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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Nicaragua*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a summary of 38 stakeholders' submissions² for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations³ and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. Joint Submission 1(JS1) and Jubilee Campaign (JC) recommended Nicaragua to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance⁴, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.⁵

3. Joint Submission 6 (JS6) stated that Nicaragua had still not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).⁶

4. Human Rights Foundation (HRF), Joint Submission 14 (JS14) and Joint Submission 18 (JS18) recommended Nicaragua to cooperate with regional and international human rights mechanisms by allowing the special procedure mandate holders to carry out an independent assessment of the human rights situation in the country and advise the government accordingly.⁷

5. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBA) recommended Nicaragua to fully cooperate with the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua established by the Human Rights Council, other United Nations mechanisms and treaty monitoring bodies, implement their recommendations⁸ and rejoin the Organization of

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



American States.⁹ Joint Submission 3 (JS3), Joint Submission 10 (JS10), Urnas Abiertas (UA), Unidad Juvenil y Estudiantil (UJE) and JS14 made similar recommendations.¹⁰

6. Joint Submission 19 (JS19) recommended Nicaragua to create an internal mechanism in charge of monitoring compliance with the recommendations formulated in the universal periodic review (UPR).¹¹ Several organizations indicated that Nicaragua failed to implement most of the recommendations made during the third cycle of the UPR.¹²

B. National human rights framework

7. Joint Submission 5 (JS5) noted that, in March 2019, the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, which also holds the Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, was downgraded from "A" to "B" status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.¹³

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

8. Race and Equality (RE) reported that racism and discrimination against Afro-descendant peoples continued in the country and recommended Nicaragua to guarantee the traditional property regime of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and protect their ancestral cultural identity.¹⁴

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

9. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) stated that groups (police and parapolice) related to the Executive had perpetrated acts of harassment and repression against any person considered to be an opponent of the Government, had used lethal and non-lethal force arbitrarily resulting in violations of the rights to life and personal integrity, arbitrary detentions, raids, threats, and ill-treatment.¹⁵

10. HRF and Joint Submission 16 (JS16) reported acts of torture and ill-treatment against prisoners by the Government, including the wide implementation of "White Torture", consisting of limited access to food and medical treatment, little-to-no communication with the outside world, prolonged periods of solitary confinement, sleep deprivation, prohibition of access to any reading and writing material, and long interrogations without counsel or records.¹⁶ JS14 and Joint Submission 15 (JS15) recommended to eradicate practices of torture and ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, especially those deprived of their liberty for political reasons, and guarantee full access to health, food and family visits without any reprisals.¹⁷

Human rights and counter-terrorism

11. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) expressed concern over the incorrect application of the No. 977 Anti-Money Laundering Law as the law included the assumptions that a non-profit organization may cover up acts of money laundering or serve as a 'screen' to commit acts of terrorism.¹⁸ Joint Submission 12 (JS12) stated that the law was used to persecute human rights defenders, cancel civil society organizations and criminalize various political actors.¹⁹ La Coordinadora Universitaria por la Democracia y la Justicia (CUDJ), Joint Submission 8 (JS8) and JSE2 recommended the repeal of the Law No. 977 in order to remove undue restrictions on freedom of association.²⁰

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

12. IACHR reported that a context of widespread and structural impunity persisted in 2022 with respect to the serious human rights violations committed since 2018, which resulted in at least 355 people dead, more than 2,000 people injured, more than 1,614 arrested,

hundreds of arbitrary dismissals of health professionals and more than 150 unjustified expulsions of university students.²¹

13. The IACHR also stated that concentration of power by the Executive had paved the way for Nicaragua to become a police State, in which the Government had installed a regime of suppression of all freedoms through the control and surveillance of citizens and the repression exercised by Government institutions.²²

14. The IACHR further indicated that the Nicaraguan Judiciary lacked independence and impartiality, due to, among other factors, its composition and legal reforms that had allowed the appointment and tenure processes, contrary to the principle of judicial independence.²³

15. JS1 and UA recommended to stop the concentration of power in the Executive, and respect the separation of powers, ensuring the independence of the Judiciary and the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE).²⁴

16. HRF reported that Nicaraguans who criticize the Government risked criminal prosecution without due process, such as the right to fair and public trial by a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal.²⁵

17. HRF and JS14 recommended to protect due process rights of every accused person to a fair, speedy, and public trial and to ensure that, in the absence of compelling evidence of criminal conduct, individuals who had been arbitrarily detained, in violation of their rights to freedom of expression and association, were released, and that those in detention received humane treatment.²⁶

18. Observatorio Internacional de la Abogacía en Riesgo (OIAD) observed *a modus operandi* consisting of massive arbitrary arrests of political leaders without warrants, and their transfer to Managua without allowing any contact with their lawyers or family members. It recommended to guarantee that all persons had the right to be assisted by a lawyer of their choice.²⁷

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

19. Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI) stated that Nicaragua had passed a series of laws that directly impacted upon the fundamental rights of citizens, including freedom of expression and freedom of association. These legislative measures resulted in the systematic criminalization of dissenting voices and further suppression through tactics of harassment, surveillance, and persecution directed against human rights defenders, cultural rights defenders, and human rights lawyers.²⁸ JC stated that Nicaraguan authorities had even expanded their harassment to family members of slain pro-democracy protestors.²⁹

20. Among the series of the laws adopted by Nicaragua were Law 1040 on the Regulation of Foreign Agents (Foreign Agents Regulation Law) which had forced organizations and individuals receiving funds from abroad to register as foreign agents and to refrain, under penalty of legal sanctions, from intervening in questions, activities or matters of internal politics, including by reporting monthly income and explaining the use and spending.³⁰ HRF expressed concern over this law which immediately had turned the recipients of funds from abroad into suspects.³¹ Acción Colectiva por la Inclusión, Desarrollo y Derechos Humanos (ACIDHU) further stated that the legal environment for civil society organizations in Nicaragua had suffered a progressive deterioration with the adoption of that law as well as after the adoption of Law on the Regulation of Foreign Agents, Law No. 1042, Special Law on Cybercrimes, Law No. 1055, Law for the Defense of the Rights of the People to Independence, Sovereignty and Self-Determination for Peace, Law No. 606, Law of Reform and Addition to Law No. 147, General Law of Non-Profit Associations.³² IACHR recommended Nicaragua to bring the Law No. 1040 into line with international human rights standards and to refrain from restricting the means of financing civil society organizations, including access to foreign funds within the framework of international cooperation and related standards.³³

21. Several organizations reported that, in 2022, the National Assembly passed the Law of General Regulation and Control of Non-Profit Organizations N° 1115, which increased the power of the Ministry of Governance to control and sanction civil society organizations. The same Ministry was later given the power to grant and remove legal status with the

adoption of the Law of Reforms and Additions N° 1127. The organizations indicated that the massive and arbitrary closure of organizations and the confiscation of their assets occurred after the approval of those Laws.³⁴

22. HRF stated that another law of concern was the Law of Defence of the Rights of the People to Independence, Sovereignty and Self-Determination for Peace N°1055 which granted the Executive the power to declare political dissidents' as "traitors" and banned them from running for elected office which resulted in the arrest and ban of seven opposition presidential candidates and the cancellation of the main indigenous party in 2023.³⁵ The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) and JS16 advocated for the repeal of Law No. 1145 which allowed for the loss of nationality for individuals declared as "*traitors to the homeland*."³⁶ ISI indicated that Law No. 1145 was not only unconstitutional but also applied retroactively, thereby depriving individuals of their nationality for actions that took place before the new law was enacted.³⁷

23. JS5, JS10 and IBA reported that through this reform, more than 222 Nicaraguan nationals who had been arbitrarily deprived of their liberty were immediately stripped of their nationality.³⁸ HRF, UJE and ISI recommended to guarantee the protection of the right to a nationality and to restore the status of all those who were deprived of their citizenship arbitrarily.³⁹

24. JS2 indicated that the civil society in exile, mainly journalists, reporting on human rights violations from outside continued to be subjected to threats and intimidation by the Nicaraguan authorities with their homes and families under siege and surveillance, families arbitrary detained, properties confiscated, and professional licences permanently disqualified.⁴⁰

25. HRF regretted that Nicaragua had progressively reduced the civic space and severely limited the exercise of freedom of association and that, between 2018 and 2023, almost 50% of all registered civil society organizations in the country were stripped of their legal status, with many of them having had their assets seized.⁴¹ IACHR stated that during the same period 3,390 civil society organizations had been affected by the cancellation of their legal status out of a total of 7,227 organizations legally registered in the country in 2018.⁴² IACHR reported that the closure of civic space in Nicaragua had included restrictions on freedom of religion, including persecution of the Catholic Church, criminalization of religious services, confiscation of property and bank accounts, arbitrary deprivation of liberty of church members, and other acts of repression and retaliation against members of the Catholic Church due to their mediation role in the National Dialogue in 2018 and its critical role in denouncing human rights violations.⁴³

