June 4, 2018

Dear Campion community,

As a member of the global Jesuit network, we are deeply concerned by the tragic situation at our sister institution, the University of Central America (UCA) in Nicaragua.

Amid the civil unrest and government repression in that country, para-police forces attacked the UCA campus in the early hours of Sunday, May 27. While no one was killed in the incident, the Rector, Fr. Chepe Idiaquez, S.J., has received death threats and the Jesuit Provincial for Central America is asking for help from the Jesuit network.

Fr. Idiaquez has been very visible, along with Nicaraguan bishops, in calling for peaceful negotiations between protesting groups and the Ortega Government. Violent repression of peaceful demonstrators by government forces and paramilitaries has increased in the last few days, and over 100 are now reported dead. The student-led protests began in reaction to changes in the country's social security system. The government's brutal crackdown has affected many, resulting in the death of a 15-year old student of a Jesuit high school.

For more information on this tragic situation, you may read a recent article on the subject in America as well as press reports that have been summarized on the AJCU website: www.ajcunet.edu/nicaragua.

As part of the Ignatian family, these disturbing events invite us to be in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, and especially our colleagues at UCA. I encourage you to learn about these events, and especially to pray for peace and justice in Nicaragua.

In appreciation,

Rev. John Meehan, S.J.

President
Campion College,
Regina, Canada