

International Labor Network of Solidarity and Struggle
Réseau Syndical International de Solidarité et de Lutte
Rede Sindical Internacional de Solidariedade e de Lutas
Red Sindical Internacional de Solidaridad y de Luchas
Rete Sindacale Internazionale di Solidarietà e di Lotta
الشبكة النقابية العالمية للتضامن والنضال
Internationales Gewerkschaftsnetzwerk der Solidarität und des Kampfes



www.laboursolidarity.org

Nicaragua: new attacks against democratic freedoms

The 12th December, in continuation of the policy of suppression of any criticism against the Ortega-Murillo government, a majority of members of the National Assembly of Nicaragua voted the withdrawal of the legal personality of the CENIDH (Nicaraguan Centre of Human Rights). This extreme decision, which violates all administrative and legal procedures in the country, constitutes a further restriction of democratic freedoms in the country. It also confirms an acceleration in the dynamic towards the establishment of a police state, which started eight months ago.

This measure has also affected other political organisations like “Hagamos Democracia” [Let’s have a democracy]; the ONG “Centro de Información y Servicios de Asesoría en Salud” [Information and Aid Centre for Health Services], led by Ana Quirós, a Costa Rican born citizen naturalized Nicaraguan, who has just been expelled from the country, and the “Instituto de Estudios Estratégicos y Políticas Públicas” [Institute for Strategic Studies and Public Policies] (IEEPP). This is part of a series of procedures whose objective is the systematic criminalisation of collective or individual forms of opposition to the regime. These measures started in July with the adoption of the anti-terrorist law, which imposes heavy prison sentences on those who support or finance any demonstration arbitrarily considered as a tentative to destabilise the regime. They were followed by the obligation to demand authorisation to demonstrate, when it is a general truth that the government systematically refuses all such demands from the civil society. Just as an example, the CENIDH’s authorisation demand to demonstrate in commemoration of 10th December, anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was rejected.

Created at the beginning of the 1990s by Dr Vilma Núñez de Escorcía, ex vice-president of the Supreme Court of Justice under the Sandinista government during the 1980s, the CENIDH is the main organisation that stands for human rights in Nicaragua. In the cities and in the countryside, for the last 25 years, the CENIDH has defended innumerable victims of human rights violations, regardless of their political ideas, and against successive Nicaraguan governments.

The fallacious administrative reasons raised against the CENIDH, as well as the accusation of “criminality” against the president of the organisation, Dr Núñez de Escorcía—who is in her eighties—, might be a cause of ridicule were they not occurring within a context of generalised repression which has caused over 500 people to be detained for political reasons. Let us also bring to mind that two other national organisations for the defence of human rights—the Nicaraguan Association For Human Rights (ANPDH) and the Permanent Committee for Human Rights (CPDH)—have also suffered retaliatory measures. Not only has the CPDH been forced to temporarily close its offices because of threats, but one of the representatives of the ANPDH, a witness to the violations of human rights committed by the police and the para-military forces in the city of Masaya in July, was forced to leave the country to save his life. Furthermore, several committees from the UN (United Nations) and the OAS (Organisation of the American States), whose objective was simply to verify the situation of people who were hurt, imprisoned or who simply “disappeared” during the April demonstrations and the repression that followed them, have been refused access to information and/or places like prisons, courts, morgues, hospitals.

This relentless attack against democratic freedom by the parliamentarians loyal to the regime was continued on 13th December when five other ONGs were deprived of their legal existence. They are: the Institute of Leadership of the Segovias Foundation (ILLS); the Institute for the Development of Democracy (IPADE)—founded by the ex-minister for the Agrarian Reform Jaime Wheelock; the del Río Foundation; the Investigation Centre for Communication (CINCO)—co-founded by Carlos Fernando Chamorro, ex director of

the daily Barricada and now director of the online journal Confidential; and the Popolna Foundation—led by the Commander of the Sandinista Revolution Mónica Baltodano.

This decision was immediately followed by serious consequences. In the early hours of 14th December, the police entered by force the offices of several of the dissolved organisations as well as of those of Confidential and the television channel 100% Noticias and ransacked them. This was a clear attempt not only to intimidate these organisations, but also to deprive them and the media of their meagre means to make their ideas heard.

