

327-20/ CIDH/SE/MPCT-MISC

July 10, 2020

**RE: Open Letter
Video documentary released on May 30, 2020
GIEI – Nicaragua**

Dear Mr. Kaufman and Ms. Richards:

On behalf of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), I acknowledge receipt of your Open Letter of July 8, 2020, in relation to a video documentary released on May 30, 2020 by the Argentinian Team of Forensic Anthropology and SITU Research of New York, in collaboration and at the request of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts on Nicaragua (GIEI-Nicaragua or the Group).

The IACHR carried out a visit to Nicaragua from May 17 to May 21, 2018, in order to conduct an on-site observation of the human rights situation resulting from the violent events that took place in Nicaragua beginning on April 18, 2018. The initial recommendations of the IACHR upon conclusion of its visit included the creation of an international mechanism to investigate the acts of violence that occurred, with guarantees of autonomy and independence to ensure the right to truth and to duly identify the persons responsible.

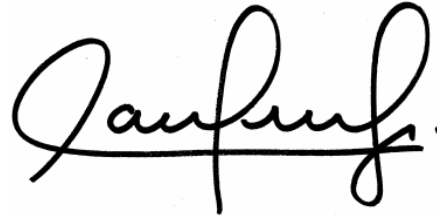
The IACHR and the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) obtained the consent of the State of Nicaragua to create such a mechanism in an agreement signed on May 30, 2018. On July 2, 2018, the GIEI-Nicaragua was established and assigned the following responsibilities, among others: technically analyze the lines of investigation and make recommendations for actions with respect to the different levels of legal responsibility; analyze whether all the lines of investigation are being correctly exhausted and whether the appropriate legal figures were being used to frame the possible illicit acts and their perpetrators; and, if necessary, recommend actions to be implemented to guarantee that these objectives are achieved. The Group had guarantees of autonomy and independence.

The independent experts were duly selected by the IACHR and appointed by the Secretary General of the OAS, all of them with high levels of technical ability and recognition in the protection of human rights. Their appointment was for a period of six months. On December 21, 2018, the GIEI-Nicaragua presented its findings in a report pursuant to its mandate.

Chuck Kaufman, Alliance for Global Justice, and
Louise Richards, Trade Union and Communications Co-ordinator,
Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group
chuck@afgj.org

I wish to inform you that the contents of your note will be transmitted to the former members of the GIEI-Nicaragua for their information and awareness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paulo Abrão", written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the text.

Paulo Abrão
Executive Secretary