



## Nicas en Vancouver Canada Foundation

**Commission Agenda**

Date ..... 2018 Nov 21

Correspondence.....(c)

Vancouver, October 30, 2018

Mr. Dave Ellenwood  
Director Parks  
Recreation and  
Cultural Services  
City of Burnaby

And: City council  
And: Commission Secretary  
Teresa Cheng

**RECEIVED**

Parks, Recreation &amp; Cultural Services

**OCT 31 2018**

Refer To	Initials

**Request: Fee Waiver**

Nicas en Vancouver Canada Foundation is a non-profit organization that was created on July 28th, 2018. As an organization what we are striving to do is raise funds in order to send aid to the innocent people and victims of the civil turmoil plaguing Nicaragua. At this very moment, Nicaraguans continue to be effected by the retaliation of a regime who has deemed it "acceptable" to arm down peaceful protests and terrorize the everyday lives of its citizenry. Which is why, new Canadians and Canadians that were born here should feel lucky to never have had to face the difficulties that thousands of Nicaraguan refugees worldwide are undergoing. These refugees particularly those in Costa Rica are in dire need of clothes, food, shelter, and every basic human necessity you could imagine.

The purpose of this letter is to appeal to your humanitarian values and request that you support our cause by waiving the rental fee for the Banquet Hall of the Bonsor Community Complex on the purposed date of Saturday December 1st, 2018 from 5-11pm so that we may host a cultural-event fundraiser.

All the money raised will go directly to supporting the families and victims of the violence in Nicaragua, as well as to raise funds for the refugees currently in Costa Rica, but above all else to show our solidarity for the struggle of the Nicaraguan people.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter further at your earliest convenience.

Should you need any further information, I can be reached by (cell) 778 994 9741 or via email at [nicasenvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:nicasenvancouver@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Eva Franco

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eva Franco", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**NOTE**

Item 6 of the Director's Report refers to this matter



## Capture and Torture

Since the beginning of the protests, hundreds have been imprisoned and tortured inhumanly. Most were taken from the protests, but some were ambushed while walking down the street, and others still have been taken from their own homes. When family members come looking for their loved ones at detention centers they are told very little and often sent home empty handed.



## Censorship and Misinformation

Five channels who criticized the government were taken off the air, in the days following the initial protests, and even though they have been uncensored since then, independent media continues to be targeted and harassed, and in extreme cases, killed as it was with reporter Angel Gahona.

With the government controlling most national media outlets, they are also able to control what the public sees and what information leaves the country. The "approved" channels manipulate information, calling protesters right winged delinquents who are looting and vandalizing Nicaragua.

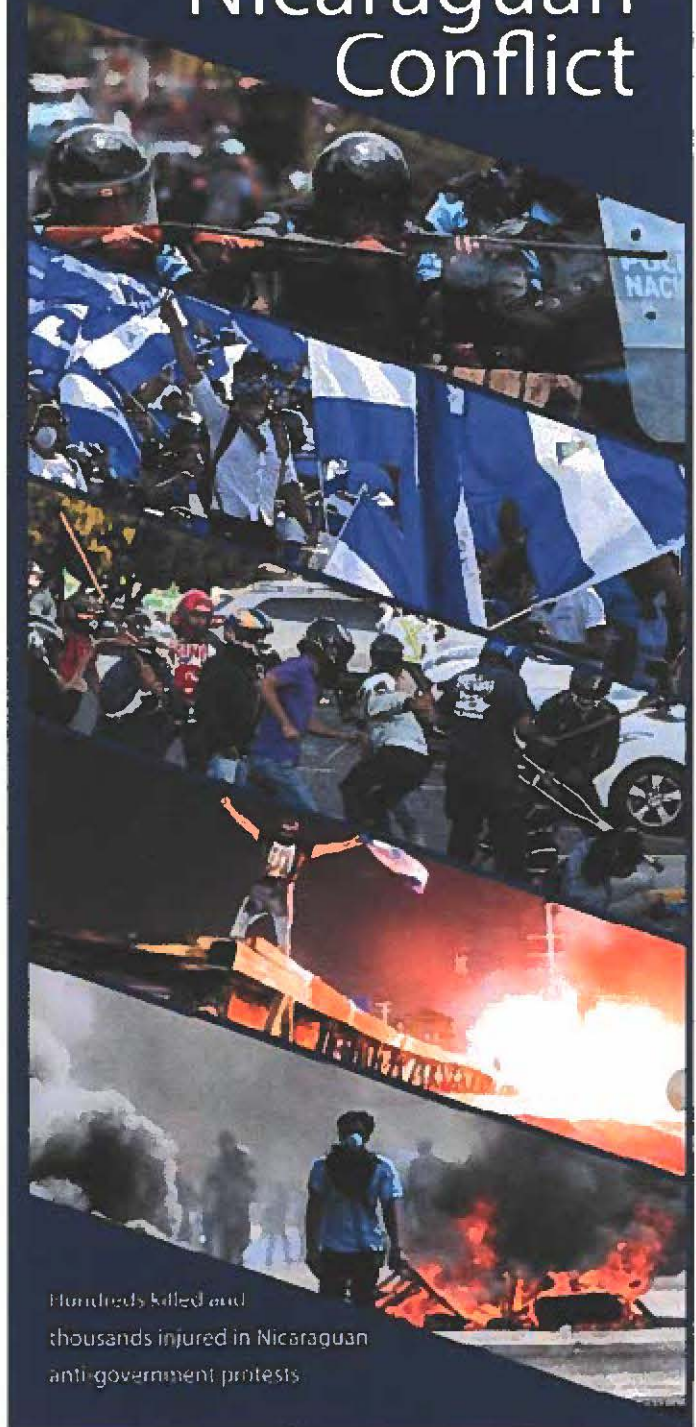
The Ortega-Murillo attempted to manipulate information so that the world would never know of the heinous acts that their government committed, but luckily social media has been invaluable in spreading of current news unfiltered by those in power.

