Fairfield University Statement on Violence in Nicaragua

Fairfield University powerfully condemns the atrocious nature of the forceful and violent actions of Nicaragua’s government against its people, including the detention of peaceful protesters and the alleged use of torture and murder.

Fairfield stands in solidarity with the University of Central America (UCA) of Nicaragua, as well as University president Fr. Chepe Idiaquez, S.J. Fr. Idiaquez’s calls for peaceful protests and peaceful negotiations among protesting groups and the government have resulted in death threats, but he – and UCA – remain steadfast in living the Jesuit value of *cura personalis*, and maintaining strength in the value of men and women for others.

The global outcry of support for the Nicaraguan people, who fight to maintain democracy, peace, and civility amidst the ongoing violence and death, must remain unwavering throughout the Jesuit higher education community. Fairfield University calls upon the Nicaraguan government to honor the constitutional rights of its citizens, including the faculty, staff, and students of UCA, starting with the freedom of expression and peaceful protest. We also call upon local and global leaders, both within and outside of the Church, to join in our opposition of the Nicaraguan government’s abhorrent actions and to act swiftly to bring about a peaceful resolution.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Nemec, Ph.D.
President, Fairfield University