



# **NO** TO SANCTIONS! **YES** TO SOCIAL PROGRESS!

### Sanctions are about geopolitical domination not human rights

According to the UN charter and international law, states have an obligation to protect the rights to life, food, shelter, water and sanitation of their citizens, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Sanctions (more accurately Unilateral Coercive Measures) imposed by the US and its allies violate the human rights of a third of humanity in more than 40 countries including Nicaragua.

Totalitarian sanctions designed to topple governments are a weapon imposed with impunity with no regard for the consequences. In a world order based on justice they would constitute crimes against humanity.

### The US & Nicaragua: another year, another attempt to overthrow a democratically elected government

Since 1979 the US has used military, economic and political warfare to attempt to destroy the Sandinistas whose main priority has been the fight against poverty.

The deceptively named Restoring Sovereignty and Human Rights Act is advancing through the US administration. On 16 April 2024, the Act was passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and now heads to the full Senate for approval.

It is no coincidence that this Act, which is designed to do the exact opposite of promoting sovereignty and human rights, was approved just one week after Nicaragua argued at the International Court of Justice to defend the Palestinian people from the genocide in Gaza.

**Independence, sovereignty and national self-determination are inalienable rights of the people and fundamental rights of the Nicaraguan nation.**

**ARTICLE 1,  
NICARAGUAN CONSTITUTION**

### Economic warfare strangles the economy

From 2018 – 2021 Nicaragua lost over US\$1.4 billion because of US sanctions through the NICA ACT. This amounted to 90% of its funding from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This impacted the development of the Caribbean coast, school lunch programmes for vulnerable children, child development programmes, access to safe drinking water in rural areas and much more.

Between 2018 and 2022 Nicaragua's IDB loans fell by US\$131 million annually, money which would have enabled the country to build 265 kilometres of roads and four hospitals, and to improve drinking water systems in two main cities.

### US destabilisation not just of Nicaragua but the entire region

The 2024 Restoring Sovereignty and Human Rights Act could mean the following:

- US manipulation of member countries to curtail lending to Nicaragua from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) – the only bank still lending to Nicaragua in amounts that help development.
- Banning some imports into the US of Nicaraguan gold or in any other sector of the Nicaraguan economy identified by the Secretary of State.
- Initiating measures to remove Nicaragua from the regional free trade agreement, DR-CAFTA (Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement).

In addition, the Act authorises 'human rights and democracy promotion programmes' to support Nicaragua's right-wing opposition.

## **STOP U.S. SANCTIONS ON NICARAGUA!**

### **OPPOSE NEW & OLD SANCTIONS ON NICARAGUA!**



## Nicaragua: the threat of a good example, a government whose priority is the fight against poverty

Forty years after the Reagan

Administration's brutal mercenary war and sanctions against Nicaragua, the US drive to destroy the Sandinistas and impose its own version of democracy continues unabated.

Nicaragua has never posed any threat to the US other than the 'threat of a good example' – the country's only 'crime' is to show that a better world is possible.

During the last 17 years, Nicaragua has made remarkable social and economic progress – its many achievements include:

- an ambitious National Development Plan to Fight Poverty that exceeds the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals
- free universal education from preschool through trade school, university, and professional colleges
- free universal health care with 24 new hospitals, 182 maternity homes, over 3,000 health centres, and dramatic decreases in maternal and child mortality
- pioneering initiatives to defend the rights of indigenous and Afro-

descendant peoples who have communal titles to a third of the national territory

- 70% of electricity from renewable sources
- 90% sovereignty in basic foods
- a robust trade union movement that has negotiated increases to the minimum wage totalling 550% over the past 17 years
- one of the safest countries in the Americas



According to the World Economic Forum Nicaragua is a world leader in gender equality, ranking first for women in parliament, women's educational achievement and women cabinet members.

## Sanctions impoverish the impoverished

Coming on top of a violent attempted coup in 2018, repeated rounds of sanctions are nothing more than another attempt to destabilise the country and impoverish the impoverished.

Ever increasing sanctions on Nicaragua

could lead to situations such as that of Venezuela, with 40,000 excess deaths in just one year due to the US blockade of its oil sector and Cuba, where the people are suffering the worst humanitarian crisis in their history from the ever tightening 60-year blockade.

**Nicaragua has stated repeatedly that it is nobody's colony and that it is not for the US to elect the country's President.**

## Join Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group (NSCAG)

International solidarity remains crucial in ensuring that Nicaragua thrives free from external interference, a sovereign country exercising its right to determine its own future through deepening and consolidating its priority: the fight against the poverty.



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