

# Nicaragua

Nicaragua is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Nicaragua is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Nicaragua has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding [judgments](#) concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Nicaragua to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Commission found that Nicaragua violated the rights of Milton García Fajardo and 141 others to humane treatment and to a fair trial and judicial protection, when they were dismissed from their jobs as customs service workers after going on a strike that was declared illegal by the Ministry of Labor. See IACHR, Report No. 100/01, Case 11.381, [Milton García Farjado et al.](#) (Nicaragua), October 11, 2000. In *Yatama v. Nicaragua*, the Court found a violation of the right to judicial protection when members of an indigenous regional political party were excluded from participating in municipal elections. See I/A Court H.R., [Yatama v. Nicaragua](#). Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of June 23, 2005. Series C No. 127.

Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures](#) and [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (“Protocol of San Salvador”)
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belem do Pará”)
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Nicaragua is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Nicaragua's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Nicaragua has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Nicaragua has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [ICCPR](#) and [CMW](#).

Nicaragua has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Nicaragua has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties Nicaragua has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Nicaragua has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Nicaragua has also ratified **optional protocols** allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Nicaragua has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT and CRPD.

On April 26, 2006, Nicaragua extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in Nicaragua. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food went on a mission to Nicaragua in September 2009 and published a [report](#) in February 2010.

For more information on Nicaragua's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/NIIndex.aspx>.

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