26. With regards to freedom of religion, JS1 reported that between 2019 and 2023, at least 132 cases of priests, nuns, lay people, and pastors were forced to leave the country, as a result of the Government's repressive actions including constant threats (of death or arrest) and pressure against family members.⁴⁴ HRF reported that at least 17 bishops, priests, and seminarists were arrested.⁴⁵ ISI and IBA further stated that the Government had arbitrarily arrested and detained clergymen for prayers offered for a wrongfully imprisoned Bishop and had sentenced six former employees of the Catholic charity Caritas to six years imprisonment on dubious money laundering charges having followed up on other attacks against religious leaders in preceding months.⁴⁶ The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) stated that in 2023, the Government blocked access to the bank accounts of various dioceses belonging to the Catholic Church and banned public processions that were part of Holy Week celebrations. It further indicated that the Government's actions were coercive and designed to intimidate the Church.⁴⁷

27. JC recommended ending the monitoring, sequestering, and detaining of Catholic Church leaders and notable figures exercising their right to freedom of expression. JC also urged allowing the re-entry and temporary residence of foreign missionaries and priests who had previously travelled freely and worked in Nicaragua. Additionally, JC called for permitting safe and uninterrupted religious services, observations of holy days, pilgrimages, and memorial Masses, as well as investigating and prosecuting those responsible for physical attacks on Catholic churches and other infrastructure.⁴⁸

28. Joint Submission 4 (JS4) indicated that independent media had also been victims of attacks, such as the theft of production and transmission equipment, police harassment and siege, withholding of supplies, economic embargoes, raids, and arbitrary closure of their licenses, including the confiscation, destruction of their transmission antennas and cancellation of frequencies.⁴⁹ JS4 and JS2 recommended to take immediate steps to restore the nationality of journalists, writers, activists, human rights defenders, political dissidents, and other opponents who had been arbitrarily stripped of their nationality in retaliation for exercising their right to freedom of expression ensuring that they can freely carry out their journalistic work without fear of reprisals and cease the confiscation of their assets.⁵⁰

29. HRF, JS12 and JS4 recommended to protect, respect, and promote, without reservation, the rights of all individuals to the freedoms of expression and association and to repeal the restrictive laws in violation of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, freedom of movement, and other fundamental human rights under international law.⁵¹

30. Grupo de Reflexión de Excarcelados Políticos (GREX) noted the release of 905 political prisoners but regretted that they continue to face persecution and stigmatization by the Government.⁵² JS3, JS14, JS16 and UA called on the Government to release without condition imprisoned religious leaders and all political prisoners unjustly detained in the country.⁵³ Joint Submission 9 (JS9) recommended to cease the expulsion and stripping of citizenship of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, including clergy members, and ensure their ability to return to their country of origin without fear of reprisal.⁵⁴

Right to privacy

31. GREX reported that the released prisoners were closely monitored by the police, who made surprise visits to their homes, randomly monitored their cell phones, and prohibited personal visits, considering them “conspiratorial meetings”.⁵⁵ JS19 also reported surveillance of communications and monitoring of social networks and emails to produce intelligence information.⁵⁶

32. JS15 reported that families of individuals who had left the country were constantly asked about their whereabouts by the police and were also under constant surveillance of their activities in private life, workplace, and travel plans.⁵⁷

33. JS19 recommended to ensure transparency in the use and deployment of intelligence technologies in open sources, social networks, and internet in general and restrict their use when they were deployed for purposes of mass surveillance or online or offline profiling.⁵⁸

Right to social security

34. ISI reported that records of individuals deprived of nationality were also erased by the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security, thereby blocking pension payments and social security benefits.⁵⁹ JS5 reported that, in 2023 at least 317 individuals were unjustly deprived of their nationality, comprising 59 women and 258 men.⁶⁰

Right to an adequate standard of living

35. JS10 and JS17 indicated that the housing situation on the Caribbean Coast was unknown, mainly after the passage of hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020, and Julia in 2022 that destroyed part of the infrastructure where they impacted. They further indicated that the Nicaraguan government had not yet implemented the construction project of 35,000 social housing units announced in 2022.⁶¹

Right to health

36. JS10 reported that the right to health in Nicaragua had suffered a serious setback in recent years, as the human rights crisis, which began in April 2018, accelerated the process of politicization of the Health System, mainly against the opposition and political prisoners.⁶²

