

Transcript of the video statement delivered to Progressive Alliance by Suyen Barahona, President of Unamos, a week after her release following 605 days in prison.

Sisters and brothers of the Progressive Alliance. I am communicating through this video with great emotion, to thank you for each effort that you, as sister parties, have made to denounce the situation in Nicaragua and to achieve the freedom of all political prisoners. And in my case in particular, after 605 days I have finally been able to hug and kiss my six year old son.

The release of the 222 political prisoners has been possible thanks to the voices and efforts of each one of you, to the struggle waged tirelessly by the people of Nicaragua and the support of the international community. I have known about the prize that was awarded to me from prison, and I have received it with great emotion and this prize has honoured me, but it is a prize shared with each and every one of the political prisoners in Nicaragua, with the people of Nicaragua. And in a special way, I dedicate it to my comrade, to my friend Hugo Torres, who dedicated his whole life to Nicaragua and to the fight for freedom and social justice in Nicaragua.

Hugo is for us and for me, for my party, the example of dignity, courage and commitment, which we will always follow and which will always be in our hearts and we will never forget. There are still more than 35 political prisoners in Nicaragua. As you know, the 222 people who have been released have been illegally banished from our country and illegitimately tried to deprive us of our nationality. Likewise, 94 other persons have been charged with treason. They are also being deprived of their nationality, and have also been subjected to seizure of their property.

We continue to ask you to continue to accompany the people of Nicaragua in our efforts, our commitment and our struggle, so that there may be freedom and justice in the country once and for all. Once again, my friends, thank you very much. Thank you very much for everything you have done.