



# República de Nicaragua **POLICIA NACIONAL**

**44**

## **Police Experiences and Activities during the 2018 Failed Coup Attempt in Nicaragua**

**24 September, 2023.**



## The failed coup attempt of 2018



- Article 7 of our Political Constitution establishes that Nicaragua is a Democratic Republic. Democracy is exercised in a direct, participatory and representative manner. The delegated functions of the Sovereign Power are manifested through the Legislative Power, Executive Power, Judicial Power and Electoral Power.
- Article 144 of the Political Constitution establishes that the Executive Power is exercised by the President of the Republic, who is the Head of State and Head of Government; and Article 146 states that a legitimate Government is established through universal, equal, direct, free and secret suffrage. The President of the Republic and the Vice President of the Republic were democratically elected through Free Elections on November 6, 2016, and were exercising their constitutional term and legitimate functions until January 10, 2022.



## Were Nicaraguans safe before 2017?



Nicaragua was one of the Safest Countries in the Americas with the lowest homicide rate in the Region, 7 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.

The 2017 Report by Latinobarómetro in 18 Latin American Countries, rated Nicaragua as the country with the second highest satisfaction with Democracy, with greater trust and approval in its Government, with less concern among its citizens of being victims of crimes, with greater success in the fight against corruption and with a clear progressive image.

The World Economic Forum evaluated Nicaragua as one of the safest countries, in relation to crime and robbery. Nicaragua ranked first in the Americas as the country with the best environment for doing business, according to studies by the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.



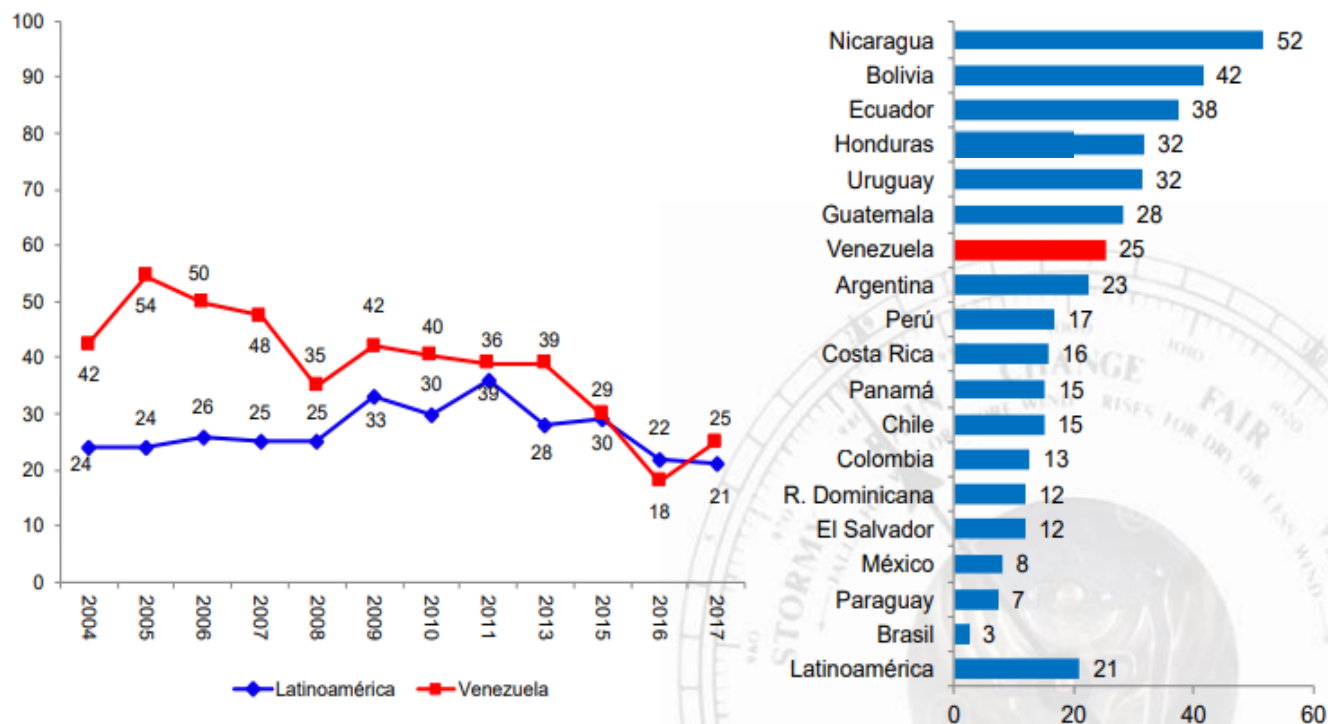
# 'Governing for everyone's benefit' – Nicaragua had the highest government rating in Latin America according to Latinobarómetro in 2017

## SE GOBIERNA PARA EL BIEN DE TODO EL PUEBLO

### TOTAL VENEZUELA 2004-2017 - TOTALES POR PAÍS 2017



P. En términos generales ¿Diría Ud. que (país) está gobernado por unos cuantos grupos poderosos en su propio beneficio, o que está gobernado para el bien de todo el pueblo? \*Aquí solo 'Para el bien de todo el pueblo'.



