

Final Declaration 2023

Considering that

The global campaign of demonization against the democratically elected government of Nicaragua led from Washington reached its climax with the attempted coup d'état in April 2018. The U.S. aggression against Nicaragua is part of a multifaceted strategy of 'regime change' - violent overthrow of the government. It includes economic aggression, the financing and organization of the coup at the domestic level, destabilization plans and an intoxicating and grotesque media war that misinforms, lies and falsifies in order to isolate the Sandinista government to facilitate these despicable imperial objectives.

It is imperative that the solidarity movement counter this infamous campaign of aggression by emphasizing the defence of Nicaragua's national sovereignty and the right of the Nicaraguan people to self-determination, objectives for which we seek to develop the broadest movement of support.

As an integral part of the work of solidarity we must: -

- a) Tell the truth about Nicaragua, exposing with factual rigour the lies generated in Washington and the European Union and disseminated by the media.
- b) Give detailed information on the enormous social progress achieved in all areas of social and economic life - especially health and education- that has benefited and continues to benefit the vast majority of the Nicaraguan population.
- c) Highlight the leading role of the people's organisations: workers' unions, peasants' unions, women's unions, small entrepreneurs' unions, cooperatives, and many others.
- d) Show the sustained effort of inclusion of sectors of society once excluded, especially with the autonomy of the Caribbean Coast and the recognition of its multiethnicity and multilingualism, giving official recognition to the Miskito, Mayangna, Ulwa, Garifuna, Creole, Rama, Spanish and English languages.

These principles inform the activity of the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group (NSCAG) in the United Kingdom, which in co-organisation with the European Committee of Solidarity with the Popular Sandinista Revolution held the VIII European Solidarity Meeting for the Right of Nicaragua to Self-Determination and the affirmation and defence of its National Sovereignty, from March 24 to 26, 2023.

During the conference, speakers from Europe and Great Britain addressed the following points: -

- a) The multifaceted nature of US aggression against Nicaragua both as a state, as a nation as well as against its people.
- b) The main themes of the campaign of demonisation and disinformation of which this nation small in size and great in courage and dignity is a victim.
- c) The extraordinary socio-economic achievements made both in the period 1979-1990 and 2006-2023.
- d) The socially inclusive and politically empowering nature of the Sandinista Model of government.
- e) The leading role of social organisations.

The objective of the conference: to take advantage of this event and its content as a platform to obtain and expand active support from workers' organisations, social organisations and progressive individuals, in defence of Nicaragua's national sovereignty, its right to self-determination as well as to disseminate the extraordinary socio-economic achievements of the Sandinista Popular Revolution to counteract the defamatory campaign orchestrated from Washington.

Therefore

Meeting in London at the VIII Solidarity Conference, March 24-26, 2023, the European Committee and the NSCAG have agreed on the following statement:

For Nicaragua's right to self-determination

- 1 We strongly support the national sovereignty of Nicaragua and its inalienable right to determine its own destiny without outside interference from anyone, especially the United States and its accomplices in the European Union.
- 2 We are alarmed and reject the November 10 decision of the White House to falsely portray Nicaragua, as a threat to the national security of the United States, as already declared in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan, reaffirmed in 2018 by President Donald Trump, and now fixed until November 27, 2023 by President Joe Biden.

The US Executive Order stipulates, "the policies and actions of the Government of Nicaragua constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States and a national emergency is hereby declared to address that threat." In other words, the U.S. has "legally" empowered itself to take whatever action it deems necessary to deal with such a threat that supposedly endangers its national security. It is absurd and farcical to claim that Nicaragua, a country whose economy is 1,645 times smaller and whose population is 47 times smaller than that of the United States, represents a threat to its national security.

The only threat that can come from Nicaragua is the threat of a good example, which demonstrates that the distribution of wealth in favour of the most disadvantaged generates both fair economic growth and social development.

Since 1979, U.S. governments have resorted to violent aggression against this small Central American nation, including the financing of the Contra war (for which the U.S. was ordered by the International Court of Justice to compensate Nicaragua, which to date has not been complied with), economic blockade and terrorist attacks against the country's ports.

- 3 We condemn the imperial unilateral aggressions and coercive measures of the United States against Nicaragua, which are illegal under international law and which, in addition, violate the human rights of the Nicaraguan people, cause immense political, social and economic suffering, especially to the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

Since the election of Donald Trump, a series of unilateral coercive measures (also known as sanctions) have been adopted targeting Nicaraguan government officials, preventing Nicaragua's access to loans and financing from multilateral agencies (NICA Act). And, under the Joe Biden administration, gold exports (the country's second largest industry) have been subject to punitive sanctions, sanctions that, in addition, may include the confiscation of Nicaragua's assets in the US (and possibly other countries). These are acts of a criminal nature because extraterritoriality does not legally exist in international law.

During the pandemic, these sanctions prevented the Nicaraguan health service from accessing essential health equipment and supplies. Many of the sanctioned individuals are government officials who perform vital public services, but because they are sanctioned, they are prevented from signing financial contracts or administering systems linked to international finance. These sanctions limit economic recovery, deterring (via economic blackmail) business investment and thus endangering national employment.

- 4 We condemn and unequivocally reject any attempt to carry out "regime change" by illegal, unconstitutional and violent means, and we also oppose and unequivocally condemn any external interference, particularly from the U.S., aimed at overthrowing the democratically elected government of Nicaragua.
- 5 We salute the heroic resistance and resilience of the Nicaraguan people who defeated the violent U.S.-funded coup attempt of 2018 and condemn and reject the attacks on Nicaragua's economic and political sovereignty.
- 6 We celebrate the substantial improvements in the standard of living of the overwhelming majority of Nicaraguans achieved by the People's President, Daniel Ortega, and the FSLN Government, reducing by more than half the poverty rate, achieving one of the best regional rates of economic growth, major advances in free and universal health and education, in housing and other public services, the considerable infrastructure development for the benefit of the Northern and Southern Caribbean regions of the country,

and much more; we also celebrate the planned and transparent management of state resources and the productive economy promoted in all sectors with the participation of its enterprising population.

7 Therefore, we demand

(a) respect for the right of the Nicaraguan people to choose their own leaders, to govern themselves and to determine their own path to development.

(b) the immediate and unconditional lifting of all coercive measures against Nicaragua.

(c) justice for Nicaragua through the cessation of interference in its sovereignty and

(d) respect for its achievements and alternative development model to savage capitalism.

8 We commit ourselves to campaign for these objectives and to counteract and vigorously denounce the systematic media demonisation of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Long Live Sandino!

Long Live free and sovereign Nicaragua!

Long Live the Sandinista Popular Revolution!

European Committee of Solidarity with the Sandinista People's Revolution

Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group