

His Excellency
Mr. Daniel Ortega
President of the Republic of Nicaragua
c/o Botschaft der Republik Nicaragua
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Your Excellency;

Many people around the world are shocked because Bishop Rolando José Álvarez Lagos of Matagalpa was sentenced to 26 years and four months in prison on February 10, 2023. I am deeply concerned for the wellbeing of this Christian minister. Bishop Álvarez merely exercised his right to speak out against injustice and persecution, and he did so in a peaceful manner. As a religious dignitary, he felt obliged to make these appeals.

The Republic of Nicaragua is a party to the American Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of conscience and religion in Article 12. In 1980 Nicaragua also joined the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which includes the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18) and the right to unrestricted freedom of expression (Article 19).

Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to do everything in your power to advocate the release of the bishop and of other ministers of his church from prison.

I am also politely asking you to have information on the conditions of the bishop's detention made available.

Most respectfully