

Press release #26

Results from 17 to 23 of September

Nicaragua, 26 September 2020

The epidemic has not ceased. Do NOT let you guard down! Let's keep our preventative measures. Zero group meetings, keep a two metre distance from other people, use your face mask and face shield in public places, don't touch your face and constantly wash your hands with water and soap for 40 seconds.

Take preventative measures and let's save lives!

The Nicaraguan COVID-19 Citizen Observatory and the International Human Rights Network (RIDH) has sent the UN ECOSOC Committee the report on **'Lack of information, prevention and medical attention towards COVID-19 in Nicaragua'** (Articles 17 and 7 of the Pact).

Among others, the report concluded that the **'Nicaraguan State response to the COVID-19 crisis as has been summarized in the previous sections, does not comply with the state's duty to respect, protect and give effect to any of these elements of the right to health.** Just to give examples, the State does not use prevention methods recommended by the WHO and the PAHO; it restricts access to COVID-19 tests; it does not provide sufficient PPE; it denies access to information and face masks; it promotes social practices that are risky; it fires dissident doctors; allows for express burials; and it doesn't tend to the needs of the most vulnerable groups. These failures are not just due to limited resources but are a conscious and deliberate policy by the State.'

We respectfully request that the committee recommends the following issues to the State of Nicaragua:

1. That it publicly recognizes the gravity of the COVID-19 crisis and the need to take urgent and pertinent measures to deal with it in all its dimensions.
2. That it tends to the scientific recommendations of the WHO and PAHO in terms of prevention, information and medical treatment of COVID-19 and that it allows a PAHO mission to come to Nicaragua to carry out an evaluation of the

pandemic in the country, also resuming cooperation with international and regional mechanisms for human rights.

3. That it guarantees the sourcing and availability of adequate equipment, facilities and medications to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the population and to give medical treatment to those affected, as well as ample and equal access to COVID-19 tests, especially for those that are showing symptoms.
4. That it provides updated information on cases, deaths and tests, in the form of periodic or daily reports with disaggregated information by department and municipality, gender, age and membership of vulnerable groups.
5. That it bans the practice of 'express burials' or similar practices.
6. That it abstains from broadcasting stigmatizing speeches, intimidation campaigns and acts of harassment towards healthcare professionals, journalists and members of civil society who are critical of the State's response to the COVID-19 crisis.
7. That it takes the appropriate measures to confront COVID-19 among healthcare professionals, those who are imprisoned, indigenous groups and other vulnerable groups.
8. That it ensures ample participation of all sectors, including civil society, private sector, churches, NGOs and others, in all stages of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the right to healthcare among all people.
9. That it facilitates the repatriation of citizens stranded in other countries in line with what is recommended by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and

guarantees their safe return with access to all their rights.

10. That through quick and respectful procedures it reintegrates healthcare professionals who were fired for disagreeing with COVID-19 policy or for revealing real statistics.
11. That it takes urgent socioeconomic measures to protect those who are suffering economically because of the COVID-19 crisis.

We have analysed **mortality by COVID-19 by million inhabitants in 19 countries** (18 in Latin America – including Nicaragua – and the Dominican Republic).

- Using the Citizen Observatory's data, Nicaragua reports a death rate of **412 deaths by COVID-19 by million inhabitants, putting the country in the ninth place among countries with the highest COVID-19 death rates** by million inhabitants in the region.
- With the death rates reported by the Ministry of Health of **22 deaths by COVID-19 by million inhabitants, Nicaragua is in the third place of countries with the lowest deaths by COVID-19** by million inhabitants.

As of 23 September, we report a grand total of **10,396 suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory** in all departments and autonomous regions.

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **17 September 2020 to 23 September 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
10396	2735

** Suspected cases reported by the Observatory, deaths by pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 have been verified by a local information source.*

Cases confirmed by MINSA	Deaths reported by MINSA
5073	149

Until 23 September we have reported and verified **2,735 deaths**, of which **140 (5%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 2,545 (95%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.**

These deaths have been reported across the 17 departments and autonomous regions, 123 municipalities (80% total municipalities in the country). The department of **Managua has registered 33% of all deaths, Masaya 10%, Matagalpa 9%, León 7%, Chinandega and Estelí 5% respectively and Granada and Chontales 4% respectively.** This week we received information on **14 new fatalities.**

As of 23 September, our data shows **108 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers.** Of these, 49 were doctors, 24 nursing staff, 14 administrative personnel, 8 lab technicians, 3 medical visitors, 3 dentists, and 7 categorised as 'other' (support personnel, for example).

As of 23 September, we have received reports of **2,473 irregularities. We continue to receive reports of exposure of people to the disease due to public group activities.** Of the irregularities reported this week, most of them (75%) are due to group activities.