



**UPR**

**PRESESSION 47°.**

## WHAT IS THE CUDJ?

The **Coordinadora Universitaria por la Democracia y la Justicia (CUDJ)** is a platform established to address the organizational needs of Nicaraguan youth in response to the socio-political crisis of April 2018.

Its primary objective is to provide leadership in the **political transition from the perspective of students and youth.**




## VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The period of 2019-2023 saw concerning violations of the right to higher education:

- Arbitrary persecution of students
- Denial of academic records
- Forced displacement

# BACKGROUND: 3RD CYCLE OF THE UPR

During the Universal Periodic Review, third cycle in **2019**, the State of Nicaragua **accepted 16 recommendations on the right to education**, which were provided by various countries, including:



125.227 Continue its efforts to ensure free, fair, high quality and appropriate education (Oman).

**No recommendation concerning higher education was proposed in the previous review**, so we consider it important to examine it in this cycle.

# PERSECUTION AND CRIMINALISATION AGAINST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

From 2019 to 2023, the systematic measure of persecution initiated in 2018 against university leaders continued.

**38 young university students were imprisoned between 2018 and 2019.** Although they were released with the Amnesty Law, **the persecution and harassment did not stop.** The public higher education institutions, through administrative decrees, expelled and banned many of these released young people from their faculties; consequently, the **students were unable to complete their university studies.**

# ISSUES WITH DELETION OR INACCESSIBILITY OF ACADEMIC RECORDS

- Complete removal of academic records at universities
- The administration refuses to apostille academic records
- Arbitrary demands for personal processing to obtain academic records
- Denial of access to academic records at confiscated universities

## FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND BANISHMENT OF THE STUDENT COMMUNITY

**FORCED DISPLACEMENT.** Between 2019 and 2023 **hundreds of students**, as a result of structural persecution by the National Police and parastatal bodies, **were forced to move out of the national territory** to protect their lives and their integrity, severely disrupting their life plans.

**STATELESSNESS.** In February 2022, **seven university students** and activists, who were victims of imprisonment, **were banished and deprived of their Nicaraguan nationality.**

**IMPRISONMENT.** In the period 2019-2023 citizens who returned to the country were imprisoned and faced legal prosecution as a form of repression. The Coordinadora Universitaria por la Democracia y la Justicia has documented **three cases of young members who were imprisoned upon returning to the country.**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Open a **national dialogue** to ensure the safe participation of young university students forced into displacement. This dialogue could be mediated by a member country of the United Nations.
- Ensure **access to academic records** for university students, especially those who left the country between 2018 and 2023.
- Allow the voluntary and safe return** of citizens who fled the country for fear of reprisals.