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November 7, 2019

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COMMITTEE
ON THE BUDGET

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I am writing to express my concern about the Nicaraguan government's continued repression of its own people and to urge further action by the United States government to hold Nicaraguan officials accountable for acts of corruption and serious violations of human rights.

As you know, the repression carried out against peaceful protesters in 2018 by security forces and affiliated groups under the direction of President Daniel Ortega resulted in over 300 deaths and 800 arbitrary detentions. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' independent group of experts concluded that the many well-documented cases of torture and instances of intentional use of lethal force met the international legal standard of crimes against humanity.

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the bipartisan Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act (NICA Act) of 2018, which I led in the House of Representatives with former Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman Emeritus of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The bill requires the United States to vote against loans from international financial institutions to Nicaragua and authorizes the President to impose visa bans and block the foreign assets of individuals responsible for human rights violations or acts of corruption.

While I appreciate the actions that your department has already taken, including the designations of three officials that were announced today, I urge you to fully utilize the tools available under U.S. law. I respectfully request that you consider further action, particularly given the Ortega government's refusal to cease its repressive tactics or to engage in sincere negotiations with the opposition. It is important that judges who have imposed arbitrary prison sentences against political dissidents and local government officials who have helped implement the Ortega government's system of repression be held responsible for their actions.

To this end, I have included below a list of individuals who, according to publicly available information, face credible accusations of having engaged in serious human rights abuses. While this list is far from comprehensive, these individuals have been accused of overseeing, carrying out, or otherwise enabling key elements of the Ortega government's systematic persecution of

political dissidents, torture of protesters, arbitrary detention of student leaders, and violations of the right to due process. I urge you to further investigate these individuals and, if you deem it appropriate, impose sanctions against them.

1. **María Amelia Coronel Kinloch**, Minister of Government
2. **Ana Julia Guido Ochoa**, Attorney General
3. **Alba Luz Ramos**, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Nicaragua
4. **Adolfo Noel Marengo Corea**, Deputy Director of the National Police and head of police intelligence unit
5. **Julio Cesar Arias Roque**, Judge, Fifth District Criminal Court
6. **Henry Morales Olivares**, Judge, Sixth District Criminal Court
7. **Sadrach Zeledón Rocha**, Mayor of Matagalpa

The United States must stand with the Nicaraguan people by sending a clear message to the Ortega government that those officials who commit severe violations of human rights will be held accountable, to the fullest extent possible under U.S. law.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



ALBIO SIRES

Chairman
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere,
Civilian Security, and Trade
Committee on Foreign Affairs

CC: Secretary Mike Pompeo, U.S. Department of State