



INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK OF ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES

*Science Academies working together to promote science and technology
for development, prosperity and equity in the Americas*

Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences, IANAS THE CRISIS IN SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN NICARAGUA

The Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS) is very concerned about, and strongly condemns, the attacks on democracy that have been systematically perpetrated by the government of Nicaragua. The persecution of citizens, including scientists and students, and of educational institutions reported in the international media not only cause perplexity and distress, but reflect an environment of fear that is not compatible with a democratic society.

The cancellation of the legal status of the Academy of Sciences of Nicaragua, of the Nicaraguan Academy of Letters, and of nearly 200 non-governmental organizations nearly a year ago was a clear attempt to silence the voice of the country's civil society.

These attacks have been followed by cuts in state funding for higher education, the recent closing and confiscation of assets of private and Catholic universities, as well as the ongoing restrictions imposed on scientists that limit their research and ability to develop international collaborations. These actions are an affront to the autonomy of institutions of higher education, obstruct the free exercise and dissemination of science, and endanger the strong international standing of Nicaraguan scientific work.

We also strongly condemn the cancellation of citizenship and the expulsion of dissenting voices from the country; they are being punished for supporting the cause of democracy. We add our voice to those who call for respect for human rights. We call on the government of Nicaragua to review its positions, resuming dialogue with civil society, thereby paving the way for the resumption of democracy.