



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

June 7, 2018

Ms. Miriam Cooper, General Counsel
Consulate General of Nicaragua
1627 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear General Counsel Cooper,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the 5,000 congregations and 1.3 million members of the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). As General Secretary, I serve as the national pastor of the denomination. ABCUSA has a long and distinguished record of service in Nicaragua, alongside the Convención Bautista de Nicaragua (CBN), founded in 1917, and other Christians in your country.

The American Baptist family would like to communicate our deep concern over the series of incidents that have resulted in the loss of life of innocent citizens. According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 15 people have been killed and 199 were injured in Managua, Estelí and Masaya; in total, at least 97 protestors have been killed by forces loyal to the government in the past few weeks. According to reliable sources, at least 868 people have been wounded and 438 others detained.

Accordingly, American Baptists wish to express our sincere hope for a peaceful resolution to the current situation facing your country. In solidarity with our Baptist sisters and brothers in Nicaragua, we sincerely request that the full range of civil and political rights of protestors be respected by the government and its surrogates, and that violence against demonstrators cease. Furthermore, American Baptists, based on our historic conviction that freedom is a fundamental human right and essential for a just society, strongly urge that all segments of the Nicaraguan society work towards the restoration of democratic institutions in Nicaragua.

I have attached a letter to President Ortega from the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua, for your attention.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA