

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on
Nicaragua

10 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the High Commissioner for her report.

Australia is deeply concerned by ongoing serious human rights violations and abuses in Nicaragua, which have forced some 60,000 Nicaraguans to flee, the vast majority to Costa Rica.

The Government's repression of political dissent has been severe and has resulted in hundreds of deaths and arbitrary detentions. We are seriously concerned at the ongoing threat to journalists and the media. Government attacks have forced more than 100 journalists into exile.

The Government has persecuted human rights defenders and civil society organisations. Women, as well as indigenous and LGBTI minorities, are disproportionately affected, facing sexual and gender-based violence, threats, and acts of intimidation.

Australia urges the Government of Nicaragua to respect the rights and security of its citizens, stop the violent repression of political dissent, and respect the population's right to peaceful protest.

We again call on the Government to resume cooperation with international human rights organisations, and to restore or adopt relevant and impartial mechanisms of investigation and transitional justice.

We ask the High Commissioner how the international community can support her office, and other international human rights organisations, to engage Nicaragua to prevent further human rights violations.

196 Words