President Daniel Ortega has backed out of the social security reforms in an attempt to "wash his hands". However, it's much too late as the people have moved on. No longer is this a protest against social security reforms but that asks for justice and the resignation of Ortega and Murillo. The same chants and songs that Ortega used in the Nicaraguan revolution are now being used against him. The once revered revolutionary is now said to worse than his predecessors. Whether left winged or right winged, those who violate human rights are tyrants and the people will not sit soundly while the nation bleeds.

Find out more at  
**[nicaraguanconflict.com](http://nicaraguanconflict.com)**

#SOSNICARAGUA - Nicas en Vancouver

# Nicaraguan Conflict



Hundreds killed and  
thousands injured in Nicaraguan  
anti-government protests



## What is Happening in Nicaragua?

In 2018 the Central American Country has lived through the bloodiest conflict seen there since the Revolution in the 70's and 80's. The culprits of this atrocity are none other than the president Daniel Ortega and his wife, the Vice President Rosario Murillo.

Once widely praised Ortega is a left wing Sandinista Rebel who fought to overthrow the US backed Dictator, Anastasio Somoza DeBayle. Murillo, was chosen by Ortega to be his running mate in the last presidential election and so by defacto she became the Vice-president. Already the severe levels of nepotism can be seen. Over the past few months, a series of protest have emerged over a decree put forth by the government. The Ortega-Murillo government refuses to denounce, and in fact supports the acts of brutality committed by the national police and other loyalist groups who shoot live ammunition into crowds of unarmed demonstrators. To Ortega they are nothing more than vandals who are threatening their regime and so, they must be eliminated.

Hundreds of men, women, and children have lost their lives in since April, all because the regime feels that their opinions are "toxic" and "hateful". Their only crime was to express their freedom of speech and freedom of assembly which are fundamental principles of all democratic societies. Their only weapons: their voices and flags.

The Nicaraguan government is committing genocide against its own people while simultaneously preaching about peace and stability. Their hypocrisy cannot be more evident but yet they still have the support of many. Instead of trying to unite the nation, they instigate conflict between groups. Ortega and Murillo do not care if the country's youth are exterminated as long as it ends the opposition against them.

## How Did this Start?

When the social security reforms were put forth by the government to increase employee and employer taxes and cut pensions by 5%, many Nicaraguans were outraged, as they saw the situation as being caused by the government's negligence and corruption, and the taxing of pensions as unconstitutional.

Prior to the proposed reforms, a series of forest fires occurred that destroyed thousands of acres of land that was home to indigenous people as well as many endangered animals. Many felt that the government did not respond appropriately. Furthermore, since 2014 there have been several protests against the proposed Chinese funded inter-oceanic canal. After years of repression and misrepresentation, these were just the latest in a string of events that caused the people to rise up.

After the tax reforms the retirees went on to the streets to demonstrate, but were met with severe violence. Upon seeing this, the local college students joined in support of the retirees, later followed by the great majority of the Nicaraguan people, following the conflict's first group of deaths.



## Protests Turn Deadly

Demonstrators took to the streets on April 18, and were greeted by violent counter protestors and attacks from armed police forces and paramilitary groups (the Sandinista Youth) which were called upon by President Ortega. It has been almost three months since then and in spite of mediation attempts and strong international pressure, the conflict continues. Over 300 deaths have been reported, with the great majority being protestors and innocent bystanders. There have also been over 1500 injured and hundreds more remain missing or imprisoned by the government.

The brutality of these murders cannot be denied as many of the victim's dying breaths have been captured on live streaming services such as Facebook Live. Young and old, men and women, the deaths have been indiscriminate and often violent. Access to public hospitals is also being denied to anyone believed to have participated in the protests, which only makes things worse.

As of April 18, fear of being ambushed, kidnapped, looted, shot on the spot, or even burned alive in your own home, have gripped the people of Nicaragua. The country that was once known for being the safest in all Central America now literally and metaphorically covered with the blood of innocents.