Fuente: Latinobarómetro 2017



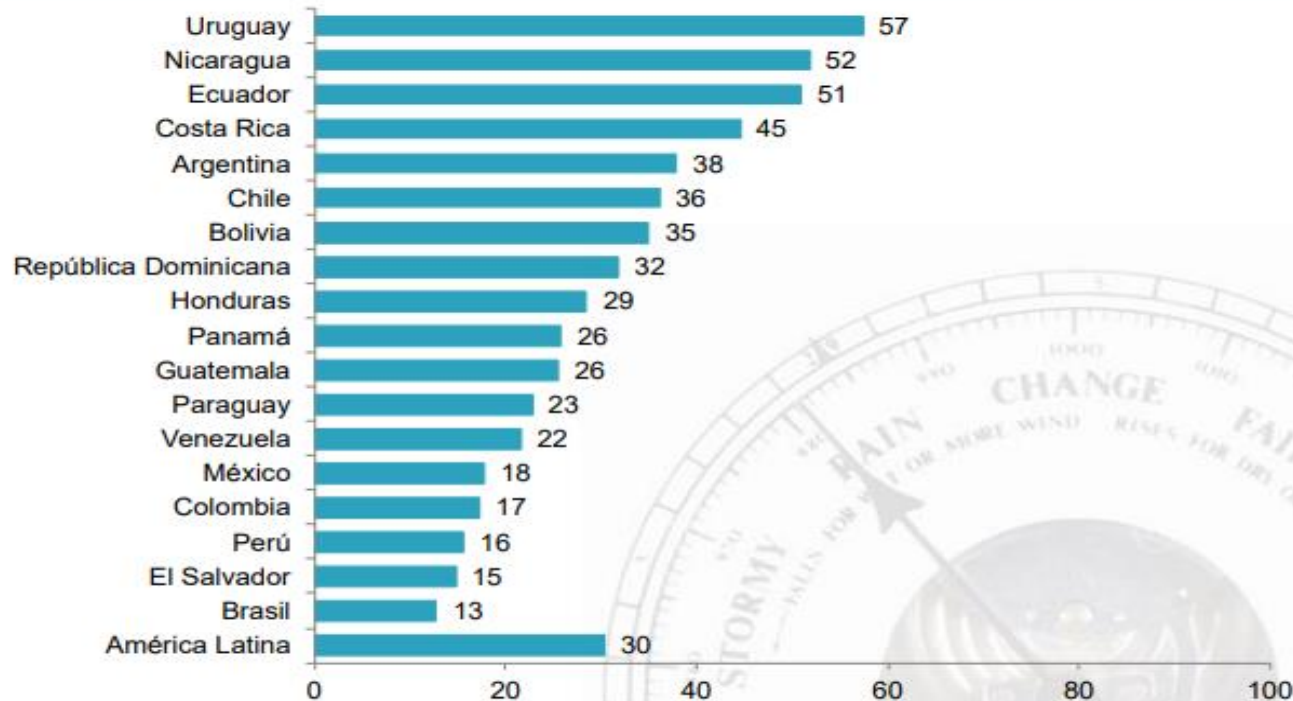
## Levels of satisfaction with democracy in 2017 – Nicaragua in 2nd place

44

### SATISFACCIÓN CON LA DEMOCRACIA TOTAL AMÉRICA LATINA 1995 – 2017 - TOTALES POR PAÍS 2017



P. En general, ¿Diría Ud. que está Muy satisfecho, Más bien satisfecho, No muy satisfecho o Nada satisfecho con el funcionamiento de la democracia en (país)? \*Aquí solo 'Muy satisfecho' más 'Más bien satisfecho'.



