantle armed parapolice groups;
- respect freedom of expression and assembly;
- cease arbitrary detentions and ensure that persons in custody have immediate access to legal defense once detained and inform family members that they are being detained and where;
- advance in a dialogue with a broad spectrum of Nicaraguan society to find a sustainable path out of this crisis, which will improve respect for human rights, accountable governance, and democratic institutions; and
- cooperate with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to ensure justice for serious human rights violations and implement recommendations to strengthen human rights and the rule of law.

We express solidarity with Nicaraguan students, activists, human rights defenders, and other concerned citizens in their hour of need.

Sincerely,

Alianza Americas
Central American Resource Center DC (CARECEN)
Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)
International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights
Just Associates (JASS)
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)