**Jubilee South: Declaration on the social political crisis in Nicaragua!**

Jubilee South expresses our deep concern regarding the terrible effects of the social political crisis in Nicaragua. By July, an estimated 300 people had been killed including students, public officials, youth and citizens in general as a result of violent actions carried since April 19th following the announcement by Daniel Ortega of a reform to the social security system in an agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The wave of violence also left thousands of people physically and emotionally injured and resulted in an increase in levels of insecurity and organized crime, destruction of public infrastructure, communications media, obstruction of freedom of movement, destruction of education centers and enormous economic losses. We strongly condemn this spiral of violence, especially the deaths of each and every citizen. We stand in solidarity with the victims and their families and with the people of Nicaragua whose terror and pain we share.

**We affirm:** that we reject all forms of violence which the life of the country and its people know too well, bearing in their own flesh, the damage of war from decades past that took the lives of 50,000 Nicaraguans, the aftermath of which remains very much alive for many families.

We support the demand for clarification regarding each and every one of the hate crimes, which should include identification and punishment for those responsible whether they are public functionaries, paramilitary groups, hitmen or whoever is responsible.

We denounce media manipulation that spreads terror in and outside of the country. Far from fact based reporting, the corporate media plays an incendiary role, transmitting opinions that in many instances are not based in fact.

We also reject the biased actions in international arenas such as the promotion of resolutions for sanctions that seek to punish human rights violations committed against Nicaraguan citizens who were victims of police actions while the reports of international agencies omit the actions of terror committed against government supporters, public institution employees and social leaders including torture, selective killings and other violations.

At the same time, we reject the interference led by the government of the United States and supported by its allied governments, some of which have come to power via coup de ’tat and are responsible for multiple forms of human rights violations in their own countries, for example, Honduras, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina and Mexico. These actions fuel and encourage the script of terror that has impacted the people of Nicaragua. We affirm the right to sovereignty and self-determination for this sister nation.

We express the need to search for peaceful solutions, to establish concrete guidelines for processes of reconciliation based on peace with justice and truth, including the possibility of an inclusive dialogue processes between the government and representatives from the different sectors of society.

We reiterate that any way out of the current complex scenario must be rooted in clarification of the events which have occurred. Processes of reconstruction need to include reparation and non-repetition for all victims and the respect for and guarantee of human rights for all of the people of Nicaragua.

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