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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
Fourteenth, 31 May – 18 June 2010**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

Nicaragua

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Nicaragua's immediate support of 68 of the recommendations at the time of the review in February this year, including to uphold freedom of expression, assembly and association; to ensure that human rights defenders may work without harassment; and that national laws comply with international human rights obligations. Among the 41 recommendations Nicaragua undertook to further review are some concerning the total ban on abortion introduced in 2006 and subsequently enforced through new criminal laws introduced in 2008.

No less than 12 states¹ made recommendations to Nicaragua to repeal or reconsider the total ban of abortion. These calls to reform the law follow recommendations already made by four of the UN treaty bodies, namely the Committee against Torture, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Amnesty International very much hopes that Nicaragua will heed these consistent calls. So long as the total ban on abortion remains in place, victims of rape and incest – many of them still children themselves – are compelled to bear children or risk their health and imprisonment if they seek an illegal abortion. A further consequence of the total ban on abortion is that medical professionals, fearful of prosecution, delay or deny life-saving medical treatment to women and girls who suffer complications during pregnancy.

¹ Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, and UK

Mr. President,

Amnesty International urges the Nicaraguan Government to support these key recommendations. It is essential that girls and women in Nicaragua are no longer obliged to continue with pregnancies as a consequence of rape, or to continue pregnancies which place their lives and health at risk.

Thank you Mr. President.