



**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF ELDERLY AND PROTESTERS IN
NICARAGUA
Campaign # OCUPAINSS**

June 20, 2013

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (Redlad) warning about the violation of human rights of older persons and activists in Nicaragua.

For more than six years, the National Association for the Elderly Unit (Asociación Unidad Nacional del Adulto Mayor-UNAM), an organization of more than 10,000 older adults has been advocating for the right to a pension for those who failed to complete the required contributions or quotas of Social Security. To this end, they proposed the creation of a "Special Act of Reduced Pension for Old People" (Ley Especial de Otorgamiento de Pensiones Reducidas por Vejez) that would provide pension proportional to the number of weeks of contributions by the person. Currently, the law is requesting at least 750 weeks of contributions, but the proposal of law of proportionate pension reduced requests would be for those older adults who have contributed more than 250 weeks.

Despite numerous meetings and negotiations, the authorities of the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute (Instituto Nicaragüense de Seguridad Social-INSS), National Assembly deputies and the central government have ignored the demands and requests, and the bill, which does not even has entered the legislative.

In response, on Monday June 17, members and leaders of the UNAM took INSS headquarters to demand a response from the authorities to their demands. Porfirio Garcia, leader of the UNAM, indicates that most of the applicants are retired workers without fulfilling their contributions due in large part to the instability of the country, which affected public companies and offices that gave them work.

The National Police of Nicaragua, has blocked the entrances to the INSS, leaving older adults locked in the building of the state agency, without access to food and in pauper conditions. Also was removed, access to drinking water and sanitation.



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Peaceful protesters are conducting a vigil and a campaign to provide food to the elderly. However, the protest has been criminalized, the activists are being repelled by violence. Also, is given persecution and attacks on peaceful protesters, journalists and citizens in general. They have arrested more than 12 young people who were looking to get to the property of the INSS to provide food to the elderly. Many donations for older adults have been confiscated by the National Police.

Based on the above facts, the Permanent Secretariat of Redlad, a platform for advancing democracy and human rights, comprising more than 520 organizations, Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Alert about the tacit abduction of protesters in INSS facilities and the refusal of the authorities to start the dialogue.
- Expresses concern at the criminalization of peaceful protest, the arbitrary arrest of demonstrators, human rights violation and blocking access to public services, medicines and food to the seniors and are prisoners in the INSS.
- Denounces the official media block, the attack on journalists and young protesters, human rights organizations, opposition MPs and the threat of forced eviction.
- It calls for the democratic governments of the world and to the Organization of American States to denounce these violations of human rights and to demand the Nicaraguan government of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the restoration of the rights and freedoms of the elderly people in INSS, activists and others people involved.

Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia (RedLad).



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ocupaINSS for four days, elders in Managua demanding their pensions. They receive abuse from government and police and support from young people
<http://www.redlad.org/node/179>

Tacit kidnapping of hundreds of elders in Managua to demand their pensions # ocupaINSS <http://www.redlad.org/node/179>



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