



PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE **ALIANZA PROGRESISTA**
DE LAS AMÉRICAS
OF THE AMERICAS

**Recognition of Suyen Barahona
President of the Unión Democrática Renovadora Party - UNAMOS (Nicaragua)**

The people of Nicaragua are currently experiencing an unprecedented political and humanitarian crisis.

Following the fraudulent elections of November 2021, the Ortega and Murillo dictatorship has extended indiscriminate persecution towards any expression of opposition, including political and civil society leaders, human rights defenders, independent journalists and writers, as well as priests of the Catholic Church.

The escalation of repression has been expressed in the mass exile of thousands of people, the suppression of any trace of public freedoms and the kidnapping of a large number of opposition leaders, including former presidential pre-candidates as well as leaders of various national political forces and, in particular, of our sister party Unamos, among them its President, Suyen Barahona. She has been imprisoned since June 2021, along with six other national leaders and several members of Unamos. The total number of political prisoners in Nicaragua is more than 190.

For years the socialist, social democratic and progressive family at a global level, together with various actors in the international community, have been demanding an end to the repression in Nicaragua, and supporting the demands of the democratic political forces for free, transparent and inclusive elections. However, the regime has ignored these demands and has escalated its anti-democratic bet.

We are convinced that the people of Nicaragua have the right to democracy, justice and peace; and we must reaffirm our commitment to achieve this, raising our voices for freedom and democracy in the country.

Aims:

1. **To perform an act of recognition (in absentia) of Suyen Barahona**, President of the Unión Democrática Renovadora Party of Nicaragua, who is detained in the prison of "El Chipote" facing a sentence of 8 years in prison, for allegedly "undermining independence, sovereignty and self-determination" in a clear action of proscription and political persecution. **Through her to the political prisoners of Unamos.**
2. **To give international visibility to the Nicaraguan reality** and the intensification of repression by the Nicaraguan regime against opposition leaders, human rights defenders, independent media and sectors of the Catholic Church.



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Venue:

It is proposed to present the award during the **Congress of the Party of European Socialists (PES) to be held on 14 and 15 October in Berlin**, Germany, with the presence of a representative of the Democratic Union Party of Nicaragua.

Signed by:

Esteban Paulón, Regional Coordinator of the Progressive Alliance of the Americas

Political organisations:

Argentina, Partido Socialista - **Brazil**, Partido Socialista - **Chile**, Partido por la Democracia - **Costa Rica**, Partido de Acción Ciudadana - **Dominican Republic**, Partido Revolucionario Moderno - **Mexico**, Partido de la Revolución Democrática; Movimiento Ciudadano - **Nicaragua**: UNAMOS - **Venezuela**, MAS



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Suyen Barahona was born on June 9, 1977. He is 45 years old.

She is president of the UNAMOS party, elected at the VIII National Convention of the party. She is also a member of the Progressive Alliance Directorate, elected in November 2019.

Suyen has distinguished herself as a feminist activist, environmentalist and human rights defender. She has a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a master's degree in Environmental Policy. She is a political prisoner of the Ortega - Murillo dictatorship since June 2021. There are more than 190 political prisoners in Nicaragua, including six national directors of UNAMOS. Hugo Torres, vice-president of UNAMOS, died as a political prisoner in February 2021.

On June 13, 2021, during a wave of brutal government repression, police raided her home without a warrant, in the presence of her then 4-year-old son, and she was arbitrarily detained and her whereabouts were unknown for 80 days. During the farcical judicial process against her, she was only able to have contact with her lawyer on three occasions - never in private. Today she has been isolated in solitary confinement for more than 443 days. She has not been allowed contact of any kind with her young son; she has been deprived of her right to hear his voice or see a photo and has only received 10 family visits. During his captivity the light in his cell remains on 24 hours a day, but he is not allowed a book to read or a pencil or paper to write with. He has access to the courtyard, to sunlight for a few minutes daily - a few weeks ago it was every 10 days. There he also remains in solitary confinement and without communication.

Suyen has wanted to serve Nicaragua since she was young. She has worked as an educator promoting citizen participation and as an environmental advocate in the areas of water, disaster prevention and poverty reduction. She has always been committed to women's rights and to raising the educational level of young people in order to open up new opportunities.

In 2006 Suyen joined the political organization UNAMOS (formerly MRS,) because she wanted to achieve political change through civic means so that "no other generation will have to live in dictatorship." In 2017, after a decade of commitment, which included her participation in the Women's Network, she was elected president of that organization. That same year she became a mother, which strengthened her commitment for a Beautiful Nicaragua: "I want my child to be able to live in joy and freedom... I want it for every Nicaraguan boy and girl," she expressed.

Suyen is a person of contagious laughter, loves the waves of the sea, baking cakes, dancing and family gatherings savoring the dishes made by her siblings. Those who know her describe her as a bridge builder, supportive, humble, capable of seeing the humanity in others. In the solitude of her cell she meditates, she is sustained by her faith, by her love for her 5-year-old son and her family, and by the certainty of her innocence. After more than a year of arbitrary and unjust imprisonment, after more than 260 interrogations, after the incommunicado detention to which she has been subjected, she is still full of hope and continues to harbor dreams of justice and freedom.

On August 31, after 14 months, she was publicly presented. Her physical deterioration is evident, however, Suyen continues to resist every violation of her human rights with courage, integrity and dignity.