



HRC57 – Interactive Dialogue following the High Commissioner’s report on Nicaragua

BENELUX Statement

(9 September 2024)

Thank you, Mr. President.

I speak on behalf of the Benelux countries: Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. We align with the statement by the European Union, and we thank the High Commissioner for his update.

The deteriorating situation of human rights in Nicaragua and the ongoing crackdown against those who defend them worry us profoundly. Just last week we witnessed another round of shutdowns of at least 1.500 NGOs, even as 135 political prisoners were released from prison. While these releases are welcome, the government continues targeting dissenting voices, silencing activists and journalists through harassment and arbitrary detentions. The severe impact of these measures on the rights to freedom of association and expression, makes the defence of human rights increasingly difficult in Nicaragua. As the situation worsens, many Nicaraguans are fleeing the country to escape persecution. Human rights defenders are targeted and experience reprisals for cooperating with the United Nations.

This cannot continue. We urge the government to release all those arbitrarily detained without delay and allow those exiled to return; to end all forms of torture, ill-treatment, and persecution. It is time for the government to listen to its people, end its policy of systematic repression and restore civic space and an environment in which the human rights of all are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

High Commissioner,

Which regional mechanisms does your Office cooperate with to support Nicaragua and how could these be strengthened?

Thank you.

(237 words - 1m30s)