

Oral statement to the 47th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

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Obstruction of the defense of sexual and reproductive rights in Nicaragua

A history of violence and repression against the women's movement exacerbated by the crisis¹

With over 4,000 women human rights defenders (WHRDs) attacked according to figures from the Mesoamerican Initiative of WHRDS, the repression unleashed by the Nicaraguan government has disproportionately affected WHRDs and feminist organizations fighting for the sexual and reproductive rights of Nicaraguan women.

They have faced repression and intimidation by security forces in marches and public activities, and a campaign of stigmatization and discrediting by the country's highest authorities.

The institutional framework that protects the rights of Nicaraguan women and the important work of WHRDs has been undermined. This happens in a country that, despite the high rates of teenage pregnancies, early marriages and sexual violence against minors, continues to fail to take effective measures to prevent and combat the increase in sexual and gender-based violence, as established in [resolution 46/2](#) adopted in March by this Council.

Since April 2018, women defenders have been arbitrarily detained and criminalized, while their organizations have seen their work affected by restrictive norms, arbitrary inspections and confiscation of assets, forcing them to close or operate at the margins of the law. In addition, there has been an increase in physical harassment, hate speech propagated on social media, and many of them have reported the presence of sexual aggression as a practice against them.

Your Excellency,

In light of the Working Group's [report](#), what urgent measures should Nicaragua take to guarantee the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights and a safe environment for WHRDs?

Thank you,

¹ This is a joint statement by: International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Humanos (IM-Defensoras).