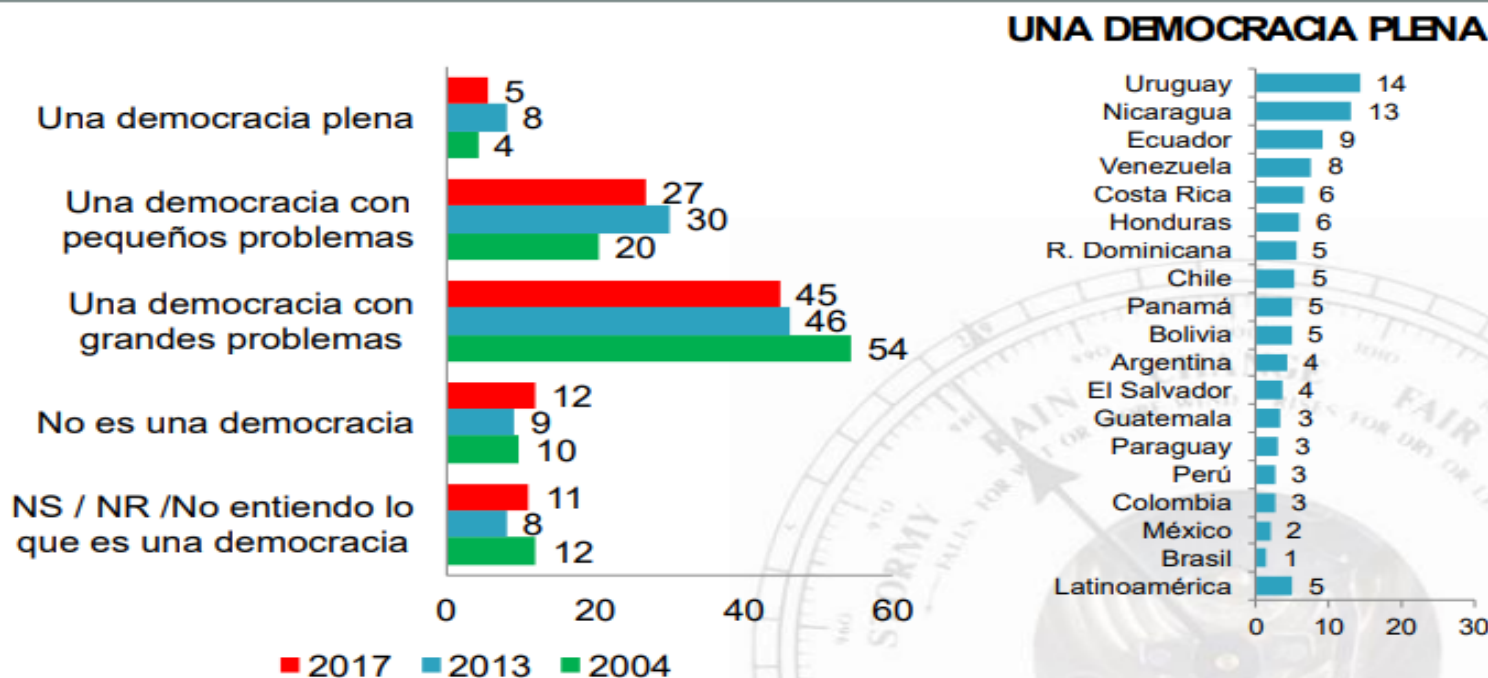


# Along with Uruguay, Nicaragua had one of the highest ratings for enjoying 'full democracy' in 2017

## EVALUACIÓN DE LA DEMOCRACIA TOTALES AMÉRICA LATINA 2013- 2017



P. ¿Cómo diría Ud. que es la democracia en su país?



Fuente: Latinobarómetro 2017.



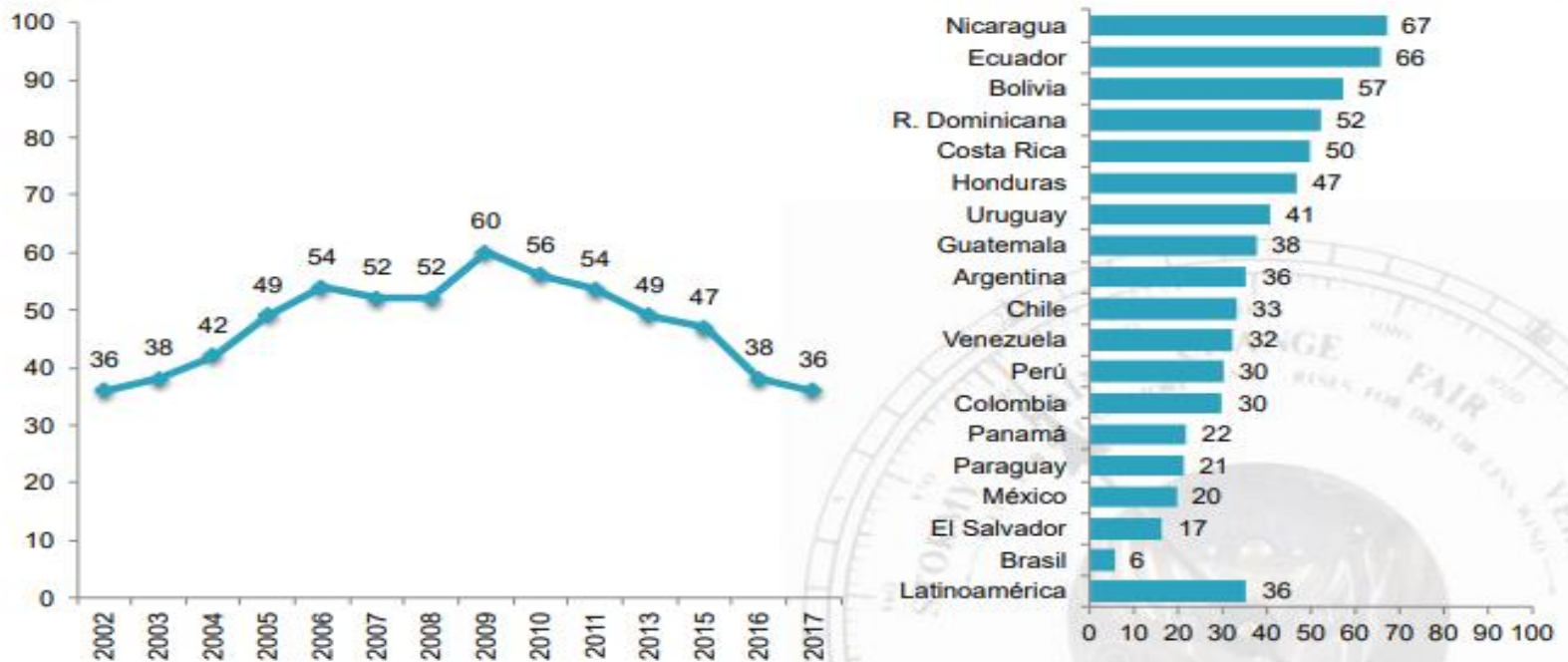
# Approval of Latin American governments – Nicaragua topped the list in 2017 with a far higher level than the continental average



