



Inter American Press Association

NICARAGUA ALARM Independent News Media and Citizens Rights Under Siege

In Nicaragua, human rights and essential freedoms are threatened by systematic, continuous and growing aggression from the government of President Daniel Ortega. More than 400 people have died and 2,500 were injured since the start of public protests last April.

At risk are free speech and freedom of opinion and of assembly along with personal safety. No one can remain indifferent in the face of this situation.

At this time of violence and institutional crisis, independent journalists and news media, as well as citizens critical of the government, are targets of paramilitary groups that act protected by the government, as has been documented by international bodies of high standing and credibility. Among the victims are reporters who take on great risks to report in this climate of violence and chaos, and who for that reason are threatened, assaulted, arrested, defamed and physically attacked.

We express solidarity with the independent press. We hold Mr. Ortega's government responsible for the acts of violence against the media, journalists and their families; we call for an immediate end to the acts of aggression, intimidation and threat, and we demand that all violent acts be investigated exhaustively, and that journalists and their families be protected in accordance with pronouncements by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

We reiterate the call by the international community, made recently during the visit to Nicaragua by the IAPA and Reporters Without Border, to resolve differences via dialogue with the government of Nicaragua aimed at bringing to a close the political and social crisis in a climate of respect for the freedoms of all Nicaraguans.

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