



**HRC55 – Interactive debate on the report of the Group of Human Rights  
Experts on Nicaragua (HRC res. 52/2)**

**BENELUX Statement**

**(29 February 2024)**

Thank you, Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of Belgium, the Netherlands, and my own delegation, Luxembourg.

We thank the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua for their update. We share the grave concerns expressed in their report on the complete closure of the civic space and the continued and systematic surveillance and persecution of human rights defenders, journalists, indigenous people, clergy, afro-descendants, farmers, and academia. It is equally worrisome that these human rights violations have now extended beyond the borders of Nicaragua, as well as to relatives of those Nicaraguans who were forced to leave the country.

The further suppression of all possible opposition, including the cancellation of the legal status of the last standing opposition party YATAMA and the detention of its former congressman, is unacceptable. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of all persons arbitrarily detained and guarantee due process and a fair trial. We are deeply concerned about the allegation of torture and cruel treatment of political prisoners.

We reiterate our call on Nicaragua's authorities to immediately restore democracy and the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law and to cooperate fully with all UN bodies.

Mr. Chair of the Expert Group,

How can the International Community hold the Nicaraguan authorities accountable for the multiple human rights violations you documented, and especially for rendering people stateless and by that also depriving them of a series of human rights connected to nationality?

Thank you.

(240 words - 1m30s)