June 5, 2018

Statement on Nicaragua from John Carroll University

Recent political unrest in Nicaragua has claimed the lives of over 100 human rights activists in recent weeks. As a Jesuit Catholic university, John Carroll embraces human rights and the central importance of social justice. We call upon the Nicaraguan government to honor the constitutional rights of its citizens to freedom of expression and peaceful protest. The recent violent suppression of non-violent protests is intolerable. This suppression has led to threats to leaders who are seeking peaceful negotiations with the government, including Fr. “Chepe” Idiáquez, S.J., Rector of the Central American University (UCA) of Nicaragua.

UCA of Nicaragua has served as a historical destination and immersion site for many John Carroll students, faculty, staff and alumni. We share in their mission to provide students with a safe environment and an educational experience that supports the creation of a more just, humane, and sustainable world. By publicizing the situation on our campus and in our community, we hope to bring the parties together to work toward and pray for a peaceful solution for the people of Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Johnson, Ph.D.
President, John Carroll University