

## Highlights

- OHCHR has documented systematic patterns of violations by the Nicaraguan State, in particular violations of **the right to freedom of movement, to freely choose one's residence in the territory, and to leave and return to the country**<sup>1</sup>, of both nationals and foreigners whom the government considers to be dissident voices. These patterns have been accentuated in 2023.
- Actions taken by the State range from:



- The denationalization, deportation and loss of civil and political rights** for life of 316 persons in February 2023, as well as the prohibition of entry into the country of Nicaraguans who have gone abroad for various reasons, has also entailed violations of the rights to freedom of movement of their families, of family reunification and the rights of children, among others.

- In relation to children's rights, the Office has documented violations especially regarding **the right to preserve their family relations without unlawful interference, the separation of their parents and relatives against their will**, the State's refusal and delayed response to the parents' request for the children to leave Nicaragua for the purpose of family reunification, the rights to health, education and an adequate standard of living, among others<sup>2</sup>.

- It is alarming that, despite the fact that the State has declared the non-existence of 316 persons, in order for the children to be reunited with their parents abroad, they are being required to obtain a permit that must be processed at the Nicaraguan consulates by the parent who is in exile. These permits are almost impossible to obtain, since, in this case, Nicaragua does not recognize the parents as its nationals, denying these documents, and therefore, making it almost impossible to guarantee **the right to family reunification**.

- Violations of the right to freedom of movement** have had an impact on other rights of the affected victims, such as the right to work, housing, dignity, health, education, family, private property, freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and security, as many people attempt to cross Nicaragua's borders through unconventional routes.

- The Office is alarmed by the vulnerability in which individuals and entire families find themselves in the countries where they remain because of **the prohibition to return** to Nicaragua. They do not have support networks, economic resources, or guarantees of their rights to access adequate housing, work, education and health. In addition to this, is the difficulty of defining a migratory situation in an expeditious manner and the lack of knowledge of the language.

- Among the Nicaraguan nationals that have been banned from entering the country, there are family members of the 316 denationalized and deported persons, human rights defenders, journalists, priests and pastors, political activists and student leaders, among others.

- Among the cases of deportations of nationals, in addition to the 222 people expelled on February 9, it has been documented deportations

of perceived opponents' family members and persons who had participated in the 2018 events.

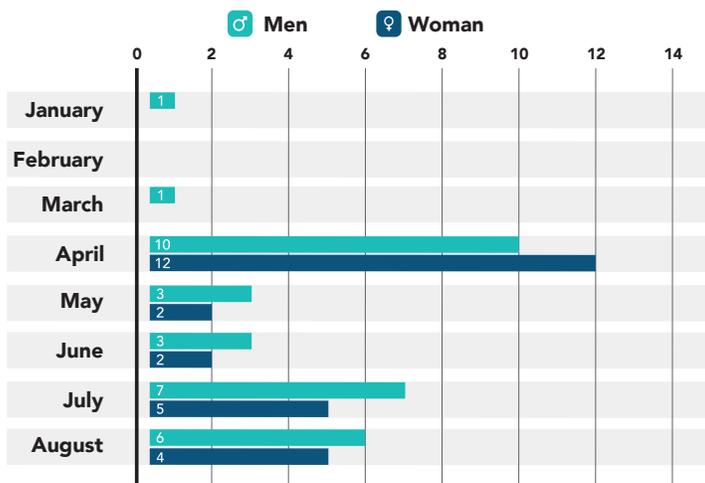
- The Office has documented five cases of prohibition to leave the country.

### Figures from January 1 to August 31, 2023 as documented by the OHCHR<sup>3</sup>

- Number of Nicaraguans banned from entering the country:



### Nicaraguans banned from entering the country January 1 to August 31, 2023



Graph produced by OHCHR with data from documented cases.

The chart shows that, during the month of April, 22 people were banned from entering Nicaragua, this is equivalent to 41% of the total number of entry bans during the first 8 months of the year and occurs in the month commemorating the socio-political crisis of 2018.



<sup>1</sup> Art. 13 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; arts. 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.  
<sup>2</sup> Arts 8, 9, 10, 24, 27 and 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.  
<sup>3</sup> These figures are not the total number of cases, as it is known that there are other cases, but they are not being made public for fear of reprisals against family members still in Nicaragua.