



**PHYSICAL AGGRESSION AGAINST PEACEFUL PROTESTERS IN
NICARAGUA
Campaign # OCUPAINSS**

June 22, 2013

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (Redlad), warns of violence and physical aggression against peaceful activists demanding a pension for older adults in Nicaragua.

Since last Tuesday, June 18, a group of young activists was supporting a proposal by the Asociación Unidad Nacional del Adulto Mayor (UNAM), an organization of more than 10,000 older adults that have more than 6 years advocating the passage of a "Special Act of Reduced Pension for Old People" (Ley Especial de Otorgamiento de Pensiones Reducidas por Vejez).

Elderly of UNAM were took the seat of the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute (INSS), from the June 17, in order to demand a response from the authorities to their demands, however, were locked in the building of the state agency, without access to food, clean water and sanitation. Subsequently, they were violently evicted by the national police. The Redlad denounced and warned of these facts to the international community, joining the campaign #OcupalNSS, a few days ago.

Youth activists continued outside the INSS, with a peaceful vigil in support of the cause of the elderly, however, in the early hours of June 22, they were physically assaulted, destroyed their campaign tents and intimidated by pro-government mobs in trucks of the Mayoral of Managua. The national police and local firefighters did nothing to protect activists many of whom were seriously injured.

Preliminary reports of our local organizations as Movimiento Puente, include an estimated 30 injuries among young and old.

The Permanent Secretariat of Redlad, a platform for advancing democracy and human rights comprising more than 520 organizations, Official Member of the Civil



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Society Forum of OAS and Regional Chapter of the World Movement for Democracy:

- Requests to Nicaragua National Police to assume its responsibility to protect and safeguard the rights of all citizens equally.
- It calls for the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional-FSLN) to require his supporters and government officials, respect the right to peaceful demonstration.
- Urges Nicaraguan social organizations, media and the general public for warning about the facts and demand the respect of human rights of the people attacked.
- Expresses concern at the criminalization of peaceful protest, the arbitrary arrest of protesters and neglect of older adults from the government.

Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad).



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