

Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter
Public Statement:

We, the undersigned Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, committed to the promotion and defense of the values and principles in the Charter and attentive to democratic development in the Western hemisphere, express our deep concern for the recent events and acts in Nicaragua. These events have been denounced publicly by local and international actors, civil society organizations, and national and international press for seriously restricting democratic spaces, disputing the existence of a multi-party system, calling into question the strength of rule of law, and casting doubt upon the development of a democratic municipal electoral process with regard to the upcoming municipal elections in the Republic of Nicaragua on November 9.

Our concerns are based on a series of acts that violate the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter including the cancellation of the legal status of two political parties; the Attorney's General case against an opposition candidate amidst the electoral process; the denial to grant credentials to domestic observer organizations; the verbally aggressive reactions of the President to expressions of concern from both domestic and international actors including the Organization of American States and the representatives of international cooperation in Nicaragua; economic and legal pressures on the mass media; violence against rallies of opposition parties; interrogations and raids against domestic civil society organizations and their leaders; and threats against domestic and international cooperation nongovernmental organizations.

In light of the aforementioned, we are reminded that on September 11, 2001, the Nicaraguan State, together with all other countries in the Western hemisphere, signed and agreed to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, recognizing that democracy is indispensable for stability, peace, and development, and that this constitutes a right of the people and an obligation of the government.

As Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter we evoke the precepts of the Democratic Charter which distinguish transparency of government activities, integrity, governmental responsibility in public management, respect for social rights and the freedoms of speech and of the press as fundamental components of democracy.

Upon these grounds we respectfully and resolutely urge the Government of Nicaragua and the corresponding electoral and judicial authorities to honor the international commitments adopted by the State of Nicaragua, and to adopt without delay the necessary measures to guarantee the rule of law and full access to civil and political rights and freedoms to the citizens of the Republic of Nicaragua. We do so in pursuit of the highest ideal: a strong democracy based upon respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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Friends of the Inter-American Democratic Charter

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