



STOP SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST NICARAGUAN GIRLS

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“I DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTS OUR RIGHTS AS WOMEN. WE ARE GIRLS AND WE HAVE RIGHTS, AND SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT RESPECT THESE RIGHTS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT TO DEMAND THEM.”

Clara, aged 18

Rape and sexual abuse are widespread in Nicaragua. Most victims are girls under 17. The Nicaraguan government is violating girls' rights by failing to prevent sexual violence against girls, to protect survivors, or to ensure that girls have support to rebuild their lives.

Girls who are raped are often too afraid to speak out. The government must counter social attitudes which blame the victim, and give girls information to protect themselves.

Girls who do report crimes face daunting obstacles. The government must ensure that they are protected from further violence from their attackers, and prevent cases collapsing and attackers walking free.

State assistance for all young survivors to rebuild their lives is minimal. The government must ensure survivors have access to the support they need. The total ban on abortion, which applies even when a pregnancy is the result of rape or puts the life of the girl or woman at risk, must be repealed so that pregnant rape survivors can choose whether or not to continue with such pregnancies.

Image: Survivors of sexual violence with their carers and support staff at a women's centre, Nicaragua. © Amnesty International (Photo: Grace Gonzalez)

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**MAKE GIRLS' VOICES HEARD
TAKE ACTION NOW**

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Dear President,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern at the widespread rape and sexual abuse of girls in Nicaragua, where the majority of victims of such crimes are under 17 years of age.

I call on you to develop, fully resource and implement an integrated national plan to tackle this problem as a matter of the utmost urgency. The plan should include measures to prevent sexual violence, protect survivors, and ensure justice and reparation to young victims of sexual violence so that they can rebuild their hopes and dreams in the wake of rape or sexual abuse.

Rehabilitation measures must include repealing the law which criminalizes all forms of abortion, so that young girls pregnant as a result of rape can make their own decisions over how to manage the consequences of rape without the fear of imprisonment.

Yours respectfully,

Name: _____

Country: _____

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**Daniel Ortega Saavedra
Presidente de la República
Reparto El Carmen
Costado oeste del Parque El Carmen
Managua,
Nicaragua**

Image: A women's centre lawyer supports a young victim of sexual violence as she tells her story to Amnesty International delegates.

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