

Statement

ACT Forum Nicaragua reaffirms the need for reconciliation, peace and democracy in the country

"You have already been told what is right and what the Lord wants of you. Only this, to do what is right, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6: 8)

The ACT Forum Nicaragua, as a space of faith based organizations committed to the mission of working for a world where justice, freedom and respect for the rights of people, created in the image and likeness of our Creator, concerned about the escalating violence in Nicaragua in the recent days, state:

1. We repudiate the ongoing violence in our country, which violates the rights of the Nicaraguan population with different types of aggression that have ended with an undetermined number of people wounded, prisoners, disappeared and the unofficial count of more than 80 people killed.

2. We stand in solidarity and make our own the pain experienced by families who have lost a loved one due to violence and intolerance. **God of life, Faith and Hope strengthen us and make us peacebuilders in the midst of this pain.**

3. We urge the authorities to guarantee the full respect of the rights that every Nicaraguan has as a citizen, to guarantee freedom of expression and mobilization and the non-criminalization of public expression.

4. We call urgently for the resumption of the peace dialogue with the inclusion of all sectors of Nicaraguan society, in an open, honest and respectful manner, to fulfill the commitments made in support of peace, democracy and an immediate solution to conflicts. We also urge an end to any kind of confrontation, which only aggravates the current crisis. **"Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognized as children of God." (Matthew 5: 9)**

5. We call on the Government of Nicaragua to take seriously and responsibly the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in the sense of ceasing repression and arbitrary arrests, respect the right to peaceful protest and admit entry to the Country of the United Nations High Command for the Rapporteur of Human Rights that guarantees the right to truth and justice. **In short, the fruit of justice is sown in peace for those who make peace. (James 3:18)**

6. We call for support and solidarity from the international ecumenical family and the commitment of the international community for justice and peace in Nicaragua.

7. We ask that the media report truthful, responsible and impartial information events and at the same time we condemn any aggression to any means of communication. **"Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same." (Colossians, 3, 13)**

8. As faith-based organizations, we work for peace, justice, solidarity, dialogue, inclusion and peaceful coexistence among Nicaraguan brothers and sisters, we reiterate our solidarity and accompaniment to all expressions in favor of reconciliation based on justice and we raise our prayers to the Creator so that the conflict in Nicaragua ceases, the doors to understanding are opened, the rights of all are respected and the welfare of each person is guaranteed. **"Woe to those who call what is bad, good, and what is good, bad, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20)**

Nicaragua, June 4, 2018.