

PUBLIC

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1 February 2001

Further information on UA 380/00 (AMR 43/03/00, 15 December 2000) - Fear for Safety

NICARAGUA Dorothy Virginia Granada (f), aged 70

Following a recent court decision, Dorothy Virginia Granada remains in hiding in fear that she will be arrested and deported without legal authority. Amnesty International is concerned for her safety.

In a ruling on 26 January, the Court of Appeals in Managua called on the authorities to respect the freedom and security of Dorothy Virginia Granada, the 70-year-old nurse who has been harassed and intimidated by police and immigration officers. However, the court did not remove her deportation order, or move to protect her right to due process.

A US citizen, Dorothy Virginia Granada has lived in Nicaragua for more than ten years. On 7 December 2000, the Minister of the Interior revoked her residence permit, giving her 24 hours to leave the country. The next day heavily armed riot police and immigration officers came to her home to arrest her, but she had already gone into hiding. She had been working as a nurse in the *Cooperativa Maria Luisa Ortiz*, María Luisa Ortiz Cooperative, in Mulukuku, North Atlantic Autonomous Region. In November, the authorities had accused the centre of practising without a license, carrying out illegal abortions, helping paramilitaries and influencing patients towards the main opposition party, the Sandinistas. They have since closed down the centre, leaving the local population without access to crucial health care. A group of women who suffer from cancer are especially affected by the closure of the centre.

On 13 December, an appeal court judge reviewing Dorothy Virginia Granada's case had annulled the decision to remove her residency, arguing that it violated her right to due process. On 15 January the Minister of Interior appealed against the decision and issued another resolution revoking her residency. This appears to remain in force following the latest ruling, raising fears that she may be deported at any time.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- urging the Nicaraguan authorities to guarantee the safety of Dorothy Granada, and to ensure that she is not harassed or intimidated by police or immigration officers;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that she is not deported without a fair and lawful process, allowing her the opportunity to exhaust all legal avenues of appeal.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic of Nicaragua
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Presidente de la República de Nicaragua
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Fax: + 505 2 287 911
E-mail: presidente@presidencia.gob.ni
Salutation: Sr. Presidente/ Dear Mr President

Minister of the Interior

Ingeniero José Bosco Marenco Cardenal
Ministerio de Gobernación
Del Redentor 1c y 1/2 abajo
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Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

Human Rights Procurator

Dr Benjamín Pérez Fonseca
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos
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COPIES TO:

Nicaraguan Centre for Human Rights

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and to diplomatic representatives of Nicaragua accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 March 2001.