



Human Rights
Institute

United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, Switzerland

*Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua (HRC
res. 52/2)*

29 February 2024

Oral Statement

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) condemns the growing crackdown of Nicaragua's government on the Catholic Church and any other individual or group perceived as political opponents. Excessive use of force by the police, coupled with the weaponization of criminal laws and complete disregard for due process guarantees, led to widespread instances of arbitrary detention. Other human rights violations used by the Ortega government to shut down civic space include torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and arbitrary deprivation of nationality. Those systematic human rights violations committed against civilians amount to crimes against humanity, as highlighted by the report of the Group of Experts, and mark a concerning shift towards totalitarianism.

Just two weeks ago, the country's scouting organization and 7 other NGOs have been shut down, adding up to the more than 3,500 NGOs that have been closed in the past two years. 12 priests and a bishop have been detained, and hundreds of thousands of people had to flee the country. Freedom of information has been completely curbed as 57 media outlets have been forced to close, and 234 journalists had to exile.

We commend the work of the Group of Experts and call on this Council and the international community to robustly respond to the deteriorating situation in Nicaragua and use all possible avenues to hold the Ortega government accountable for all international crimes that are being committed.

Thank you.

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