

Call to solidarity; To the international feminist community from the Feminist Articulation of Nicaragua

Dear feminist sisters and siblings,

We have received with affection the shows of solidarity sent to us from collectives and feminist movements in different parts of the world. We feel your support, concern, and sorrow in these months of state repression and violence lived by the Nicaraguan population.

We who participated in the struggle to bring down the Somoza dictatorship, who participated in the Sandinista popular revolution, who were born during or after the revolution, and who make up the Feminist Articulation of Nicaragua are calling for the solidarity of the international community to denounce the crimes and constant attacks that we are living in our country as a result of the repressive forces of the state. These attacks have been perpetrated by the National police and armed paramilitary groups, subordinates of Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo.

Nicaraguan feminists have denounced from day one the the repressive and totalitarian character of the Government lead by Daniel Ortega, who in 1998 was reported for sexual violence by his stepdaughter Zoila América Narváez, daughter of Rosario Murillo who is Ortega's wife and the later appointed Vice President of Nicaragua. As feminists we have evidenced the imputnity that Daniel Ortega represents; the image of the lack of justice for women in our country.

Years later, in 2006 we also denounced the alliance between the FSLN party lead by Ortega, conservative parties, and authorities of the churches to penalize abortion under any circumstances. For years, Ortega's government undertook a campaign of discredit and persecution against members of the feminist movement, strategies that have been extended to the movement of country workers against the construction of the Canal Interoceanico since 2014, and to all voices critical of the government.

Since the 18th of April, the brutal response of Daniel Ortega's regime against young people that were protesting against social security reforms generated protests at a national level that have been reprimanded with tear gas, rubber bullets, and lead bullets by the National Police and armed paramilitary groups. For over two months we have lived a state of terror in Nicaragua that has cost the lives of more than 200 people, left close to two thousand people injured by bullets, burns and torture, dozens of people unjustly imprisoned, and more than 50 people disappeared. Likewise there have been campaigns of threats, harassment and discrediting against defenders of human rights.

Since April 2018, throughout the repression, various women have been kidnapped, raped, tortured and live under threat in their neighbourhoods and communities. As feminists we have also received direct threats that we have recorded at the Nicaraguan Initiative for the Defence of the Human Rights of Women.

We are grateful for the shows of solidarity that we have received from feminist networks and organisations. At the same time we ask that you demonstrate publically your solidarity with the Feminist Articulation of Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan people that have been resisting the attacks of the Ortega regime for over 60 days. In this violent situation; the most brutal in the history of decades in Nicaragua, Nicaraguan feminists call upon international solidarity and we ask you:

- To convene outside Nicaraguan embassies and consulates on the 30th of June to denounce the crimes committed by the Ortega regime. Write letters and send them to embassies, consulates, and other offices of the government of Nicaragua represented in your countries. Demand that your governments publicly condemn the violence lead by the National Police and paramilitary groups against the unarmed population.

- Demonstrate through statements, announcements, articles and other channels of communication your condemnation of the attacks that the Nicaraguan population are experiencing. Spread information about what is happening in Nicaragua; this will contribute to breaking the deafening silence that presides in the media about the state of terror we are living. Coordinate with other social movements to achieve this and strengthen international pressure.

The Feminist Articulation of Nicaragua thanks each demonstration of solidarity and companionship that we have received from you. Every text message, article, demonstration, every message of love and energy has given us strength to continue this fight for justice and the democratization of our Nicaragua.

Receive our love and thanks,

Articulación Feminista de Nicaragua