September 7, 2018

Linda Lemura  
President  
LeMoyne College  
13214-1302

Dear Linda,

Thank you for bringing my attention to the tragic violence that is occurring in Nicaragua. I am truly heartbroken to hear of the atrocities committed by the Nicaraguan government against its own citizens.

As you know, the situation in Nicaragua has drastically escalated over the past few months. Peaceful protests against the government's social security policies have turned deadly, leaving over 300 people dead and approximately 1,800 injured. The right to peaceful assembly is guaranteed by the Nicaraguan constitution and the violent actions taken against citizens are in direct violation of their rights. The United Nations and countries around the world, including the United States, have condemned the Nicaraguan government for these human rights violations.

Human rights are essential to our nation's values and democracy. It is imperative we strive to uphold ethical domestic human rights practices, as well as support similar policies around the world. It is our responsibility to condemn human rights violations, which is why I strongly support our State Department's efforts to reduce human rights violations around the world. It is in the best interest of the United States to work with our international partners to promote democracy. It is critical that even through times of conflict, human rights and aid are prioritized.

For these reasons, on July 25, 2018, I supported H. Res. 981, which condemns the violence, persecution, intimidation, and murders committed by the Government of Nicaragua against its citizens. Additionally, the State Department is set to withhold funds from the Nicaraguan government unless they are used to promote democracy and the rule of law. While I am pleased with this progress, we must not relent in our efforts to restore peace in Nicaragua. I will continue to pursue legislative solutions to the situation in Nicaragua, as well as share the information you provided me with my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and in House Leadership.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me on this important matter. I hope that you will continue to keep me informed of the issues important to you and your family, as your input helps me to better serve you as your Representative in Congress. If you would like to stay informed of the latest issues coming out of Washington, you can visit www.katko.house.gov to sign up for my e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

John Katko  
Member of Congress