37. Noting the lack of statistics on women's health, Joint Submission 7 (JS7) recommended to create a reliable public information system to access information on health concerns of women and girls.⁶³ Joint Submission 11 (JS11) and JS7 recommended to

implement the necessary legislative and public policy measures to prevent adolescent pregnancy caused by sexual violence, informing victims of all possibilities, including access to abortion without discrimination and gestational limitations and to any other sexual and reproductive health services.⁶⁴

Right to education

38. The Broken Chalk (BC) welcomed Nicaragua for the improvement in education, making it more accessible for everyone and the considerable investment in children and education. It recalled that the country ranked third in Central America for investments in the social sector as a proportion of the GDP and that, in 2020, public investment in children represented 32.9 per cent of all public spending, 71.6 per cent of social expenditure, and 7.9 per cent of GDP. However, it deplored the lack of statistical data⁶⁵ and recommended that Nicaragua collect more education data to better understand its current state and to make informed decisions.⁶⁶

39. While the General Budget was increased for education in 2024, ACIDHU noted that the disparity was reflected in the allocation of resources to the different educational levels and recommended to increase the budget to meet or exceed the regional average, with special attention to preschool, basic and secondary education, and ensure an equitable distribution of resources at all levels of education.⁶⁷

40. CUDJ expressed concern over the denial of academic records by higher education institutions for university students who left the country in the period between 2018–2023 and recommended Nicaragua to guarantee their access to academic records.⁶⁸

41. ACIDHU stated that over the past five years, there had been a downward trend in the number of active teachers in public education contrary to the National Education Plan⁶⁹ and noted that from December 2021 to February 2024, the number of universities cancelled in Nicaragua amounted to 34. It stated that the cancellation of these universities directly affected approximately 37,000 university students.⁷⁰

42. ACIDHU recommended to guarantee the independence of educational institutions from political influences, ensuring that academic and administrative decisions were made within universities and were not imposed by government entities.⁷¹

43. Asociación para el Desarrollo Indígena Social (ADIS) stated that indigenous communities faced significant barriers to accessing quality education that respected and valued their culture and identity as educational programs often ignored the history and traditions of indigenous peoples, thus perpetuating their marginalization. It recommended to promote intercultural education that recognized and valued the cultural and linguistic diversity of Nicaragua which included incorporating the history and traditions of indigenous peoples into educational curricula.⁷²

Cultural rights

44. AFI highlighted that laws related to public order and national security were used to wrongfully imprison artists and to limit cultural initiatives in Nicaragua, that several artists had been charged and prosecuted for the views expressed in their works and that the government had closed cultural centers and associations. Additionally, some artists that received foreign or private funding had been arrested under these legislations.⁷³

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

45. Just Atonement Inc. (JAI) commended Nicaragua for its willingness to collaborate with the international community on climate policy and implementation as Nicaragua was one of the earliest countries to ratify the Escazú Agreement, which entered into force in 2021. It also stated that Nicaragua participated in international projects, such as reforestation with the Green Climate Fund, even though some projects have had adverse consequences.⁷⁴

46. JAI encouraged Nicaragua, as a regional and global leader in clean energy, to continue to set an example for quick and efficient strides towards renewable, as well as accessible, energy, aiming for 75% renewable electric capacity by 2030.⁷⁵

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

47. World Peace Council (WPC) indicated that Nicaragua had the third highest percentage of women deputies worldwide, registering 50.6% of female members in parliament in 2022.

⁷⁶JAI reported that Indigenous women continued to face persecution through their intersectional gender, ethnic, and cultural identities.⁷⁷

48. JS7 indicated that gender-based violence was one of the most serious human rights violations affecting women and girls and that there was no single environment where women and girls were safe from violence.⁷⁸

49. JS6 reported that women in Nicaragua lacked tools and strategies to seek justice due to the government shutting down women's advocacy organizations, creating an environment where women were left unprotected. Additionally, it noted that harassment of women defenders and political or social leaders had escalated into severe political persecution.⁷⁹

50. IACHR reported persistent acts of harassment, threats, aggressions, persecution, and criminalization against human rights defenders and that the majority of these acts, were still perpetrated mainly against women human rights defenders and their families.⁸⁰

51. JS18 recommended to cease the stigmatization of women human rights defenders, their families and communities and recognize their invaluable contribution to the construction of a more just and egalitarian society.⁸¹

