

Update on the situation of Ana Margarita Vijil

Thank you very much to all of you, relatives of political prisoners, journalists, press agencies, national and international human rights organizations, social and political organizations, friends for your support in an outpouring of affection and solidarity for which we are grateful from the bottom of our hearts.

Committed to the transparency and adherence to the truth that has always characterized our family, we would like to inform you of the following:

Today, Sunday, January 2, 2022, from 12 to 2:00PM, I was able to visit Ana Margarita and talk with her. I have just left the Judicial Assistance Office and with great relief and joy I inform you that according to what she told us, the aggression denounced on December 30 did not take place. However, she was interrogated and filmed without explaining the facts, showing her photos of the press conference. This caused a great shock for her, since the last information she had about my state of health was 45 days ago, when I was in a serious condition, intubated and on a ventilator. For all this, she considers that this information was apparently aimed at generating anguish and uncertainty to the family. Ana Margarita is still confined in isolation, incommunicado, interrogated daily and has lost even more weight.

We wish to emphasize that having received such serious information, we privately resorted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) so that this body, using its powers, could request information from the State regarding the complaint. Given the lack of response from the State, the only viable option was to make a public complaint requesting answers, considering that:

- We live in a context of deprivation of liberty and criminalization that has been characterized by its arbitrariness, by presenting evidence of mistreatment and even the death of incarcerated persons, such as the case of Eddy Montes, and by the lack of reasonable information on the health and integrity of the persons incarcerated.
- Faced with the lack of response, rejection, or non-admission for processing by the Judiciary, Public Prosecutor's Office, Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, and National Police, to dozens of writs and petitions related to respect for due process.

Faced with the regime of isolation and incommunicado detention in which the State has kept Ana Margarita for more than six months.

- Faced with 45 days of not having heard anything at all from her, nor from any of the people arbitrarily and illegally detained in the Judicial Assistance Directorate, and the lack of a schedule of visits from family members and lawyers.

It is all this background that prompted us to make public the questions raised in our initial complaint, in an attempt to learn the truth.

Public denunciation is a right that, in a context such as Nicaragua's, we must continue to protect. Neither family members, nor national and international human rights organizations, nor journalists, nor citizens, can remain silent.

We thank God that the information, which we do not know with what intentions it was transmitted to us, has not occurred and we hope that it will never be given against any of the persons deprived of liberty in any of the prisons and police units throughout the country, that is why we maintain our demands:

1. The immediate and unconditional release of the more than 160 political prisoners in Nicaragua, which is the only way to eliminate the grave violation of human rights that constitutes their arbitrary detention and the different forms of torture to which they are being subjected.
2. That the isolation of my daughter Ana Margarita, my granddaughter Tamara Dávila, Suyén Barahona, Dora María Téllez and all the people who are isolated in the other prisons cease immediately.
3. That the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) be able to make an exhaustive assessment of the physical and emotional state of all political prisoners.
4. That all the demands made by family members be heard and answered.

We call on national and international organizations, especially the OHCHR and IACHR, the Cénidh and Amnesty International and other organizations and social sectors that have accompanied us, to remain vigilant and on demand to prevent this situation from deepening the repression against political prisoners and their families.

These last few days have been an ordeal for our family. The possibility that this information was true caused great anguish to us and to all the good people in our country. I ask you to keep us in your prayers, to keep us in hope and to keep us in unity.

Ana Margarita asked us to thank you, she told us that she feels the solidarity of so many people, of all of you. That your love, your affection, your prayers, your solidarity goes beyond the bars and gives her a lot of energy and optimism. She asks you to join hands tightly and give them a kiss, that at that moment you will be with her, with dignity and unity.

Freedom for all political prisoners in Nicaragua!