

Oral statement to the 50th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on her oral update on the human rights situation in Nicaragua

Speaker: Alexandra Salazar

Madam High Commissioner,

At least 190 people are imprisoned for political reasons in Nicaragua, including human rights defenders. The criminal justice system has been the repressive arm charged with silencing the voices of those who dissent from the will of the ruling party. Arbitrary detentions continue to increase and the government has demonstrated its willingness to close the space for civil society by restricting fundamental freedoms.

Political prisoners are constantly being subjected to cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment and acts of physical and psychological torture aimed at wearing them down.

The conditions of detention of political prisoners, without access to medicines and adequate medical care, puts their lives at risk. They suffer from malnutrition, and are held in overcrowded, poorly lit, poorly ventilated and unsanitary conditions that increase their health problems.

These situations have been the subject of a large number of precautionary measures from the IACHR, provisional measures from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and communications from the United Nations Special Procedures. However, the judicial authorities have alleged that these resolutions are not binding for their application in the national territory, demonstrating the lack of political will of the State.

Madam High Commissioner, can you provide more information on your exchanges with the government on the conditions of detention documented by your Office? What measures should the Government of Nicaragua adopt to comply with international standards?

Thank you very much,