

## LASA calls for stopping repression and respecting public freedoms in Nicaragua

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The Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) calls for an end to repression and the respect for public freedoms and the right to protest of the population in Nicaragua. It also demands to guarantee the university autonomy and the security of students, professors, and university staff, as well as allowing a thorough and impartial investigation of all forms of violence that have occurred since April 2018.

The political and social crisis that Nicaragua is immersed in since April 2018 worsened in 2019 and the violations of Nicaraguan rights are still ongoing. Of more than 700 people imprisoned since the beginning of the crisis, the majority are still in prison and their personal safety is at risk.

Among the political prisoners are human rights defenders, university students, peasants, journalists, feminists and LGTBI+ people. Universities have also become more and more places of repression by the government, reducing not only the freedom of speech, organization and protest of the Nicaraguan population, but also the freedom of thought, research, reflect and position oneself in the face of national reality.

For more than two months, in Latin America, we have seen the emergence of various protest movements that have been met with violence by States, and with the use of fear and terror to justify militarization and police repression, in the face of social dissent in countries such as Ecuador, Chile, Haiti, Bolivia, Colombia and now Nicaragua.

## About LASA

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the largest professional association in the world for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America. With over 13,000 members, over 60% of whom reside outside the United States, LASA is the one association that brings together experts on Latin America from all disciplines and diverse occupational endeavors, across the globe. LASA's mission is to foster intellectual discussion, research, and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, and its people throughout the Americas, promote the interests of its diverse membership, and encourage civic engagement through network building and public debate.

If you wish to interview a LASA Executive Council member, you can contact the LASA communications office at (412) 648-7929 or send an email to [lasa@lasaweb.org](mailto:lasa@lasaweb.org).

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