



The Society of Jesus to the People of Nicaragua

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied." (Mt 5:6)

April 21, 2018 -- We lament the violence against the right of Nicaraguans to express themselves peacefully against the reforms to the social security system and a true democracy.

We reject physical aggression used in an unjust and disproportionate way against students and other citizens who were protesting peacefully at the main gate of the UCA on Wednesday the 18th of April. The images and videos distributed by the media show how violently the government sympathizers acted against our students, workers, and university administrators. There was substantial damage to our facilities as part of the aggression. It was an attack carried out with impunity, enabled by the indifference and passivity of the National Police.

We reiterate that the UCA, as a center of higher education, promotes freedom of thought and the circulation of ideas as part of its humanistic identity and its mission to contribute to creating spaces of liberty and democracy. We are concerned that this academic and civil work is distorted by false accusations that pretend to present the UCA as a force promoting violence and social instability.

In addition to the call of Cardinal Leopoldo Bernes to cease the violence, we urge a halt of the violence against the Nicaraguan youth and citizens. We must not allow Nicaraguan brothers to continue running over us and taking our lives. We ask that a national dialogue be undertaken that will peacefully lead in a direction of integral development and social and environmental justice.

We are inspired by the messages of Pope Francis and we firmly believe that dialogue, tolerance, respect of human rights, and care for the environment are essential for the good of the Nicaraguans and the base of any possible future. It is erroneous to think that evil can stop and

banish evil. The example and spirit of Jesus of Nazareth encourages us to strive to counter any type of violence, promote dialogue, and search for a coexistence that is always more just and fraternal.

Signed:

Rolando Alvarado, S.J.

Provincial of the Central American Jesuits

José A Idiáquez, S. J.

Rector UCA – Nicaragua

Everardo Victor, S. J.

Director of Fe y Alegría – Nicaragua

Iñaki Zubizarreta, S. J.

Superior of the Nicaraguan Jesuits

José Domingo Cuesta, S.J.

Rector of the Central American College

Juan José Colato, S.J.

Pastor of Saint Domingo Parish – Managua