

Oral statement to the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council**Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Nicaragua****Speaker:** Olga Valle

Your Excellencies,

My name is Olga Valle, I am a member of the citizen electoral observatory Urnas Abiertas and I am speaking on behalf of the [Colectivo 46/2](#), a coalition of 20 Nicaraguan and international human rights organisations.

Since 2018, the State has implemented a policy of persecution against opponents which, as the Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua (GHREN) has already stated, constitutes crimes against humanity.

Nicaraguan society has looked to the electoral process as a way to initiate a democratic transition with justice and without impunity. However, the 2021 and 2022 electoral processes were characterised, as documented by the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), by serious violations of civil and political rights, preventing the guarantee of free, fair and transparent elections.

The installation of this de facto government has led to the erosion of the quality of life of Nicaraguans in all its dimensions, with high levels of impunity for violence against women and widespread corruption that tramples on and conditions access to other rights such as health, education and work.

In addition to the arbitrary stripping of the nationality of 317 Nicaraguans, the State, through an illegal and irregular process, imposed accessory penalties on these people that entail lifetime disqualification from holding public office and elected office. To activists, opponents, and those it considers its enemies, the State has a clear message: they are not citizens, nor Nicaraguans.

The monitoring work of the OHCHR and the detailed research of the GHREN are vital to our work.

We therefore urge this Council to approve a two-year extension of both mandates to continue investigating State crimes.

Thank you very much.