## APROBACIÓN DEL GOBIERNO TOTAL AMÉRICA LATINA 2002 – 2017 - TOTALES POR PAÍS 2017



P. ¿Usted aprueba o no aprueba la gestión del gobierno que encabeza el presidente (nombre)...? \*Aquí solo 'Aprueba'.



Fuente: Latinobarómetro 2002 - 2017

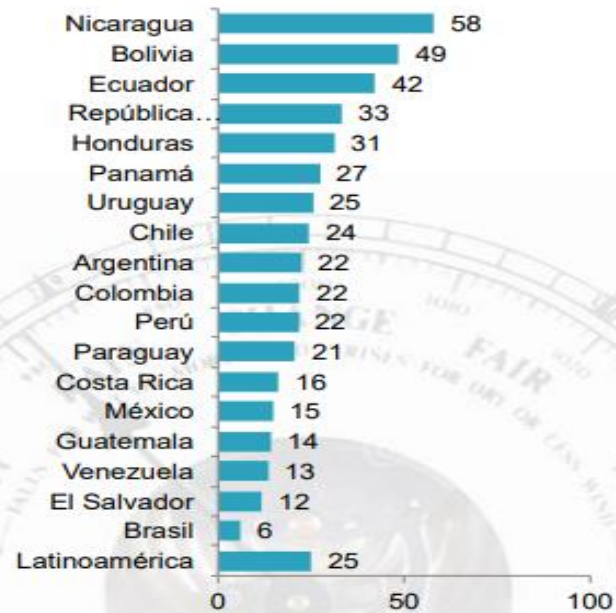
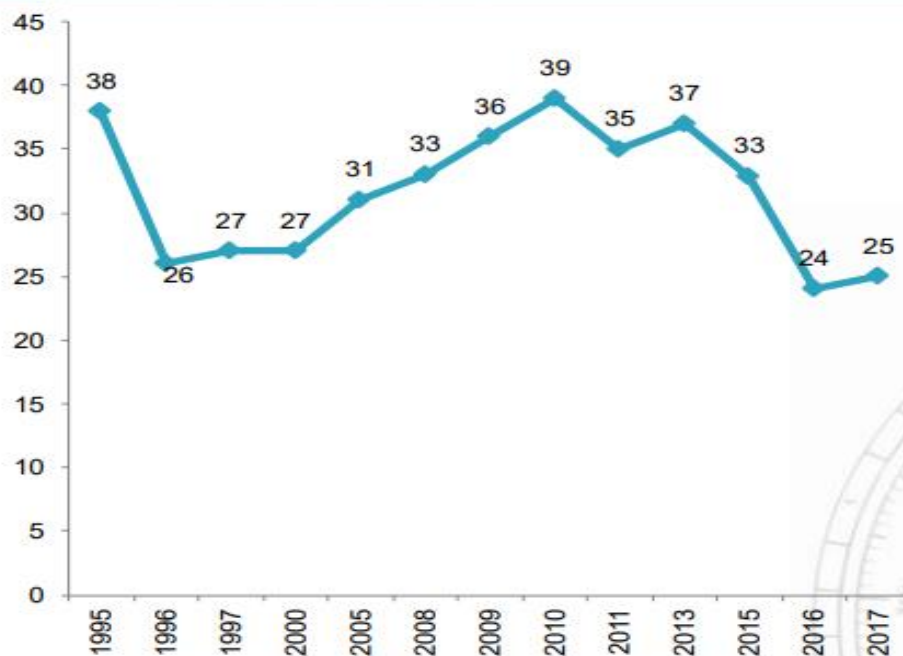


# Is the country making progress? – Nicaragua topped the list in 2017

## IMAGEN DE PROGRESO EN EL PAÍS TOTAL AMÉRICA LATINA 2017– TOTALES POR PAÍS 2017



¿Diría Ud. que este país...? Está progresando, Está estancado, Está en retroceso. Aquí solo "Está progresando".





