



IM-DEFENSORAS



Situation of women human rights defenders

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- Pre-session 47 IV Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Nicaragua

Women human rights defenders (WHRDs)

- Violence against women defenders **has intensified**.
- **Registered aggressions:** arbitrary detentions, threats, unreasonable searches, stigmatisation, torture, sexual violence and abuses against political prisoners.
- **A total of 251 feminist or women's and girls' rights organisations have been cancelled.** At least 15 of these organisations have had their property confiscated. Women victims of violence who do not have support, accompaniment and services are seriously affected.
- Criminalisation of any activity in defence of human rights. Terror to denounce.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
749	1,617	2,952	1,611	1,477

Aggressions registered by Registro Mesoamericano de Agresiones a Mujeres Defensoras

Recommendations (WHRDs)

- **Adopt a plan of action to protect the life and integrity of women human rights defenders;** ensure their access to effective remedies, including reparation, rehabilitation and compensation; and investigate, prosecute and impose appropriate penalties on the perpetrators of acts of intimidation, threats, harassment, reprisals and attacks against women human rights defenders.
- **Stop the stigmatisation of women human rights defenders,** their families and communities and recognise their invaluable contribution to the construction of a more just society.
- Restitution of legal personality and movable and immovable property to the 251 feminist and women's rights organisations that have been affected since 2018, public recognition of their contribution to Nicaraguan society, and a return to their work without reprisals.

Women political prisoners

- **Cruel treatment and torture:** Women face absolute isolation, lack of food, no access to health care - including sexual and reproductive health care -, no access to reading, correspondence, exercise or direct sunlight.
- Irregular judicial processes, constant interrogations with gender bias in which they are accused of being *bad mothers, daughters or women*.

Women political prisoners

- February 2022: release, expulsion, banishment of 222 political prisoners, **33 of them women. All of them were strip of their nationality.**
- Continuation of imprisonment in extreme conditions as a strategy of punishment and attrition. 151 people still detained, 25 of them are women. Most of the women are WHDRDs.
- At least 11 are in maximum security cells as punishment for their hunger strike for access to sunlight, drinking water and adequate medical attention (*from September 2023*).
- Women criminalised and who were prisoners are in the country under the condition of “civil death”: unemployment, expulsion from universities, and continuous harassment.

Recommendations (Women political prisoners)

- **The immediate release of all women political prisoners, and the guarantee of their life and integrity**, including their families, without any form of reprisals. While in detention, their right to life, liberty and physical and psychological integrity must be guaranteed in line with the Bangkok Rules and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules). This includes the provision of health services, including sexual and reproductive health;
- **The repeal of regulations limiting the right to defend human rights, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association**, particularly Laws 977, 1040, 1042, 1055 and 1060 and to cease the systematic practice of criminalisation.

Banishment and strip of citizenship

- In addition to the 222 people, another 94 people were stripped of their citizenship and had their property confiscated. 26 women, of whom 23 identified themselves as defenders.
- **In total: 59 women stripped of their citizenship and property.**
- Strip of citizenship as a tool of punishment and threat that affects access to health care, pensions, custody, documentation of children, qualifications, elimination of birth certificates, academic records, and statelessness.
- Migratory repression or de facto banishment has affected at least 74 women defenders.

Recommendations (Banishment and strip of citizenship)

- Restitution of nationality, academic titles, professional or other licenses, movable and immovable property, to persons who were stripped of their citizenship and their families, as well as guarantees for their return to Nicaragua and the continuation of their work without reprisals.
- Cease the practice of denying entry to the country against women human rights defenders and their families.