ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner’s oral update on Nicaragua (HRC res. 49/03)

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST TAKE DECISIVE ACTION ON NICARAGUA

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty second session
27 February – 04 April 2023

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his update and take note of the concerns expressed.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned regarding the further deterioration of the human rights situation in Nicaragua. Yesterday, the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua stated that the violations and abuses perpetrated by the government amounted to crimes against humanity.

The government of Daniel Ortega recently stripped more than 300 people of their nationalities, solely for exercising their civil and political rights; while more than 30 people reportedly remain in detention in the country for this same reason.

Since this Council passed its previous resolution on Nicaragua, more than 1000 additional civil society organizations have been shut down; and Municipal elections held in November 2022 occurred in what the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) described as a context of “severe repression of dissenting voices” and “undue restrictions on political rights and civil liberties”.

In 2022, we welcomed the adoption of resolution 49/3 by this Council, which established the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua. Today we call upon member states to extend this mandate for a period of two years alongside the monitoring mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The extension of these mandates would send a strong message to the Nicaraguan government that the international community will not stand for further abuses; and will enable these bodies to continue their important work documenting human rights violations and crimes under international law that are currently taking place in the country and sustain avenues for future accountability.

The council must respond decisively in the face of serious and continued human rights violations perpetrated by the Nicaraguan government. We urge the Council to take urgent steps towards guaranteeing justice and accountability for the Nicaraguan people.

Thank you.