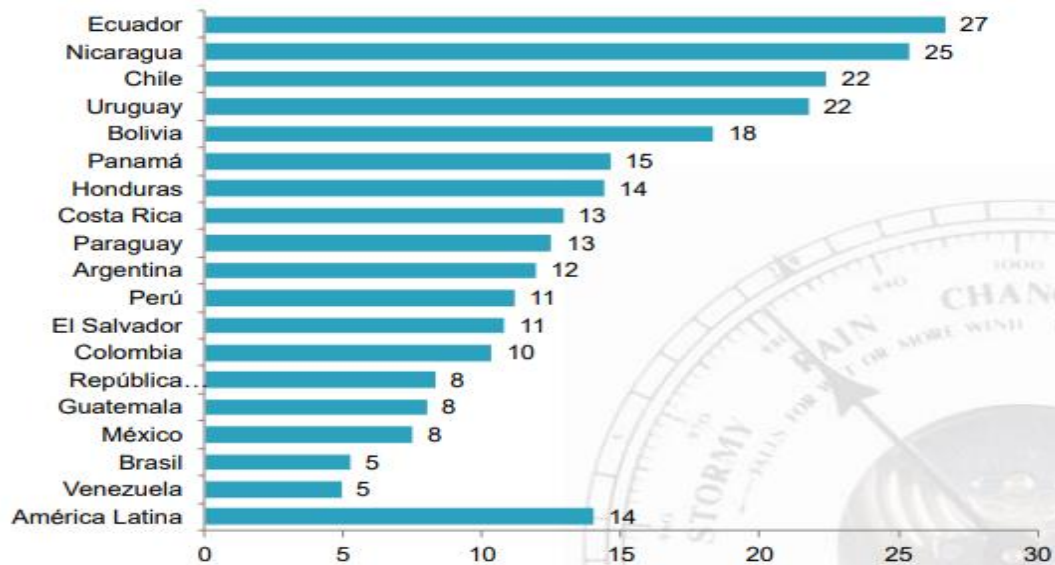


Approval or otherwise of the 'general economic condition' of each country – Nicaragua had one of the highest levels in 2017

## SITUACIÓN ECONÓMICA ACTUAL DEL PAÍS TOTALES POR PAÍS 2017- "MUY BUENA Y BUENA"



P. ¿Cómo calificaría en general la situación económica actual del país? Diría Ud. que es Muy buena, Buena, Regular, Mala o Muy mala? \* Aquí 'Muy buena' más 'Buena'.



Fuente: Latinobarómetro 2017.



## What happened from April 18 2018 onwards?



On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, an attempted coup d'état was unleashed through a series of events, directed and financed by groups of people, which put at serious risk the stability and existence of the State, the normal functioning of the government and its institutions, citizen security, the tranquillity of the population, social peace, public and private property, seeking to undermine the legitimacy of the democratically elected Government of Nicaragua and alter the Constitutional order. Causing fear, terror and panic in the country and consequently affecting public order.

These groups attacked the democratic State and its legally established institutions, premeditatedly disturbed the security and physical integrity of Nicaraguans, affected the social, economic and political stability of the country, causing considerable loss of human lives and injuries, as well as destruction of public and private property.



# What happened from April 2018 onwards?

# 44

The media reported that a university student died in these disturbances (false news that was later denied by the same media), causing the beginning of protests on Thursday, April 19 at the National Agrarian University (UNA), National Engineering University (UNI), Polytechnic University (UPOLI) and now National Polytechnic University (UPN), resulting in the death of three people, none of whom were university students, including one police officer.





## What happened from April 2018 onwards?

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On Friday, April 20, the protests continued and escalated to more violent acts and serious disturbances to public order in Managua and extended to Masaya, León, Estelí, with the result of 18 people dead, on Saturday, April 21, 10 people died and on Sunday, April 22, another 16 people died. These three days saw the highest number of deaths (44).





# What happened from April 2018 onwards?

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These protests and serious disturbances to public order were joined by other sectors and groups, which established roadblocks throughout the country, increased the number of deaths, looting of supermarkets and other commercial establishments, arson and destruction of public and private offices.





