

**Oral statement to the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council****Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua****Speaker:** Alexandra Salazar

Your Excellences,

My name is Alexandra Salazar of the Unidad de Defensa Jurídica.

Jointly with the [Colectivo 46/2](#) coalition, and the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), we recognise the efforts and rigor in the investigations carried out by the Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua (GHREN). Their work has made it possible to verify human rights violations in a generalized manner, against the entire population, and in particular against real or perceived opponents.

The findings demonstrate our lived reality: that of a police and dictatorial State, rooted in fear and the absolute deprivation of human rights.

The instrumentalisation of State institutions at the service of repressive political actors has led to the collapse of the rule of law and institutions. The Group of Experts determines that ‘authorities of all branches of the government and at all levels’, including Daniel Ortega and Rosaria Murillo, took part in the executions, imprisonment, torture, persecution, and other grave crimes.

Repression persists, as evidenced by new arrests following the forced deportation and stripping of nationality of 317 persons. Today, 37 individuals continue to be arbitrarily deprived of their liberty and are still denied access to health care, communication with their families and their right to effective remedies. They are accused of unfounded charges, based on false evidence or that do not constitute crimes.

The need to continue with the detailed investigation of crimes against humanity remains pressing. To this end, the mandates of the Group of Experts and the OHCHR should be strengthened and renewed for two years.

Thank you,