

Lethal Government Force in Nicaragua

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere after Haiti. Ordinary people are saying, enough.



Huge demonstrations, led by students, began on 18 April in response to government reforms. These hiked worker social security contributions, while cutting benefits.

Nicaraguan authorities have adopted a strategy of repression. They have relied on the excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, control of the media, and the use of pro-government armed groups, to crush protests, according to Amnesty International.

“The Nicaraguan authorities have turned on their own people,” said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas Director at Amnesty International. “The government of President Ortega has then shamelessly tried to cover up these atrocities, violating the victims’ rights to truth, justice and reparation.”

It is vital that organisations like *Commitment for Life*, along with partners

Christian Aid, are active in countries like Nicaragua.

Christian Aid works in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. It has learned that an effective way to work in the region is to link up with local organisations. We partner with community-based groups as well as larger organisations operating across the region, like Centro Humboldt.

Centro Humboldt works on climate monitoring across the country. It trains local people to monitor the climate and share the data with small farmers, cooperatives and local organisations.

Centro Humboldt also gathers evidence of tax evasion from mining companies. These lost revenues have negative consequences on the national budget and government capacity in social investment. *Commitment for Life* strongly supports a fair taxation system in the hope of an equal sharing of God’s abundance.

