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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Nicaragua

NICARAGUA: IMPUNITY CONTINUES AS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION FURTHER DETERIORATES

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-sixth session
22 February – 23 March 2021

Madam President,

Amnesty International thanks the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her report on Nicaragua. We share many of the concerns raised, including persistent impunity for gross human rights violations and crimes under international law committed by state authorities; continued reports of arbitrary detentions; and violations of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

Since the beginning of the crisis in April 2018, Amnesty International has documented harassment and attacks against civil society, including human rights defenders, human rights organizations and journalists. We are deeply concerned by destruction of one of the facilities of the Nicaraguan Centre for Human Rights in January; and the approval of a set of new laws in the past months that endanger the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression.¹ We urge the government to cease harassment of journalists and human rights defenders and to allow civil society organizations to freely carry out their work without fear of reprisal.

Local civil society groups have reported that over 100 people remain arbitrarily imprisoned solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including at least 35 individuals who were re-arrested after being released.² We urge the authorities to release all those detained for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

To date, we are aware of no credible investigations or prosecutions for well-documented extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment and other human rights violations and crimes

¹ Including the Foreign Agents Regulation Law. More information at: Amnesty International. [Silence at any cost: State tactics to deepen the repression in Nicaragua](#). AMR 43/3398/2021. February 2020.

² More information available at: <https://presasypresospoliticosnicaragua.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Personas-Presas-Politicas-Nicaragua-Febrero-2021.pdf>.

under international law.

Madam President,

Given the failure of the government to engage constructively with the OHCHR, or other regional and international human rights mechanisms; and given the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in Nicaragua, this Council must continue to ensure robust monitoring and reporting on the situation by OHCHR; and establish benchmarks for the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground, in line with the High Commissioner's report.

Thank you, Madam President.