50th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update by the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Nicaragua

Oral statement

Mr. President,

Right Livelihood thanks the High Commissioner and shares her concerns over the human rights situation in Nicaragua, in particular, that affecting indigenous peoples and afro-descendants in the Caribbean Coast.

Since 2020, violence and land-grabbing have drastically increased. Indigenous communities are suffering a humanitarian crisis due to the forced displacement. Those who remain in their territories are subject to constant attacks by illegal settlers. Just last month, a Misikito leader and his son were killed in the Twiwaupasa territory.

The repeated calls from this Council have been ignored by the Nicaraguan government, which instead continues to promote the cohabitation between terceros and indigenous peoples, in breach of Law 445, thus facilitating conflict and violence.

While perpetrators enjoy impunity, activists pay a high price for their human rights work, often facing judicial prosecution and imprisonment. Since January a total of 199 civil society groups, including indigenous organisations, were liquidated by the government.

Mr President,

The indigenous communities in the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua are facing a risk of ethnocide. We reiterate our call on the Council to ensure that the Nicaraguan government guarantees indigenous peoples’ rights in accordance with its national and international obligations.

The Council’s decision to establish the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua was an important first step. While wishing them all the success in fulfilling their mandate, we also urge them to ensure that particular attention is given to the abuses faced by indigenous communities, and that accountability be provided.

Thank you.