June 24, 2018

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

President of the Republic of Nicaragua

c/o Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua

1627 New Hampshire Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20009

**Subject: End to the Violence**

Dear President Ortega,

I bring you warm wishes from the many supporters of the people of Nicaragua in the United States. We have been kept informed of the recent events in your country by our news media and also by the Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD).

On April 27th of this year the Board of Directors of CEPAD sent you a letter calling for dialogue, reflection and a search for peace. Instead of this happening we have seen significant pain and indignation. Almost two months later, the violence has increased with more than 150 people dead, hundreds wounded, an undetermined number of people detained and disappeared, damage to public and private property and hindrance of access to public roads which has left the population completely helpless.

We are in communications with our brothers and sisters in churches and Christian organizations in the US who are also very worried about the situation. We are unable to send groups to visit communities and churches in Nicaragua. There is no security for Nicaraguans or for foreigners. On May 30th two protests in Managua ended in attacks that left at least 15 people dead and an underdetermined number of people hurt, which violated the right to peaceful protest. In Masaya and in other cities many shops have been looted since all of this started.

Mr. President, you are responsible for governing the country. We are making an urgent call for you to do what is possible within the constitution to stop the violence, the deaths, the looting and to comply with the recommendations made by the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights to reestablish order and tranquility to the country.

Along with the members of CEPAD’s General Assembly, formed by 30 denominations and pastoral committees, we continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom and guide your country towards the establishment of amnesty and national reconciliation.

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Sincerely,