June 12, 2018

In recent weeks, there has been significant violence and unrest in Nicaragua due to recent policy changes proposed by the Nicaraguan government.

Many of those who have engaged in peaceful protest as a way to express their concern for these policy changes have been subjected to violent attacks by pro-government forces and sympathizers—over 100 have died. These attacks are abhorrent and violate the most fundamental human rights.

The University of Central America (UCA)—the Catholic and Jesuit University in Managua, Nicaragua—has experienced much of this violence firsthand as a result of its unwavering commitment to its mission to protect and provide for the formation of its students and work towards a just, humane, and environmentally sustainable world. UCA guards have been the targets of attacks and the Rector, Rev. Jose Alberto Idiaquez, S.J., has received credible death threats as a result of his efforts to encourage resolution through peaceful dialogue.

As a Catholic and Jesuit University dedicated to seeking justice and peace and protecting the lives of each and every individual, we join with the Association of Jesuit Colleagues and Universities (AJCU) in condemning these violent and undemocratic actions and supporting the courageous efforts of UCA to seek peace and justice in the midst of oppression and intimidation.

We also join with our colleagues in the AJCU—and all those seeking peace throughout our world—in urging the Nicaraguan government to honor the constitutional rights of its citizens, including the freedom of expression and peaceful protest, and to restore democracy throughout the country.

Additional information and expressions of support can be found at http://www.ajcunet.edu/nicaragua. We join with the Holy Father in his prayer that “all the violence ceases and conditions are put in place to resume talks as soon as possible.”

John J. DeGioia
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