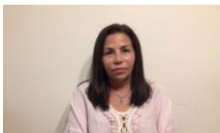


Latest political developments in Nicaragua. Presentation to the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament - 29 November 2021.

Haydee Castillo - Human Rights Defender in Political Exile, President of the Las Segovias Leadership Institute and Nicaraguans in the World.



Today, 29 November, which is the International Day of Women Human Rights Defenders, I would like to dedicate this day to my colleagues women human rights defenders, to the brave women who are political prisoners in the jails of the Ortega Murillo dictatorship, as well as to the thousands who have been and continue to be expelled every day into political exile at the risk of losing their lives and to those who silently resist from the last corners of Nicaragua and the world.

The latest political events in Nicaragua show how A DICTATORSHIP HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED IN NICARAGUA and how Ortega Murillo has scorned two national dialogues with her non-compliance, ended up with the electoral option as an opportunity to get out of one of the worst crises in the history of Nicaragua and to seal with a flourish the denunciation of the OAS Charter in order to shake off any commitment to the international legal framework of human rights.

FOR MORE THAN 3 YEARS THE REGIME IN NICARAGUA HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT DOESN'T understands neither dialogue, nor democratic frameworks, nor exhortations or appeals, it continues to cling to power and has decided to continue usurping it, and there is no sign of any will to abandon it through the channels established in the democratic framework. He himself has dissipated any possibility of dialogue or an electoral solution.

WE AS HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN DENOUNCING THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE ILLEGITIMATE BECAUSE OF ALL THE REPRESSION, THE ABSENCE OF FREEDOMS AND THE CRIMINALISATION OF THE OPPOSITION. WE DID NOT NEED TO WAIT FOR THE ELECTIONS TO KNOW THAT THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY IN NICARAGUA.

ALSO, the OAS in its General Assembly declared that the votes of 7 November lack all legitimacy, and therefore on 10 January 2022, the date on which the governments that come to power by subjection to the rule of law in Nicaragua (in commemoration of the assassination of the martyr to public freedoms Pedro Joaquín Chamorro by the dictator Somoza) must take office, beginning in 2022, a total vacuum of power is in fact generated because Nicaragua will have neither a government nor a legitimate legislative branch.

Later today, the Permanent Council of the OAS will make a collective assessment and take decisions in accordance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IDC), in which we as a people

We hope that finally an extraordinary session of Foreign Ministers will be convened and that the State of Nicaragua will be suspended from the OAS due to the evidence of the breakdown of the Constitutional order and the violations of the IDC itself.

The people of Nicaragua have already done more than what a people in a total state of de facto emergency can do, with their silence and absence in more than 80% of the Voting Boards of the dictatorship and making use of their sovereignty and self-determination declared the regime illegitimate.

Recalling the Preamble of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "the international community is bound by a system of rights to protect these rights, in order that peoples may not be compelled to have recourse to the supreme remedy of rebellion against tyranny and oppression..." and given that when there is a kidnapping, in this case a collective kidnapping of the people and their human rights, it is only with external support that they can be liberated. And given the urgency of safeguarding the lives of the political prisoners and the victims who live under state terror. First of all, we would like to thank you for all the efforts made by the different governmental bodies of the European Union and its civil society organisations for the freedom and democracy in our country.

And secondly, we ask the European Parliament and the Subcommittee on Human Rights in the framework of the universal protection of Human Rights to support this National Plan for Transition to Democracy and the recovery of the rule of law in Nicaragua, which includes the following aspects:

1. The formation of an International Humanitarian Commission for the liberation of political prisoners, with the participation of EU member states together with Canada, the Vatican State, Panama, Chile, Paraguay, the IACHR, the OHCHR and the International Red Cross.
2. The suspension from now on by the international financial organisations of all economic aid (IMF, WB, IDB, etc.) to the dictatorship because it is used to sustain its regime of repression and death.
3. Support the request of the Women's Forum for Central American and Caribbean Integration (FMICAC) Nicaragua chapter and Nicaraguan civil society for the Summit of Presidents of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to take effective measures in the face of the violation by the Ortega Murillo dictatorship of the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America (TMSD) and the Tegucigalpa Protocol.
4. Accompany the urgent restructuring of the Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), recently denounced for unethical acts and for its financing of the Central American regime.
5. In the context of the evaluation of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America (AA):
 - a. The approval of the political and cooperation pillar is urgent, as it is unheard of that only the trade pillar has been approved de facto.
 - b. Regarding Title VIII on Trade and Sustainable Development, we request

that the EU representation in the Trade and Sustainable Development Board, on the basis of Article 296, take immediate measures to put an end to the violations of human rights and labour rights in accordance with Article 285, given the arbitrary dismissal of hundreds of Nicaraguan State workers by the Ortega Regime due to:

- i. Refusing to participate in the electoral farce.
 - ii. Denouncing the denial of attention to the victims of April 2018 in the health care system.
 - iii. And its denunciations of the current disaster in the management of the COVID 19 pandemic.
- c. In accordance with Articles 288 and 289 of the Trade and Sustainable Development Title take immediate action on environmentally unsustainable practices such as mining, and selective killings on the Caribbean Coast towards the indigenous population by Colonists who unsustainably exploit livelihoods.

Finally echo the call of 15 Nicaraguan human rights organisations in their recent TRUTH REPORT DETAILING AND DOCUMENTING THE PRACTICES OF DICTATORSHIP AND REPRESSION IN NICARAGUA: AND FIGHTING AGAINST IMPUNITY of:

6. To negotiate from the UN Human Rights Council the installation of an Independent International Mission to determine the facts and the truth in Nicaragua, in order to avoid impunity, thus initiating from now on, together with the Nicaraguan Human Rights organisations, the processes of truth, justice and reparation for the non-repetition of such crimes.

Trade and economy must be ALLIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS and cannot be above the dignity of the human person.

Human rights are a substantial part of sovereignty and self-determination, and both reside in the people, not in a couple who usurp power.

We Nicaraguan men and women are committed to being united at this time and we know that human rights are inseparable and inalienable and that because they are universal, together with international solidarity, we will achieve the freedom and peace that we have never known. This time peace must be for all without exception.

Thank you very much

Haydecastillo@gmail.com