



Human Rights
Institute

United Nations Human Rights Council

***Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in
Nicaragua***

19 September 2025

Oral Statement

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) is concerned about the findings of the report of the High Commissioner on the brutal human rights crackdown in Nicaragua, which is marked by violations that include extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, and arbitrary denial of nationality, to an extent that qualifies as crimes against humanity as part of a campaign to eliminate any form of dissent.

President Ortega's constitutional reforms have dismantled the separation of powers by granting him de facto control over the legislature, judiciary and electoral institutions. At the same time, his government has removed the explicit prohibition of torture and withdrawn Nicaragua from several UN bodies. Since 2023, at least 546 perceived opponents have been arbitrarily stripped of their nationality, rendered stateless in violation of international law, and therefore left, along with their families, profoundly vulnerable to abuse. 80% of NGOs registered in the country since 2017 had their legal status revoked, dealing a devastating blow to civic space in the country.

We call for the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained and we call on the international community to robustly respond to the deteriorating situation in Nicaragua and use all possible avenues to hold the Ortega government accountable for the international crimes committed, including before the International Court of Justice under the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Thank you.

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