

### Highlights

The release and deportation of 222 people in February did not mark the end of arbitrary detentions in the country. At least 37 people are still arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, including Bishop Rolando Alvarez, who has been held incommunicado since 25 March 2023.

This brings the total number of arbitrary arrests to 63 in the month of May alone.

The current pattern consists of detaining people for a few hours, without informing them of the charges

against them, and then releasing them on probation, with the obligation to go daily to a police station and sign in.

At the same time, the persecution of political opponents and those perceived as such has intensified, through the unjustified cancellation of professional licenses, the selective prohibition of nationals from re-entering the country and the arbitrary closure of humanitarian organizations.

63

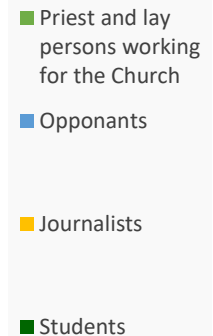
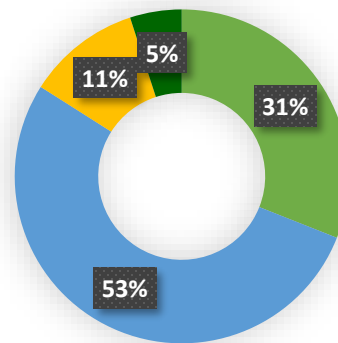
Arbitrary  
Arrests

Throughout the month of May, four waves of arbitrary arrests took place, in which opponents, journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders were detained in the departments of Boaco, Chinandega, Chontales, Estelí,

Granada, Jinotega, León, Madriz, Managua, Masaya, Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia, RACCS, RACCN and Rivas. They were transferred from their place of arrest to Managua, presented before a judge and subjected to collective hearings. The persons were accused of being “traitors to the homeland” and charged with the crimes of spreading false news and undermining national integrity and sovereignty, the crimes commonly used to persecute the opposition. Between 21 and 23 of May, 4 priests and 4 lay church workers were arrested.

These 63 people did not have access to a lawyer of their choice. They were all released a few hours later, and were ordered to report daily to a police station to sign the police register. Criminal cases are open against each of the accused persons.

### Category of Victims





## Map of Arbitrary arrests

May 2023



**12**

Nicaraguans  
banned from  
entering in  
Nicaragua

At least 12 Nicaraguan nationals were denied entry into Nicaragua, including persons with dependents in Nicaragua, such as children (often resulting in forced separations which violates international obligations provided by the International Convention on the Rights of the Child) and elderly persons. These persons were informed by the airline that the Government of Nicaragua had denied them entry into the territory.

On May 9 and 11, 2023, the Supreme Court definitively suspended the licenses of 26 lawyers and notaries from the group of 222 and 94 persons deprived of nationality on the grounds that, as foreigners, they could no longer practice their profession.

**26**

professional  
qualifications  
cancelled

29

organizations  
cancelled

The National Assembly and the Ministry of Interior cancelled the legal status of 29 organizations in May, among them 3 from other countries, including non-profit associations, private universities, neutral and impartial humanitarian organization, totaling 3370 since 2018.

## Human rights violations in May

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63

Arbitrary  
detentions

**Violation of the right to liberty:** Arbitrary arrests and detentions, denial of information about criminal charges and denial of a lawyer of one's choice violate the right to liberty.

**Violation of religious freedom:** The detention of priests in retaliation for their activities violates religious freedom, which includes the right of people who practice a religion to choose their own leaders, priests and teachers.

4



priests  
arrested



3

journalists  
arrested

**Violation of the right to freedom of expression:** Intimidation, harassment, and arbitrary detention of journalists to impede their work undermine freedom of the press, obstruct the public's right to information and infringe on freedom of expression.

**Freedom of association:** The arbitrary cancellation of Civil Society organizations in addition to having a strong impact on the enjoyment of human rights (health, education, development, etc.) is a violation of freedom of association.



29

organizations  
closed