52. JS7 reported that Nicaragua continued to have the highest rate of teenage pregnancies, with 24% of pregnancies occurring in adolescents—92 out of every 1,000 women aged 15 to 18 were mothers. Additionally, between 2017 and 2021, at least 341 women, adolescents, and girls became pregnant as a result of rape, and 1,676 were at risk of becoming pregnant.⁸²

53. JS2 reported that from 2018 to 2023, 397 feminicides were registered and the Government had failed to implement policies to prevent the situation. Furthermore, it stated that in the context of the government's generalized repression of social leaders, activists, and human rights defenders, the work of preventing feminicides and gender-based violence had been hindered by the closure of at least 175 organisations working on these issues.⁸³

Children

54. JS10 informed that no data was made available on the investigations of crimes committed against children, and the degree of impunity in these cases was unknown.⁸⁴

55. IACHR recommended Nicaragua to design and implement a contingency protocol for the continuity of access to education for children and adolescents, reducing the effects of suspensions of classes and educational activities and to take measures to reduce school dropout and all forms of child labour.⁸⁵

56. IACHR recommended to ensure that all children in contact with the law be immediately submitted to the specialized juvenile justice system, separate from the adult criminal justice system.⁸⁶

Indigenous Peoples and minorities

57. The IACHR and Joint Submission 13 (JS13) reported that indigenous and Afro-descendant communities on the Caribbean Coast continued to experience widespread violence due to invasions by settlers and third parties, allegedly with the government's acquiescence and tolerance. In 2020, these attacks reportedly resulted in the murders of at least 10 indigenous people, including eight from the Mayangna and two from the Miskitu communities.⁸⁷ JS5 reported that by April 2023, over 300 indigenous families had sought refuge in a neighbouring country, driven from their homes by factors such as climate change, land encroachment by settlers, and state actions.⁸⁸

58. IACHR further stated that the right to life and integrity and territorial rights of Indigenous People continued to be affected by the lack of progress in the sanitation of titled lands, the absence of measures for the prevention, investigation and punishment of those who

had committed aggressions against them, alleged acts of corruption related to the illegal sale and granting of traditional land titles to former civil war combatants and settlers, as well as the creation of parallel communal governments promoted by the central government.⁸⁹

59. ADIS indicated that Nicaragua did not guarantee the right of all indigenous peoples to self-determination and that indigenous communities continued to face interference by the Government in their internal affairs and autonomous decisions. Free, prior and informed consultation processes were rarely conducted adequately, and that in many cases, were not even conducted.⁹⁰

60. JS13 and RE recommended to guarantee the right to land and territory of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples by carrying out the process of determination of ownership established in national legislation and respecting and protecting communities from attacks by state agents and settlers, respect, protect, and guarantee the autonomy and self-determination of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, respecting the processes of electing traditional community authorities and refraining from interfering in them; including the right to civil organization for the defense of rights and adopt measures to guarantee the right to consultation and prior, free, and informed consent of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in public policies and development projects that may affect them.⁹¹

61. Joint Submission 17 (JS17) recommended to guarantee the right to self-determination, respecting the traditional forms of elections of government authorities without interference, and territorial rights.⁹²

62. ADIS added that indigenous communities had faced significant barriers to fully participate in democratic processes and that the indigenous political party was banned forcing its leaders into exile and silencing critical voices within these communities.⁹³ It recommended Nicaragua to respect and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their right to self-determination, political participation, fair trial, freedom of expression, and access to education and culture that respects and values their identity.⁹⁴

63. Centro de Asistencia Legal a Pueblos Indígenas (CALPI) and JS17 recommended Nicaragua to take all necessary measures to prevent the invasion of indigenous territories by settlers, guaranteeing the right to self-determination of the communities and support for legitimate indigenous authorities.⁹⁵

64. ADIS recommended Nicaragua to respect and guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to protest, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and political participation of the population and dismantle pro-government armed groups due to the negative impact of their actions on human rights.⁹⁶

65. CALPI indicated that violence in the Mayangna Sauni As Territory (TMSA) had worsened with the arrival of mining companies from 2020 onwards and that these indigenous communities were being forced to leave and recommended Nicaragua to guarantee the life, integrity and security of the Mayangna and Miskitu indigenous people and TMSA in particular.⁹⁷

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons

66. JS10 regretted the lack of records regarding LBGTIQ+ people in Nicaragua and that no policies for the promotion and guarantee of equality for LBGTIQ+ people had been established in Nicaragua.⁹⁸

