

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International Public Statement

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Nicaraguan authorities must investigate attack on youth activists

Amnesty International calls on the Nicaraguan authorities to urgently investigate the attack against youth activists which took place in the early hours of Saturday 22 June.

The student activists had been protesting for several days in solidarity with elderly demonstrators demanding access to a minimum state pension. At around 4am on Saturday morning, around 100 young activists who had slept out in the street at a protest camp alongside elderly protestors were reportedly attacked by several hundred individuals.

Ten of the student activists were wounded, while others were threatened or robbed, and several were forced to strip down to their underwear by their assailants. There are reports that those involved in the attack were FSLN youth supporters, and that police officers failed to protect the student activists.

The Nicaraguan government must ensure the right to freedom of expression for all Nicaraguans, including the right to protest.

Amnesty International calls on the Nicaraguan authorities to urgently investigate and bring to justice those responsible for the beatings and thefts. Amnesty International also calls on the authorities to ensure that police agents fully abide by the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.