



San Salvador, November 20, 2019

We, The Conference of Jesuit Provincials of Latin America and the Caribbean - CPAL, the Central American Province of the Society of Jesus, and the Association of Universities entrusted to the Society of Jesus in Latin America - AUSJAL,

have joined our voices to that of the Bishops of Nicaragua and many other social actors, as we urgently call on the international community to firmly express its rejection of the way the Nicaraguan government, through its security forces, has been disrespecting civil rights as enshrined in the national constitution:

- repressing peaceful protests,
- provoking people and groups from the opposition in order to justify their own violence,
- preventing religious freedom and assembly,
- apprehending and disappearing opposition activists,
- accusing their opponents of crimes they did not commit,
- preventing humanitarian work and acts of peaceful civil disobedience,
- making false and slanderous accusations against authorities of the Catholic Church, among others.

We express our solidarity with Fr. Edwin Román and all the mothers who are conducting a hunger strike in Masaya to secure the release of their incarcerated children, as well as with the 13 activists recently arrested for bringing them water. We condemn the capture of the Managua Cathedral and the attacks against Fr. Rodolfo López and Sr. Arelys Guzmán, as well as the siege against various parishes.

We condemn the provocation of government riot groups against the students of the Central American University - UCA, which, once again, on November 19, 2019, endured a siege at the facilities of the UCA in Managua. We reject and condemn the attempt by these government-controlled groups to breach the premises of the University.

We ask Mr. Daniel Ortega to immediately order the cessation of harassment, aggression and violation of human and civil rights against the members of the opposition, and we urge all those responsible for these attacks to abandon this course of action. *“Nicaraguans have suffered and have experienced too much pain. Families that are besieged endure double suffering; the lack of freedom for their imprisoned relatives and, now, the ongoing siege that threaten their lives”* (statement of the Episcopal Conference).

To the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY especially those in religious and humanitarian organizations, international organizations, and democratic governments of the world,



particularly in Europe and America, we ask you to exert your best effort to guarantee Nicaragua's return to democracy by:

- Demanding for the immediate respect of civil rights enshrined in the Nicaraguan constitution: freedom of worship, freedom of mobilization, freedom of peaceful protest, freedom of political organization, freedom of the press and information, freedom of research and teaching;
- Condemning the repression used by the current government that have resulted in the killing of more than 300 people, injury to more than 2,000 Nicaraguans, and the incarceration of more than 700 political prisoners of which more than 150 remain in prison;
- Calling on the Inter-American Democratic Charter (OAS) to prevent further maltreatment of the Nicaraguan people tired of oppression, misery and manipulation by the regime, and to prevent foreign powers from taking advantage of this very serious political crisis.

We pray in solidarity for all the victims of violence in Nicaragua. We cannot emphasize enough our fraternal support for them and our willingness to continue fighting for a more just and democratic society.

We implore God's blessing on all, so that we know how to be agents of reconciliation in justice and truth.

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Provincial de Centro América

ERNESTOCAVASSA, S.J.
Presidente de AUSJAL

ROBERTO JARAMILLO, S.J.
Presidente de la CPAL