

## Topic #1: The Deteriorating Human Rights Situation in Nicaragua

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### I. Background Information

Nicaragua's human rights crisis has intensified under President Daniel Ortega's regime, which has dismantled democratic freedoms and suppressed public voice. Since 2018, the government has forcibly shut down over 3,500 NGOs and 57 independent media outlets. Universities and religious institutions have also been targeted, including the closure of the Jesuit-run Central American University in 2023. These actions have left civil society in chaos, with thousands of Nicaraguans fleeing the country to escape persecution. Over 260,000 Nicaraguans have sought refuge abroad since 2018.

The government's control of all branches of power has ensured impunity for crimes against humanity, including illegal killings, arbitrary arrests, and torture. Indigenous communities face ongoing violence and land dispossession, with over 21,000 hectares of indigenous land illegally seized. Women's rights are severely restricted, highlighted by a total abortion ban and rising femicide rates, with 36 femicides reported in the first half of 2023 alone.

### II. United Nations and International Involvement

The United Nations has repeatedly condemned Nicaragua's actions, with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reporting systematic human rights violations, such as arbitrary arrests, torture, and suppression of opposition voices. A UN investigation in 2024 found crimes against humanity linked to President Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo, including repression of indigenous leaders, journalists, and political opponents.

The Organization of American States (OAS) and Amnesty International have also criticized the Ortega regime for stripping over 300 political opponents of their nationality and confiscating their assets without due process. Despite international pressure, including sanctions and recommendations for independent investigations, the Nicaraguan government continues to defy calls for accountability and reform.

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### III. Bloc Positions

- **United States and European Union:** Have imposed sanctions targeting high-ranking officials and institutions involved in human rights abuses. These blocs advocate for the release of political prisoners and free elections
  - **Latin American Allies:** Some regional allies, including Cuba and Venezuela, support Nicaragua's sovereignty and reject foreign interference, often blocking resolutions in international forums
  - **Neutral States:** Countries like Mexico have called for dialogue while avoiding direct criticism of the Ortega regime
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### IV. Questions to Consider

- What is your country's stance on Nicaragua's human rights violations?
  - How should the UN or OAS address the government's lack of accountability?
  - What mechanisms can be implemented to protect vulnerable groups such as women, indigenous communities, and journalists?
  - Should sanctions or diplomatic negotiations be prioritized to address the crisis?
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### V. Sources and Useful Links

- **UN OHCHR Report on Nicaragua:**
  - [UN OHCHR](#)
- **Human Rights Watch World Report:**
  - [HRW on Nicaragua](#)
- **Amnesty International Analysis:**
  - [Amnesty International](#)
- **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights:**
  - [IACHR](#)