

International groups condemn continued violence in Nicaragua



Managua, July 14 (RHC)-- In a unanimous call for peace, international organizations condemn the violent protests which have raged across Nicaragua since early April. From the Catholic Church to the United Nations, activists are calling for an end to the demonstrations organized by the U.S.-backed, far-right opposition forces.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has grave concerns about the current state of the Central American country, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "He urges all parties to respect the role of the mediators, to refrain from the use of violence, and to fully commit to participating in the National Dialogue in order to de-escalate violence and find a peaceful solution to the current crisis," Dujarric said.

According to reports, more than 200 died have died, while at least 2,100 have been injured in the last three months. During a meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS), Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada, explained that the vast majority of these deaths have been a result of "terrorist attacks of internal and external political groups, which have been joined by transnational organized crime in order to carry out a coup d'etat and change the legitimate government of President Ortega."

Since protests broke out in mid-April to contest social security reforms, the country has been thrust into unprecedented socio-political turmoil which has been commandeered by right-wing factions looking to overthrow the constitutionally-elected government.

On July 2, the European Committee of Solidarity, along with the FSLN, released a statement denouncing the opposition's interference in Nicaragua's national peace dialogue. Despite the raging violence, Vice President Rosario Murillo has continued to defend her husband's legitimacy and reminding the public that the reigning Sandinista party movement has been subject to violent insurgents, attempting to overthrow past administrations.

"We are strong, indestructible... this will not happen," Murillo said, saying that "reconciliation" between parties is the only way to guarantee lasting peace.

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