## Motives or pretexts



- Use of social networks
- Fire in the Indio Maiz forest reserve
- INSS Reform (of pensions)

In a period of three days, from the publication of Decree No. 03 - 2018, "Reforms to Decree No. 975, General Regulations of the Social Security Law", there was a huge data traffic in social networks, calculated at approximately 150 million messages, of which 50% were from abroad, mainly from the United States, Colombia and Venezuela.

Likewise, during this period a large number of messages with false news came from known accounts (Dora María Téllez and Félix Maradiaga, Hugo Tórrez Jiménez were among those detected).



# Media Activities



Manipulation of news about iconic issues that provoked outrage among Nicaraguans:

The Students: University Autonomy constitutes an area of struggle that has always counted on the solidarity and support of the population, which is why the death of a university student generated indignation. (False news was published about the death of a UCA student).



Manifestantes disparan morteros caeros contra la policia durante las protestas en Managua (Alfredo Zuniga / AP)



**Noticias 24/7 Nicaragua** ···  
18 abr. a las 10:30p.m. · 🌐

#NoticiasFalsas #Nicaragua  
Aclaración ante muchas especulaciones en las redes sociales de un supuesto muerto en la UCA.

**NOTICIA FALSA**

**NO HAY NINGUNA PERSONA FALLECIDA EN LA UCA**

- The Church: The majority of the Nicaraguan people profess the Catholic religion with great devotion, any hostile act against the church and its temples is cause for indignation and anger. (False news was published saying that the National Police had entered the Metropolitan Cathedral of Managua, where university students were lodging).

## Policía intenta ingresar a Catedral y evitar recolección de víveres para manifestantes

20 abril, 2018 juriza Nacionales 0



Foto/La Prensa

La Policía Nacional intenta ingresar a la Catedral de Managua para ocupar los víveres que está llevando la ciudadanía a los estudiantes que se manifiestan contra las reformas al INSS.

Ciudadanos han denunciado en los micrófonos de Radio Corporación que al acercarse a las inmediaciones de la Catedral Metropolitana, están siendo detenidos por la Policía para

