

International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM)

Human Rights Council

Oral Update High Commissioner **Nicaragua**

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Excellencies

The International Human Rights Association of American Minorities has the honour to formulate some comments and recommendations on the situation in Nicaragua.

IHRRAM believes that the vocation of the this Council is to help countries find their own way to development and human rights. That is why the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has a special responsibility to offer advisory services and technical assistance to help countries implement their human rights obligations.

Democracy cannot be exported, as paragraph 135 of General Assembly Resolution 60/1 states. There is no single model of democracy and all nations have the right to develop their own institutions. All peoples have the right of self-determination.

As has been established in the biennial panels on the adverse human rights impacts of unilateral coercive measures, and the reports Special Rapporteur Alena Douhan, economic sanctions and financial blockades destabilize countries at the expense of the most vulnerable, who then suffer loss of employment, restricted access to nutrition and medicines, enforced migration.

UCMs kill, just as any war, and constitute the use of force contrary to the UN Charter, Targeted peoples including Nicaraguan, Syrians, and Venezuelan have demonstrably suffered thousands of deaths.

Sanctions must be lifted, because they are counter-productive. Far from persuading governments to grant more civil rights to their citizens, sanctions generate an emergency situation, leading governments to adopt regressive measures. Sanctions are retrogression.

IHRAAM calls on the Council to recommend the lifting of sanctions, as the General Assembly has recommended in resolutions 76/161 and this Council in Resolution 46/5. The OHCHR should favour instead a constructive policy of advisory services and technical assistance.

We thank you for your attention.