Marquette supports fellow Catholic and Jesuit university amid violence in Nicaragua

At Marquette University, we are deeply troubled by the recent political unrest and violence that has taken place in Nicaragua and has directly affected one of our fellow Catholic and Jesuit institutions. We stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers at Universidad Centroamericana de Nicaragua in Managua who have become targets of violence and threats because of their support for peaceful protestors during the country’s ongoing political crisis.

On May 30, the university opened its gates to offer shelter and medical attention to non-violent protestors who were fleeing an attack by armed paramilitary troops. This attack occurred during a march which was held during the country’s Mother’s Day observance to support mothers who have lost children to violence since the crisis began in April.

This is not the first time the university and the local Jesuit community have stood up in the middle of unrest. On May 27, UCA was attacked by members of a militia. UCA Rector Rev. “Chepe” Idiaquez, S.J., has received death threats. A student from a local Jesuit high school, 15-year-old Álvaro Conrado, was shot and killed. We applaud UCA for living up to its Catholic and Jesuit mission, especially under such tragic and alarming circumstances.

As a Catholic and Jesuit institution, we stand with fellow members of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in urging the Nicaraguan government to honor its citizens’ right to protest peacefully. We are proud of the Catholic bishops who are leading the peace process, and pray that leaders work toward peaceful solutions that benefit all people of Nicaragua.

Dr. Michael R. Lovell
President
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