The organisations who sign this statement vigorously denounce this new attack against collective and individual freedoms whose only objective is to deprive citizens of any defence against the repeated abuses of the power in place. This is why we demand:

The restitution of their legal statute for all the organisations mentioned, and the end of all stigmatisation against those who defend human rights, journalists, and citizens who are critical of the regime.

The repeal of the anti-terrorist law; the restitution of the right to demonstrate; the freedom of all political prisoners; the end of impunity for those responsible for the crimes committed.

The organizations that are part of the International Union Solidarity and Struggle

Organisations syndicales nationales interprofessionnelles

- Central Sindical e Popular Conlutas (**CSP-Conlutas**) - Brésil.
- Confederación General del Trabajo (**CGT**) - Etat espagnol.
- Union syndicale Solidaires (**Solidaires**) - France.
- Confédération Générale du Travail du Burkina (**CGT-B**) - Burkina.
- Confederation of Indonesia People's Movement (**KPRI**) - Indonésie.
- Confederación Intersindical (**Intersindical**) - Etat espagnol.
- Confédération Générale Autonome des Travailleurs en Algérie (**CGATA**) - Algérie.
- Batay Ouvriye - Haïti.
- Unione Sindacale Italiana (**USI**) - Italie.
- Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs - Solidarité Ouvrière (**CNT SO**) - France.
- Sindicato de Comisiones de Base (**CO.BAS**) - Etat espagnol.
- Organisation Générale Indépendante des Travailleurs et Travailleuses d'Haïti (**OGTHI**) - Haïti.
- Sindacato Intercategoriale Cobas (**SI COBAS**) - Italie.
- Confédération Nationale du Travail (**CNT-f**) - France.
- Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya (**IAC**) - Catalogne.
- Union Générale des Travailleurs Sahraouis (**UGTSARIO**) - Sahara occidental.
- Ezker Sindikalaren Konbergentzia (**ESK**) - Pays basque.
- Confédération Nationale de Travailleurs du Sénégal Forces du Changement (**CNTS/FC**) - Sénégal.
- Sindacato Autorganizzato Lavorator COBAS (**SIAL-COBAS**) - Italie.
- General Federation of Independent Unions (**GFIU**) - Palestine.
- Confederación de la Clase Trabajadora (**CCT**) - Paraguay.
- Red Solidaria de Trabajadores - Pérou
- Union Syndicale Progressiste des Travailleurs du Niger (**USPT**) - Niger.
- Union Nationale des Syndicats Autonomes du Sénégal (**UNSAS**) - Sénégal.
- Unión Nacional para la Defensa de la Clase Trabajadora (**UNT**) - El Salvador.
- Solidaridad Obrera (**SO**) - Etat espagnol.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base (**CUB**) - Italie.
- Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (**IWGB**) - Grande-Bretagne.
- Ogólnopolski Związek Zawodowy Inicjatywa Pracownicza (**OZZ IP**) - Pologne.
- Centrale Démocratique des Travailleurs de Martinique (**CDMT**) - Martinique

Organisations syndicales nationales professionnelles

- National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (**RMT/TUC**) - Grande-Bretagne.
- Centrale Nationale des Employés – Confédération Syndicale Chrétienne (**CNE/CSC**) - Belgique.
- Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Sistema Agroalimentario (**SINALTRAINAL/CUT**) - Colombie.
- Trade Union in Ethnodata - Trade Union of Employees in the Outsourcing Companies in the financial sector - Grèce.
- Syndicat national des travailleurs des services de la santé humaine (**SYNTRASEH**) - Bénin
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores da Fiocruz (**ASFOC-SN**) - Brésil.
- Organizzazione Sindacati Autonomi e di Base Ferrovie (**ORSA Ferrovie**) - Italie.
- Union Nationale des Normaliens d'Haïti (**UNNOH**) - Haïti.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Scuola Università Ricerca (**CUB SUR**) - Italie.

