

PUBLIC

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Fear for

NICARAGUA Dorothy Virginia Granada, (f) age 70

A 70-year old nun, working as a nurse in a cooperative clinic, has been harassed and intimidated by police and immigration agents.

Dorothy Virginia Granada is a US citizen who has lived in Nicaragua for over ten years. She works as a nurse in the Maria Luisa Ortiz Cooperative, *Cooperativa Maria Luisa Ortiz*, in Mulukuku, North Atlantic Autonomous Region. Dorothy was named one of the "100 heroines of the world" by the Mayor of New York in 1998.

On 8 December, agents from the immigration service and 15 heavily armed anti-riot police, without a warrant, entered Dorothy Granada's house at 4am to arrest and deport her. Dorothy was not at home at the time and remains unharmed. She is currently in hiding in fear of another display of force by the police and immigration authorities, and that she will be arrested and deported without legal authority. Her health has been seriously affected by these events.

On 14 November the cooperative faced allegations that they had tried to influence their patients towards the Sandinistas, the main opposition party, in recent local elections; that they practised illegal abortions at the clinic; that they treated members of the paramilitary group *Frente Unido Andrés Castro* (FUAC); and that the clinic was not properly registered to practise.

The President of Nicaragua, Arnoldo Alemán, has attacked Dorothy in the press, claiming she was an illegal resident.

The harassment against Dorothy has escalated over the past month. The cooperative has reportedly been under surveillance 24 hours a day and in recent days have received calls asking for the whereabouts of the main leaders. The clinic itself has been ordered to close.

On 13 December the Nicaraguan Minister of the Interior, *Ministro de Gobernación*, announced that Dorothy's residency had been revoked on 7 December, and that she had 24 hours to leave the country. However, a judge reviewing the case annulled the minister's decision which he said was illegal and ruled that she was a legal resident.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent months the Nicaraguan Centre for Human Rights, *Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos (CENIDH)*, has received a number of reports about various non-governmental organisations being publicly discredited or threatened with closure by the Ministry of the Interior, *Ministero de Gobernación* (MIGOB).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:

-expressing serious concern about the harassment of Dorothy Granada, and the unnecessary display of force by police in the attempt to arrest a 70-year-old nun;

-urging the government of Nicaragua to ensure the safety of Dorothy Granada;

-reminding the authorities that the police force must abide by the Code of Conduct for law enforcement officials which says for example "In the performance

of their duty, law enforcement officials shall respect and protect the human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic of Nicaragua

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 Presidente de la República de Nicaragua
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Salutation: Sr. Presidente/ Dear Mr President

Minister of the Interior

Ingeniero José Bosco Marenco Cardenal
 Ministerio de Gobernación
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Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Human Rights Procurator

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Salutation: Sr Procurador/ Mr Pérez

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Newspapers

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and to diplomatic representatives of Nicaragua accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 January 2001.