

URGENT ACTION

STATE REPRESSING DEMONSTRATORS

Nicaraguan authorities have responded violently to demonstrations taking place throughout the country by repressing protesters, and violating their rights to freedom of expression and assembly. At least 28 people have been killed in this context since 18 April, including students.

Since 18 April, several protests have taken place all over the capital city of Managua as well as other cities in Nicaragua (Bluefields, León, Estelí, Masaya), mobilizing hundreds of people from different sectors of society that were in disagreement with reforms to the social security system.

At least 28 people have been killed and there are reports of several injured, detained and disappeared.

Although President Daniel Ortega announced on 22 April the derogation of social security reforms, reports of demonstrators detained and disappeared persist.

Repression against journalists has been particularly strong and scaling. When the demonstrations began on 18 April, security forces and armed civilians who sympathize with the government hit several journalists and threatened them with stealing their equipment. On 19 April, the government censored national media, and took three channels off the air. On 21 April, an unknown assailant fatally shot a journalist in the head while he was doing a Facebook Live broadcast of the commotions taking place in Bluefields.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Calling on the President of Nicaragua to immediately guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Urging the authorities to engage in dialogue with civil society sectors, including the victims of state repression, to find a peaceful solution to this grave situation;
- Calling on them to launch a timely, impartial and independent investigation into the attacks and killings, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- Calling on them to immediately release those detained only on the grounds of their peaceful exercise of their freedom of expression.

Contact these two officials by 5 June, 2018:

President of the Republic
Daniel Ortega
Presidencia de la Republica, frente a Palacio Nacional, 4 Calle
Noroeste
Managua, Nicaragua, 11001
Fax: +505 2228 9090
Twitter: [@EPP Nicaragua](#), [@DanielOrtega_Ni](#)
Salutation: Dear President/ Estimado Presidente

H.E. Ambassador Francisco Obadiah Campbell Hooker,
Embassy of Nicaragua
1627 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009
Phone: 202 939 6570 | Fax: 1 202 939 6545
Email: mperalta@cancilleria.gob.ni
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 80.18*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The reform initially proposed and approved by President Daniel Ortega implied an increase to contributions by workers and employers to the country's social security system, and an additional contribution by retired pensioners that would provoke a decrease in pensions. After days of protests, President Ortega announced on 22 April that the reform was finally revoked by the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security.

As documented in Amnesty International's 2017/2018 annual report, attacks against human rights defenders persist with impunity in Nicaragua. There were also reports of unnecessary and excessive use of force by the police against people peacefully protesting against the construction of the Grand Interoceanic Canal, as well as reports of arbitrary detention of protesters. Human rights defenders were also reported to have been harassed and intimidated for their opposition to the project.

More information available on <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/americas/nicaragua/report-nicaragua/>.

Name: Protesters in Nicaragua
Gender m/f: all

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