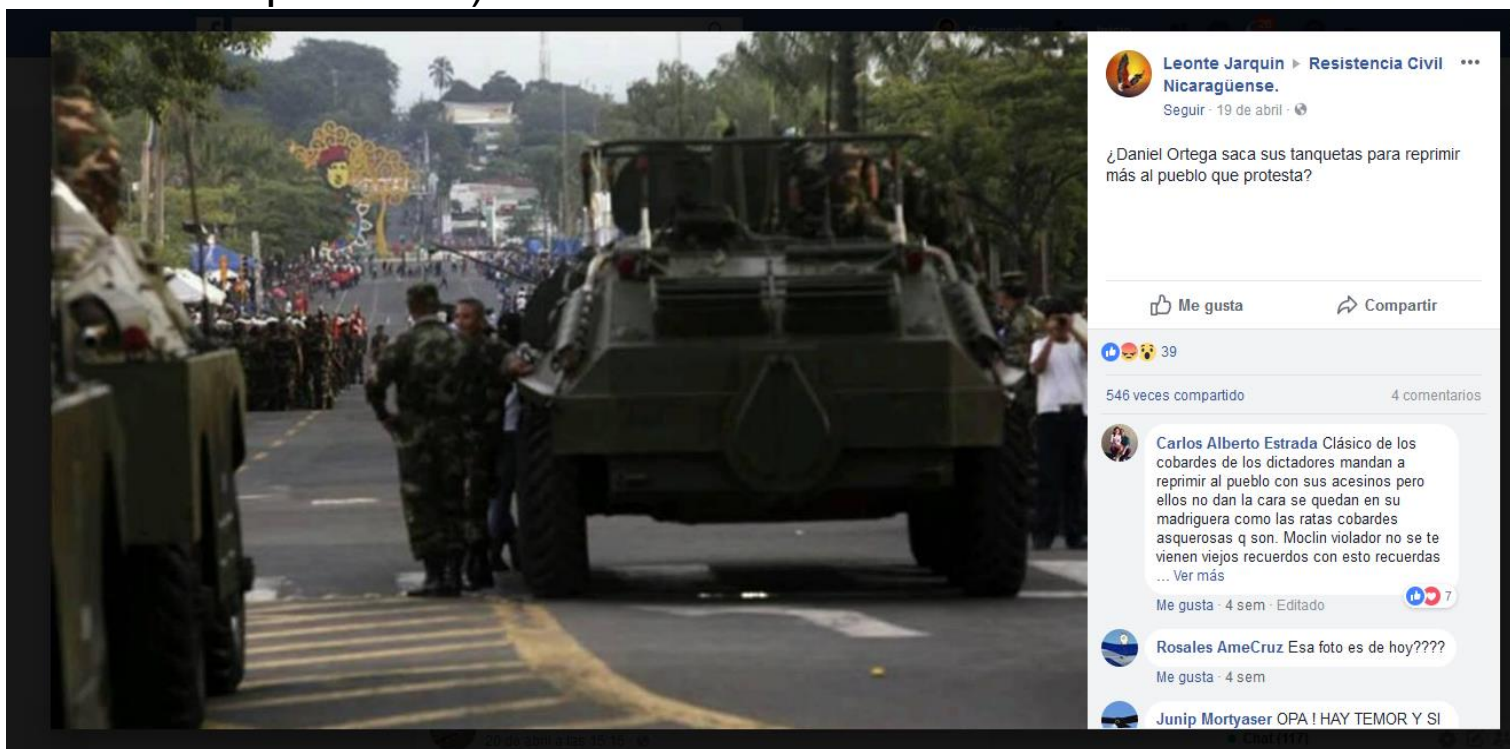




# Media Activities



- The Army: Our population has a deep-rooted culture of peace, implying the non-use of Nicaraguan Army troops in the repression of serious disturbances to public order (fake news of the displacement of tanks and troops in the streets of the cities was published).





# Media Activities

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- Indigenous Communities: Our people are multiethnic and have a great respect for indigenous communities and their autonomy (information about police actions in indigenous communities of Monimbó in Masaya and Sutiava in León was misrepresented, provoking a violent reaction from these communities and the population in general).



Una patrulla de la Policía de León, fue incendiada la noche de este viernes, durante los enfrentamientos en León. LA PRENSA/E.LOPEZ

Psychological manipulation of the population and public employees, particularly police officers: News about the alleged desertion of police officers and about the imprisonment of Police Chiefs for refusing to "repress" protests was published.



## Abusos Policiales Nicaragua

7 de may. a las 7:00am •

Mi Respeto para ellos !! 🎩

De la policía del Sauce deben de salir el futuro jefe de la policía Nacional y demás delegaciones Departamentales, aqui si hay valores y principios que un policía debe de tener y que un país democrático necesita.

Ellos se negaron reprimir al pueblo.



## Policías retenidos por negarse a reprimir a manifestantes

Unos cincuenta oficiales estarían detenidos en la unidad Ajax Delgado por rechazar órdenes de salir a reprimir a los manifestantes

Elizabeth Romero

21/04/2018



El Gobierno ha utilizado a los policías para reprimir las protestas de los últimos días en contra de las reformas al Seguro Social. LA PRENSA/ ARCHIVO

Una comisionada mayor de la Policía Nacional, designada al área de patrullas en Managua, supuestamente está detenida en el complejo Ajax Delgado por negarse a acatar las órdenes de salir a las calles a reprimir a los jóvenes universitarios en las protestas de los últimos días contra las reformas a la seguridad social.



# Media Activities

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- - Instigation through social networks and some media to assault police officers and attack their homes (mainly in Residenciales Belén, Praderas de Sandino, Bethel, San Miguel and others).



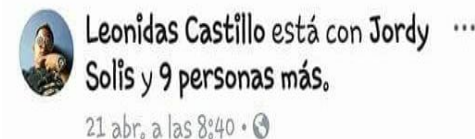
Mañana comemos policía asada  
Muerte a esos perros orteguistas  
Mañana derrocamos a la dictadura  
Matemos ala juventud orteguista  
Dejemos sus cuerpos en. Las plazas

10 11 comentarios • 3 veces compartido

Me gusta Compartir



PEDIMOS GOLPE DE ESTADO  
EL EJERCITO QUE NOS AYUDE  
PONGAMOS ESO DE ESTADO  
QUE EL EJERCITO NOS APOYA  
MAÑANA DEROCARREMOS. LA DICTADURA  
Patria Libre o la Muerte



HOY ESTAREMOS TOMANDO LAS CASAS DE LOS  
ANTIMOTINES.  
TENEMOS SUS DIRECCIONES  
MATAREMOS A SUS HIJOS Y VIOLAREMOS A  
SUS HIJAS  
QUE SIENTAN LO QUE EL PUEBLO SIENTE  
FUEGO CONTRA FUEGO  
TODO AQUEL QUE PORTE CAMISETA DE. LA JS  
O A FINES AL GOBIERNO TAMBIEN LE  
DISPARAREMOS.  
HOY CAE LA DICTADURA

20 8 comentarios • 5 veces compartido

Me gusta Compartir

The installation of the so-called roadblocks, which became true centers of organized crime, from where criminal groups were deployed with firearms of all types and caliber, mortar launchers, bombs or Molotov cocktails, to murder, injure, kidnap, torture, assault, extort our population, burning and destroying public and private buildings, homes and commercial establishments.

More than 1,171 roadblocks were counted at national level, hitting normal working people, merchants, small and medium businessmen, our simple and humble people, promoting hatred, violating the right to free circulation of persons and vehicles of collective transportation of passengers and cargo, both national and foreign, violating in the same way the right to work, to health and education.