67. JS8 regretted that Law No. 870, the Family Code, still did not recognize the right of same-sex couples to have a family. They recommended including gender identity and sexual orientation in the next legislative reform of the Family Code, specifically in Article 37 on the Concept of Family, and advised against establishing a specific concept of family.⁹⁹

68. JAI indicated that LGBTQ+ political prisoners in Nicaragua were tortured more severely if the torturers learned about the prisoners' sexual orientation or gender identity. Similarly, in 2020 some transgender women were kidnapped and beaten by law enforcement agents, held in men's prisons for up to a year, and assaulted.¹⁰⁰

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

69. IACHR reported that the profiles of the main groups of people forced to leave Nicaragua and requested international protection in neighbouring countries were students who had participated in demonstrations and protests, human rights defenders and leaders of social and peasant movements, people who had supported those who participated in the protests through the provision of food, safe houses and medicines, doctors, journalists, and former military and police officers who had refused to participate in repressive acts ordered by the government. IACHR also reported that the main actors responsible for the persecution and forced displacement of Nicaraguans were parapolice groups, National Police, and surveillance and control groups, such as the Councils of Citizen Power. Most Nicaraguans were internally displaced before exiting their country, leaving their homes and taking refuge in safe houses, friends or relatives.¹⁰¹

70. IACHR stated that, by the end of November 2022, a dozen priests had been forcibly displaced to other countries.¹⁰²

71. IACHR recommended to guarantee that all persons may freely leave Nicaraguan territory.¹⁰³

Internally displaced persons

72. JS5 deplored that the specifics of internal forced displacement remained largely unquantified due to a lack of clear, publicly available data and that Nicaragua had experienced an unprecedented cross-border exodus.¹⁰⁴

73. IACHR recommended that Nicaragua investigate, prosecute, and punish those acts carried out by State agents, parapolice, and members of the Councils of Citizen Power that generated displacements.¹⁰⁵

74. CUDJ recommended to open a national dialogue where the safe participation of young university students forced to leave the country was guaranteed.¹⁰⁶

Stateless persons

75. AFI indicated that several of the individuals that had been deprived of their nationality in 2023 were rendered stateless, becoming vulnerable to other human rights violations.¹⁰⁷

76. AFI and ACIDHU stated that since 2018, the government had taken measures to restrict the rights of many Nicaraguans, including through banishment and denaturalization.¹⁰⁸

77. ISI urged Nicaragua to immediately restore the Nicaraguan nationality of all people who had been deprived of it and to prevent further deprivations.¹⁰⁹

Notes

¹ A/HRC/42/16, A/HRC/42/16/Add.1, and A/HRC/42/2.

² The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

*Civil society**Individual submissions:*

AFI	Artistic Freedom Initiative, New York (United State of America);
ACIDHU	Acción Colectiva por la Inclusión Desarrollo y Derechos Humanos, Heredia, Barva (Costa Rica);
ADIS	Asociación para el Desarrollo Indígena Social, San José (Costa Rica);
BC	The Broken Chalk, Amsterdam, (Netherlands);
CALPI	Centro de Asistencia Legal a Pueblos Indígenas (Nicaragua);
CUDJ	La Coordinadora Universitaria por la Democracia y la Justicia (CUDJ) (Nicaragua);

ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg, (France);
GREX	Grupo de Reflexión de Excarcelados Políticos, Heredia, (Costa Rica);
HRF	Human Rights Foundation, New York (United States of America);
IBA	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (USA);
ISI	Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion Eindhoven, (Netherlands);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., New York (United State of America);
JC	Jubilee Campaign, Fairfax, VA, (United States of America);
OIAD	Observatorio Internacional de la Abogacía en Riesgo, Paris (France);
RE	Race and Equality, Washington (United States of America);
UA	Urnas Abiertas, Managua (Nicaragua);
UJE	Unidad Juvenil y Estudiantil, San José, (Costa Rica);
WPC	World Peace Council Athens, (Greece).
<i>Joint submissions:</i>	
JS1	Joint Submission 1 submitted by: El Observatorio de Libertad Religiosa en América Latina (OLIRE) Voorburg, (The Netherlands) El International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) (United States of America) Outreach Aid to the Americas (United States of America) Miami La Línea de Libertades y Pluralismo de la Clínica Jurídica de Interés Público y Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de la Sabana (Colombia);
JS2	Joint Submission 2 submitted by: CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia, Asociación Centroamericana para el Desarrollo y la Democracia and Fundación del Río, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Impulso18, New Malden (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: ARTICLE 19 Mexico and Central America, Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia (FLED), PEN International, PEN Nicaragua in exile, Periodistas y Comunicadores Independientes de Nicaragua (PCIN), IFEX- ALC, The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Artists at Risk Connection (ARC), Inter American Press Association (IAPA), Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias para América Latina y el Caribe (AMARC), London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
JS5	Joint Submission 5 submitted by: Centro por la Justicia y Derecho Internacional (CEJIL), the Unidad de Defensa Jurídica (UDJ), Unidad de Registro (UDR), and Colectivo de Derechos Humanos Nicaragua Nunca Más (Colectivo) San José, Costa Rica;
JS6	Joint Submission 6 submitted by: La Organización Feminista Las Malcriadas and Movimiento Autónomo de Mujeres (MAM), Heredia (Costa Rica);
JS7	Joint Submission 7 submitted by: La Asociación Feminista La Corriente y diversas organizaciones feministas and la Iniciativa por los Derechos Sexuales (SRI), Buenos Aires (Argentina);
JS8	Joint Submission 8 submitted by: consortium Mesa Nacional LGBTIQ+, Managua (Nicaragua);

- JS9 **Joint Submission 9 submitted by:** ADF International, CAP Liberté de Conscience, Geneva (Switzerland), Corporación Comunidad y Justicia and Jubilee Campaign (Switzerland);
- JS10 **Joint Submission 10 submitted by:** Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights (RACE & EQUALITY), Paris (France);
- JS11 **Joint Submission 11 submitted by:** The Center for Reproductive Rights (“CDR”) and IPAS Latin America and the Caribbean (IPAS LAC) Genève (Switzerland);
- JS12 **Joint Submission 12 submitted by:** Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional, Colectivo de Derechos Humanos Nicaragua Nunca Más, Unidad de Defensa Jurídica and Unidad de Registro;
- JS13 **Joint Submission 13 submitted by:** Observatorio de Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes (OPIA) and Asociación Colectivo Indígena por la Igualdad y Derechos Humanos (ACIDH) San Jose, (Costa Rica);
- JS14 **Joint Submission 14 submitted by:** Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Colectivo de Derechos Humanos Nicaragua Nunca Más (Colectivo), Unidad de Defensa Jurídica (UDJ), Registration Unit (UDR) Heredia, Barva (Costa Rica);
- JS15 **Joint Submission 15 submitted by:** The Advocates for Human Rights, Nicaragüenses en el Mundo – Texas, Minneapolis (United States of America);
- JS16 **Joint Submission 16 submitted by:** El presente informe fue elaborado por la coalición RedProdePAz Nicaragua, conformada por: la Red Internacional de Derechos Humanos Europa (RIDHE) (Belgium), Aula Abierta, Activismo Ciudadano en Resistencia, la Coordinadora Universitaria por la Democracia y la Justicia (CUDJ), Fundación es Libertad, ASIDEHU y Foundation for Development and Social Innovation, San Jose, (Costa Rica);
- JS17 **Joint Submission 17 submitted by:** Plataforma de los pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes de Nicaragua-Diáspora (INANA), Instituto Internacional Sobre Raza, Igualdad y Derechos Humanos (Raza e Igualdad), Centre for Civil and Political Rights, Geneva (Switzerland);
- JS18 **Joint Submission 18 submitted by:** Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Humanos (IM-Defensoras), Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL) Toronto, Ontario, Canada;
- JS19 **Joint Submission 19 submitted by:** Instituto Panamericano de Derecho y Tecnología (IPANDETEC) (República Dominicana) y Derechos Digitales, Santiago (Chile).

Regional intergovernmental organization(s):

IACHR The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington (United States of America).

