

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO NICARAGUA – ADD. 4

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **Fundamental Freedoms:** The Nicaraguan constitution protects freedoms of expression, assembly, association, and religion, but credible reports exist that the government used administrative, judicial, and financial means to limit the exercise of these rights. What is the government doing right now to ensure these rights are protected and upheld in practice, regardless of the individual's political or other affiliation?
- **Equal Justice:** Given that corruption of the electoral and judicial processes has a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights and constitutes an obstacle to the effective promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, what steps will Nicaragua take to ensure transparency and combat corruption in government institutions and processes, including the Supreme Electoral Council and the Supreme Court of Justice?
- **Unlawful Killings and Detention:** What measures has Nicaragua taken to investigate and prosecute allegations that members of the Nicaraguan National Police (NNP) committed human rights violations, including unlawful killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests and detentions with impunity? What additional measures will Nicaragua take to reduce the number of such incidents?
- **Prison Conditions:** Observers have described Nicaraguan prison and detention center conditions as harsh and life threatening. Overcrowding, poor sanitation, and violence are widespread problems. Prisoners' requests for investigations of inhumane conditions are often unacknowledged. Will Nicaragua allow local and international human rights groups and nongovernmental organizations regular access to prison facilities in order to monitor prison conditions and prisoner treatment?
- **Violence Against Women:** The Comprehensive Law on Violence against Women (Law 779) was revised in September 2013 to remove the prohibition against mediation to resolve cases of domestic violence. Many rights groups and observers have expressed concern that this change may result in more women returning to dangerous and abusive environments. What actions is Nicaragua taking to ensure that mediation continues to provide for women's safety and security? What actions is Nicaragua taking to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to implement Law 779's provisions and to facilitate victims' ability to access these services?
- **Worst Forms of Child Labor:** Nicaragua has made moderate progress in its efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Although strategies to eliminate the worst forms of child labor have been implemented in coffee-producing areas, programs have not sufficiently reached the number of children in the agricultural sector. What measures is

the government taking to enforce child labor laws and standards throughout the agricultural sector and ensure that children working in the agricultural sector are not exposed to hazardous work conditions?