- Coordinamento Autorganizzato Trasporti (**CAT**) - Italie.
- Syndicat des travailleurs du rail - Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Mali (**SYTRAIL/UNTM**) - Mali.
- Gıda Sanayii İşçileri Sendikası - Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (**GIDA-İŞ/DISK**) - Turquie.
- Syndicat National des Travailleurs du Petit Train Bleu/SA (**SNTPTB**) - Sénégal.
- Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Administrativos de la Caja de Seguro Social (**ANFACSS**) - Panama.
- Palestinian Postal Service Workers Union (**PPSWU**) - Palestine.
- Union Syndicale Etudiante (**USE**) - Belgique.
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores de Call Center (**STCC**) - Portugal.
- Sindicato Unitario de Trabajadores Petroleros (**Sinutapetrolgas**) - Venezuela.
- Alianza de Trabajadores de la Salud y Empleados Públicos - Mexique.
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers / Syndicat des travailleurs et travailleuses des postes (**CUPW-STTP**) – Canada.
- Syndicat Autonome des Postiers (**SAP**) - Suisse.
- Federación nacional de trabajadores de la educación (**SUTE-Chili**) - Chili.
- Plateforme Nationale des organisations professionnelles du secteur public - Côte d'Ivoire.
- Fédération nationale des ouvriers et collectivités locales - Union Marocaine du Travail (**UMT-Collectivités locales**) - Maroc.
- Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Cheminots (**CGSP/FGTB Cheminots**) - Belgique.
- Botswana Public Employees Union (**BOPEU**) - Botswana.
- Organisation Démocratique du Travail – Organisation Démocratique du Travail (**ODR/ODT**) - Maroc.
- Federacao Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Transportes Aéreos do Brasil (**FNTTA**) - Brésil.
- Federação Nacional dos Metroviários (**FENAMETRO**) - Brésil.
- Namibia Football Players Union (**NAFPU**) – Namibie.
- Palestinian Electricians' Trade Union (**PETU**) – Palestine.

Organisations syndicales locales

- Trades Union Congress, Liverpool (**TUC Liverpool**) - Angleterre.
- Sindacato Territoriale Autorganizzato, Brescia (**ORMA Brescia**) - Italie.
- Fédération syndicale SUD Service public, canton de Vaud (**SUD Vaud**) - Suisse
- Sindicato Unitario de Catalunya (**SU Metro**) - Catalogne.
- Türkiye DERİ-İŞ Sendikası, Tuzla et Izmir (**DERİ-İŞ Tuzla et Izmir**) - Turquie.
- L'autre syndicat, canton de Vaud (**L'autre syndicat**) - Suisse
- Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Ville de Bruxelles (**CGSP/FGTB Bruxelles**) - Belgique
- Arbeitskreis Internationalismus IG Metall, Berlin (**IG Metall Berlin**) - Allemagne
- Sindicato Unificado de Trabajadores de la Educación de Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca (**SUTEBA/CTA de los trabajadores Bahia Blanca**) - Argentine
- Sindicato del Petróleo y Gas Privado del Chubut/CGT - Argentine.
- UCU University and College Union, University of Liverpool (**UCU Liverpool**) - Angleterre.
- Sindicato di base Pavia (**SDB Pavia**) - Italie.
- United Auto Workers local 551 Ford Chicago (**UAW Ford Chicago**) – Etats-unis.
- Sindicato Uno Prodinsa, Maipú – Chili.

Organisations syndicales internationales

- Industrial Workers of the World - International Solidarity Commission (**IWW**).

Courants, tendances ou réseaux syndicaux

- Transnationals Information Exchange Germany (**TIE Germany**) - Allemagne.
- Emancipation tendance intersyndicale (**Emancipation**) - France.
- Globalization Monitor (**GM**) - Hong Kong.
- Courant Syndicaliste Révolutionnaire (**CSR**) - France.
- No Austerity - Coordinamento delle lotte - Italie.
- Solidarité Socialiste avec les Travailleurs en Iran (**SSTI**) - France.
- Basis Initiative Solidarität (**BASO**) - Allemagne.
- LabourNet Germany - Allemagne.
- Resistenza Operaia - operai Fiat-Irisbus - Italie.
- Workers Solidarity Action Network (**WSAN**) - Etats-Unis.
- United Voices of the World (**UVW**) - Grande-Bretagne.
- Unidos pra Lutar - Brésil.
- Corriente Político Social Sindical 1° de Mayo de Buenos Aires – Argentine