

Human Rights Council – 43rd session

General Comment at Action

HRC43 Resolution on promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua

19 June 2020

Australia will vote in favour of resolution L.35 on the promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua.

Australia remains deeply concerned by continuing reports of human rights violations and abuses in Nicaragua. We continue to receive reports of ongoing unlawful arrests and arbitrary detentions, harassment, torture and sexual and gender-based violence in detention.

The government continues to severely repress dissent in Nicaragua, targeting civil society, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, community leaders, journalists and students. This dire situation requires the Council's ongoing attention and close monitoring.

Australia condemns all acts of intimidation and reprisal. Australia reiterates its calls for the Government of Nicaragua to cease violent repression, uphold the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression, and release those still arbitrarily detained for exercising their rights.

Australia urges the Government of Nicaragua to impartially investigate all alleged human rights violations and abuses to ensure those responsible are held to account. Australia supports the resolution's call for a comprehensive and victim-centered accountability action plan.

Australia urges the Government of Nicaragua to resume a meaningful and inclusive National Dialogue. It must also resume cooperation with UN human rights and regional mechanisms, including by facilitating country visits and implementing recommendations.

We urge other Members to likewise vote in favour of L.35.