



Statement to the 46th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua

Your Excellency,

My name is María Luisa Acosta, I am the coordinator of the Center of Legal Assistance for Indigenous Peoples (CALPI). We have accompanied indigenous and afro-descendant peoples over the past 25 years in Nicaragua.

The situation of indigenous peoples of the Northern Caribbean Coast is dire, following the passage of hurricanes ETA and IOTA, that destroyed homes, contaminated water, and caused a food emergency which has not been addressed. This adds up to the attacks being systematically perpetrated by armed settlers since 2015, which have left dozens dead and injured, including women victims of sexual violence, causing the forced displacement of the Mískitu and Mayangna indigenous communities. All this without the State fulfilling its obligation to protect the lives, mental integrity and traditional territories of these peoples.

The situation for defenders of the rights of indigenous peoples is highly risky in Nicaragua, due to the death threats, repression and ill-treatment which we are subjected to. Yet, the State refuses to adopt protection mechanisms and investigation protocols for situations of risk, threats and aggressions, in accordance with what was established by the 2017 Interamerican Court of Human Rights ruling *Acosta et al. v. Nicaragua*.

CALPI and ISHR urge the Human Rights Council to renew and strengthen the mandate of the High Commissioner, in order to urge the Nicaraguan State to resume constructive cooperation with your Office within a year, and to take the path of human rights protection, in particular for these indigenous peoples.

Thank you,