GROUP OF HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS ON NICARAGUA

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SUMMARY OF TRANSNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NICARAGUA

PART 2

Transnational human rights violations are acts prohibited under international law that are committed or directed by State authorities (Nicaragua), or by other agents acting on behalf of the State, against exiled Nicaraguans, as well as their relatives who are in Nicaragua and abroad. For more details, see the report of the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua published in September 2025.

ENGLISH

ESPAÑOL

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Deter, silence or punish dissident or critical voices abroad.
- Strengthen the Government's absolute control over the population in Nicaragua and abroad.
- Evade scrutiny of State policy of human rights violations from abroad.
- Guarantee impunity for violations, abuses and crimes committed.

METHODS

Manipulation of legislation or administrative measures to commit violations

- Arbitrary deprivation of nationality
- Prohibition of entry in one's own country
- Denial of passports
- Denial or elimination of official records
- Confiscation of properties, pensions and other assets

In-person and digital surveillance, threats and harassment

- Transnational surveillance and intelligence network (military, police, other State officials, members of FSLN and informants) monitoring, threatening and harassing Nicaraguans in exile and their relatives in Nicaragua
- "Troll farms" and bot networks running disinformation and smear campaigns on social media

Physical violence

Physical assaults, murder and attempted murder (the cases reported to the Group are being investigated in the corresponding countries)

Abuse of international cooperation and control mechanisms

- Misuse of INTERPOL's notifications and databases
- Extradition request based on political grounds
- Misuse of regulations on money laundering (AML/CFT), including disinformation to cause financial exclusion

Coercion of relatives or associates in Nicaragua (proxy punishment)

Violations against relatives or associates in Nicaragua, which include:

- Surveillance, threats and harassment
- Arbitrary detention
- Denial of passports
- Alteration and cancellation of official records
- Confiscation of passports
- Prohibition to leave the country
- Arbitrary confiscation of properties and/or pensions
- Summary work dismissal

CONSEQUENCES

Negative effects on the physical and mental health of victims and their relatives	• Constant fear, anguish and guilt • Physical and emotional exhaustion • Self-protection and censorship that cause isolation and social fracture • Loss of identity and family and community ties
Loss of civil rights “civil death”	• Loss of legal personality • Loss of civil rights • Statelessness • Obstacles to regularize migration status and asylum • Obstacles to access education, work, social security, housing and other essential services • Loss of political rights
Economic dispossession “economic death”	• Loss of livelihoods (f.i. income, pension, property) • Poverty • Difficulties to obtain banking services (f.i. opening bank accounts) • Arbitrary closing of bank accounts
Disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable people	Disproportionate impact on children, adolescents, older persons, women heads of household and with caregiving esponsibilities, and persons with disabilities
Intimidating and deterrent effect that affects the exercise of other rights	• Self-censorship in all spaces, including the digital space • Discouragement and reduction of political, community or social participation • Fear of being extradited or deported • Loss of family and community ties
Erosion of the rule of law and democracy	• Serious violations of the human rights of people outside of the territory (jurisdiction) of Nicaragua • Misuse of international cooperation and control mechanisms to commit violations • Control of the population in Nicaragua and abroad to keep the Government in power

VICTIMS

**Exiled Nicaraguans, particularly real or perceived opponents.
The profiles of victims are becoming increasingly diverse. They include:**

REAL OR PERCEIVED OPPONENTS

- Human rights defenders
- Feminists and activists
- Journalists
- Lawyers
- Students and professors
- Members of the Catholic and other Christian churches
- Indigenous, Afrodescendant and campesino leaders
- Businesspersons
- Former Sandinistas
- Former member of the Contras counter-revolutionary force
- Members of the judiciary, State officials and active and retired military
- Relatives of real or perceived opponents

RELATIVES AND ASSOCIATES IN NICARAGUA

Relatives and associates that are in the country, such as children and older persons

PERPETRATORS

The orders are issued from the highest level of the State (Co-Presidents). Among the perpetrators are authorities, officials and members of the following entities:

STATE AGENTS

- Ministry of the Interior, including Directorate General for Migration and Alien Affairs
- Consular service
- National Police
- National Army
- Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Institute (TELCOR)
- National Assembly
- Judiciary
- Public Prosecutor's Office
- Attorney General's Office
- Nicaraguan Social Security Institute

NON-STATE ACTORS

- Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)
- Sandinista Youth 19 July
- Pro-government armed groups
- Pro-government media
- Informants (Nicaraguans and from other nationalities)