



Solidarity with the persecuted in Nicaragua!

Urgent Call to Isolate the Ortega-Murillo Regime

Blessed is the man who does not follow the Party's slogans or attend its rallies
nor attends their rallies nor sits at the table with the gangsters
nor with the Generals in the Council of War
Blessed is the man who does not spy on his brother
nor informs on his schoolmate
Blessed is the man who does not read their commercial advertisements
nor listens to their radios nor believes their slogans.
He will be like a tree planted by a fountain.

Ernesto Cardenal

From the *Pacto Ecosocial e Intercultural del Sur*, we express our solidarity with the 222 political prisoners that the regime of Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo expelled to the United States last Thursday, February 9, 2023, as well as with the 94 dissidents in exile who were stripped of their nationality and property a week later, on February 16.

Both groups were stripped not only of their nationality but also of their citizenship rights. With these banishment actions, the Ortega/Murillo regime is acting against all international human rights treaties and against Nicaragua's Constitution, which states in Article 20 that "no national may be deprived of his nationality". Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one "shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality". The State of Nicaragua furthermore subscribed since 1961 and ratified in 2013 the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, which states that "The Contracting States shall not deprive any person, or any group of persons, of their nationality on racial, ethnic, religious or political grounds." Banishment is a crime against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Flouting any notion of due process, the exiles were declared fugitives from justice and convicted as alleged "traitors to the homeland", even though they had never been charged, much less prosecuted. The resolution was simply read by the presiding magistrate of the Court of Appeals of the Managua District, Ernesto Rodriguez Mejia. In this way, they are presented with a sentence without trial and the possibility of appeal, taking any understanding of the rule of law to absurdity. According to Magistrate Rodriguez Mejia, the 94 Nicaraguans were charged by the Public Prosecutor's Office for alleged "crimes of conspiracy to commit undermining national integrity in real competition with the crime of propagation of false news through information and communication technology", all to the detriment of the State of Nicaragua and society. Clearly, this is a case of persecution of free opinion and critical thinking, an attack on the dignity of those who persist in denouncing the totalitarianism of the Ortega/Murillo regime and in defending the Nicaraguan people.

The judicial resolution also ordered the "confiscation" of all real estate assets and companies that those thus persecuted possess, either personally or as partners of any legal entity or company. With this, in addition to forced banishment and citizenship rights, they are deprived of their material means of subsistence.

We, the undersigned, once again raise our voices to express our indignation and denounce the extreme political violence of the Ortega-Murillo regime, which does not even hesitate to go after the relatives of exiled political dissidents to imprison them. All this happens in the name of a supposedly "progressive" or "leftist" regime, which in reality is the most neoliberal and authoritarian that Nicaragua has known in its history: it exacerbates extractivism, hands over and alienates natural resources, is violent against indigenous communities and famously sexist and misogynist. A government that has transcended all dictatorial limits to become a totalitarian regime.

We reiterate and reinforce what we have already expressed in our statement of 2018: The indignation, the pain, and the sense of historical frustration are doubled when such a political aberration is the product of leaders and governments that call themselves leftist. What can hurt more than the irony of a leader who calls himself revolutionary, but who even surpasses in his criminal practices those of the dictator against whom he knew how to rise up! What could be more outrageous than when this leader systematically persecutes, banishes, and imprisons those who were his former comrades in the liberation struggle!

We appeal to those self-styled leftist sectors that continue to support Ortega-Murillo to stop being accomplices of this totalitarian government. We appeal to the governments of the world to isolate the Ortega-Murillo regime and to welcome its victims with all rights and solidarity, to allow them to restart a new stage of their lives.

Solidarity with the persecuted people of Nicaragua!

February, 2023

Add your sign here: <https://forms.gle/DhbipHLSkQbxT7Qn9>

SPANISH

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