# Attacks against the National Police

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Our police forces, by decision of Commander Daniel Ortega, President of the Republic and Supreme Chief of the National Police, at the request of the Dialogue Table, were reconcentrated in our police stations, we were attacked with firearms by criminals who ruthlessly attacked our police delegations in different parts of the country; The siege and criminal attack in Masaya for 90 days, Jinotepe for 38 days, Matagalpa for 38 days, Sébaco for 30 days, Nagarote for 14 days, La Trinidad for 12 days and Diriamba for 5 days.

The concentration of members of the National Police in their units allowed criminals to operate freely, resulting in an increase in criminal activity.



# Attacks against the National Police



On July 12, a group of terrorists who cowardly attacked with firearms the Police Delegation of the municipality of Morrito, Río San Juan, murdering four members of the National Police, who were protecting the peace, security and tranquility of Nicaraguan families, being Commissioner Major Luis Emilio Bustos López, Lieutenant Marlon José Requene López, Lieutenant Lenin Ernesto Olivas Alaniz and Inspector Faustino Téllez Vargas.

In general, the National Police were the victim of attacks by terrorist coup groups, who called themselves "peaceful and civic demonstrators". Our members and facilities suffered armed attacks, sieges, harassment and kidnappings, 22 policemen were murdered, among them 2 female colleagues, 359 policemen were wounded by firearms, among them 59 female colleagues, 66 were kidnapped, threatened and harassed; nine police units and 51 means of transportation were totally destroyed, and 39 units and 136 means of transportation were partially damaged.



# National police

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22 police officers killed, 359 wounded by firearms, 66 police kidnapped and tortured.

¡HONOR Y GLORIA!





**Weapons:** The use of firearms by civilians, including restricted-use weapons such as M-16, AR-15 and AK rifles, as well as handmade firearms that propel live bullets, was detected during protests and public disturbances.





# The government's response



The Government always maintained its willingness to achieve a peaceful solution of the situation, to dialogue and understanding in order to reestablish peace, security and stability of the Nicaraguan nation and to this end created the necessary conditions:

- Repealed the Decree of Reforms to the INSS.
- Summoned the National Dialogue and invited the Episcopal Conference as Mediator and Witness.
- Created the Truth, Justice and Peace Commission.
- Invited the IACHR to observe the Human Rights situation regarding the events that occurred since April 18.
- With responsibility, prudence and moderation made use of the police forces to restore peace, the security of Nicaraguan families and the stability of the nation, guaranteeing the life and physical integrity of persons and their property, as well as the constitutional right to free movement throughout the national territory.



## The role of the Police during the failed coup attempt



### **THE NATIONAL POLICE WAS THE TARGET OF ATTACKS DURING THE FAILED COUP, OUR POSITION WAS:**

By instruction from our Presidential Headquarters, we remained concentrated in the Police Stations,

We were attacked with firearms by criminals who ruthlessly attacked police stations in different parts of the country, in spite of this we did not allow ourselves to be provoked.

We protected the physical integrity of the police officers and their families. When we mobilized we did it in civilian clothes, we did not carry any document or clothing that identified us as members of the Police Institution.

We reestablished public order, we dismantled the 1,171 roadblocks nationwide to guarantee the free movement of people and normal social activities of the citizens.

Through press releases, we kept our population informed of police actions, thus avoiding the propagation of more false news.



# ROL DE LA POLICÍA EN EL FALLIDO GOLPE DE ESTADO

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- Con la orden estratégica de quitar los tranques, se articularon las fuerzas policiales, con la comunidad organizada, las instituciones del estado y las fuerzas vivas del sandinismo, que no estaban de acuerdo con los delitos y violaciones que se cometían.
- El apoyo de la Comunidad Organizada, y la Policía Voluntaria fue vital para garantizar el restablecimiento del orden constitucional del país.
- El sistema organizativo y de coordinación con la comunidad y nuestro modelo policial permitieron aclarar y demostrar que las noticias falsas no tuvieron el eco que los golpistas pretendían.
- La realidad objetiva fue que la población se auto defendió de las agresiones, vejaciones, violaciones y robos, defendieron sus familias viviendas y negocios.
- FUE TAN DETERMINANTE NUESTRO SISTEMA COMUNITARIO, QUE LA POBLACIÓN COMENZO A LLAMARNOS CON MUCHA SIMPATIA Y RESPETO **“LOS AZULITOS MIS FAVORITOS”** APLAUDIENDO CON ALEGRIA AL RESTABLECIMIENTO DE LA PAZ Y SEGURIDAD.



The chain of command was exemplary



Unity and esprit de corps is vital for institutional strength.



Pride in being police officers, guarantors of public order and security



Acting in accordance with the law and constitutional order



Many thanks!