

The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Condemns the Ongoing Violence in Nicaragua



The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph joins the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in their deep concern about the growing repression and state-sanctioned violence in Nicaragua. Citizens' voices have been silenced and their peaceful protests violently suppressed. We have seen citizens abducted, tortured, and killed. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, reported that over a two-month period from mid-April to mid-June at least 178 people were killed, the vast majority at the hands of police forces and armed pro-government groups, and at least an additional 1,500 were wounded. We expect that those numbers have climbed significantly in the past weeks.

As a country that Sisters of St. Joseph have served in, we are horrified to hear of the injustices occurring against our "dear neighbors" in Nicaragua. The U.S. Federation stands firmly in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and all of our brother and sister religious who continue to demand justice and peace, even in the face of violent attacks. We join with the Nicaraguan Catholic Church in denouncing the violence and with the first Latin American pope, Pope Francis, in calling for a return to dialogue that rejects violence and repression, respects freedom and reverences the lives of all.

Finally, we pledge our prayer and promise that we will do all in our power to call attention to the injustice and violence being perpetrated against the people of Nicaragua.

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The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is a dynamic union of all the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the United States who claim a common origin in the foundation at LePuy, France in 1650. Today there are approximately 4,203 vowed members as well as 3,032 associates and 25 agrégées in the United States. Worldwide there are over 10,749 Sisters of Saint Joseph and 4,399 associates in over 50 countries.