³ The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

- ⁴ JS1 p. 11, JC, p.1. See also JAI p.7.
- ⁵ JS1 p. 11.
- ⁶ JS6, p.3. See also JS7 p. 11.
- ⁷ HRF, p. 14, JS14 p.7, JS18, p.8. See also JS15, p.9, JC p.6.
- ⁸ IBA, p. 8.
- ⁹ IBA p.8. See also JS19, p. 16, JAI p.7.
- ¹⁰ JS3, p. 11, JS14, p.7. See also JS10, p.13, UA, p.7, UJE, p.6.
- ¹¹ JS19 p. 16.
- ¹² JC p.6, JS12 p.2, CUDJ p.3, JS13 p.20, RE p.1, AFI p.2.
- ¹³ JS5 p.2.
- ¹⁴ RE, p.3, p.6.
- ¹⁵ IACHR p. 10, JS2 p. 11.
- ¹⁶ HRF p. 13, JS16 p. 11.
- ¹⁷ JS14 p.7, JS15 p.10.
- ¹⁸ JS2 p.4.
- ¹⁹ JS12 p. 2. See also JS17 p.12.
- ²⁰ CUDJ p.8. See also JS18, p.8. JS2, p.3.
- ²¹ IACHR, p.30.
- ²² IACHR., p.8.
- ²³ IACHR, p. 9.
- ²⁴ JS1 p.8, UA, p.6.
- ²⁵ HRF p. 11.
- ²⁶ HRF p. 14, JS14 p.7.
- ²⁷ OIAD, p.7.
- ²⁸ AFI p. 3. See also JS12 p.1, OIAD, p.2.
- ²⁹ JC, p.5.
- ³⁰ IBA, p.39.
- ³¹ HRF p.2.
- ³² ACIDHU p.3.
- ³³ IACHR p. 22
- ³⁴ HRF p.2. JS12 p.2, See also JS16 p.10, OIAD, p.4.
- ³⁵ HRF p. 11, See also JS13 p.4.
- ³⁶ ISI p.8, JS16 p. 11.
- ³⁷ ISI p. 4.
- ³⁸ JS5 p. 6, JS10 p.6, JS12 p.2, IBA p. 3.
- ³⁹ HRF p. 14, UJE p.7, ISI p.8, See also ECLJ p.6.
- ⁴⁰ JS2 p.7.
- ⁴¹ HRF p. 19.
- ⁴² IACHR p. 11.
- ⁴³ IACHR p. 11. See also JS12 p.5.
- ⁴⁴ JS1 p. 7.
- ⁴⁵ HRF p.2.
- ⁴⁶ ISI p.3, IBAp.15.
- ⁴⁷ ECLJ, p.4.
- ⁴⁸ JC, p.6.
- ⁴⁹ JS4 p. 15.

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- 50 JS4 p. 17, JS2 p. 11.
 51 HRF p. 14, JS12 p.6, JS4 p.16.
 52 GREX p. 2
 53 JS3 p. 11, JS14 p.7, JS16 p.11, UA p.7. See also IBA p.6, JS18 p.9.
 54 JS9 p. 7.
 55 GREX p. 5.
 56 JS19 p.14.
 57 JS15 p.3.
 58 JS19 p. 15.
 59 ISI p. 7.
 60 JS5 p.7.
 61 JS10 p. 9, JS17 p.10.
 62 JS10 p. 11.
 63 JS7 p, 11.
 64 JS11 p. 8, JS7 p.11.
 65 BC p. 3.
 66 BC p. 8, ACIDHU p.7
 67 ACIDHU p.7.
 68 CUDJ p.8.
 69 ACIDHU p.4.
 70 ACIDHU p.5.
 71 ACIDHU p.7.
 72 ADIS p. 6.
 73 AFI p. 3.
 74 AFI p. 3.
 75 JAI p. 8.
 76 WPC, p.7.
 77 JAI, p.3.
 78 JS7 p. 6.
 79 JS6 pp. 2,4.
 80 IACHR p. 31.
 81 JS18 p.8
 82 JS7 p. 4.
 83 JS2 p. 5. See also JS18 p.3.
 84 JS10 p. 11.
 85 IACHR, p.18.
 86 IACHR, p.8.
 87 IACHR p.20, JS13 p.2.
 88 JS5 p.4.
 89 IACHR.p.20.
 90 ADIS p. 4.
 91 JS13 p.5, RE p.5. See also JS16 p.11.
 92 JS17 p.14.
 93 ADIS p. 5, HRF p.11.
 94 ADIS p. 6.
 95 CALPI p.6, JS17 p.14.
 96 ADIS p. 6.
 97 CALPI p. 6, JS13 p.1.
 98 JS10 p. 12.
 99 JS8 p. 7.
 100 JAI p. 6.
 101 IACHR p. 4.
 102 IACHR p. 31.
 103 IACHR, p.4.
 104 JS5 pp. 3–4.
 105 IACHR, p.4.
 106 CUDJ p.9.
 107 AFI p. 7.
 108 AFI p. 6, ACIDHU p.3. See also UJE, p.3.
 109 ISI p.8.
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