



63rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Benelux Intervention

**Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the
Situation of human rights in Nicaragua**

21 September 2026

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Benelux countries: Belgium, the Kingdom of Netherlands, and Luxembourg. We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union.

Mr. High Commissioner,

Benelux thanks you for your report.

The picture it presents is deeply troubling. It underscores the ongoing concentration of power in the executive branch and the weakening of independent institutions.

We are alarmed by reports of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, surveillance, intimidation, and politically motivated prosecutions. These practices create perpetuate a climate of fear preventing any perspective for citizens to freely participate in civil and democratic spaces. We remain concerned by restrictions against independent media, civil society organizations, religious actors, and human rights defenders. The systematic dismantling of democratic principles, the rule of law and fundamental liberties require close monitoring.

We are particularly alarmed by reports of transnational repression, notably against human rights defenders. Nicaraguans living in exile should be able to exercise their rights without fear of threats, harassment or reprisals against themselves or their families.

We call on the Nicaraguan authorities to release all persons arbitrarily detained unconditionally, restore fundamental freedoms, and put an end to repressive practices. The authorities should ensure judicial independence and create conditions for inclusive political participation.

We also urge Nicaragua to resume meaningful cooperation with OHCHR and other international human rights mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review of the HRC.

Mr. High Commissioner,



What additional measures can the international community take to protect Nicaraguan human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society actors in exile, while ensuring accountability for acts of transnational repression?

We thank you.