To the People of Nicaragua and the Government of the United States of America:

Regis University, in solidarity with the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, the International Association of Jesuit Universities, the Ignatian Solidarity Network, the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, and all the Jesuits and colleagues in Latin America, expresses our grave concern over the continuing erosion of democracy and human rights in Nicaragua. More than a year and a half after protests initially broke out, the Nicaraguan government continues to repress peaceful demonstrations, incarcerate political prisoners, and make opposition figures “disappear.”

As a Jesuit, Catholic university, Regis University is particularly concerned over the targeting of students and faculty members at the Jesuit-sponsored University of Central America (UCA) in Managua. We express our solidarity with the Nicaraguan mothers conducting hunger strikes to secure the release of their incarcerated children. We condemn the recent siege of Managua’s Catholic cathedral where some of these mothers were on strike.

We call upon the Government of the United States of America to condemn these acts of violence by the Government of Nicaragua against its own people and to support peaceful efforts to restore democracy and civil rights, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion.

We also call on the Government of the United States to endorse the conclusions and recommendation of the November 19 report of the Organization of American States (OAS) High Level Commission on Nicaragua, which documents “ongoing grave human rights violations and abuses of power by the Government of Nicaragua.”

The restoration of order, democracy, and civil liberties must not come at the expense of more bloodshed. We therefore reject any possibility of armed intervention.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those who have lost their lives or liberty as a result of this conflict. We continue to hope for a just and peaceful resolution to the current violence.

Finally, we pray for renewed strength for those who work tirelessly to bring justice, peace, and reconciliation to the people of Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President