

Brussels, **02 AVR. 2019**
A(2019) 847293-1035302

Ms Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
Brussels

Dear Ana,

Thank you for your email which paints a disturbing picture of the violence against political prisoners in "La Esperanza" detention centre in Managua. Our EU Delegation in Managua, which keeps in regular contact with the detainees' representatives and their families, has a similar analysis of the situation. Our Head of Delegation was at La Esperanza on that same day delivering the books promised during the EP visit and has met the detainees on three occasions during the month of January. In addition, our Delegation reached out to the authorities (Vice Minister of Government, Foreign Affairs Ministry, staff of the detention centres) to reiterate that human rights and due process must be respected, notably inside the penitentiary system, in particular with regard to access to health services.

On a more general note, on 1 March, my spokesperson issued a statement which, while noting some positive steps towards the reopening of a dialogue with the opposition and the change in detention conditions for 100 of the political prisoners, reiterated on our request that all unlawfully detained prisoners be released and due process is respected for all (see link https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/58974/statement-spokesperson-resumption-national-dialogue-nicaragua_en).

We also note that the authorities signed an agreement with the Red Cross regarding the health situation of the inmates.

Please rest assured that the EU Delegation and the member states present will continue to closely monitor the situation of detainees in Nicaragua and entertain close and regular contacts with the opposition and human rights defenders in the country and in the region in particular. As you well know, the critical position of the EU on the situation in Nicaragua has been clearly expressed in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions adopted in January.

I would finally like to salute the excellent cooperation in Nicaragua with the EP and in particular with the group of MEPs who travelled to the country a few weeks ago in which you also participated.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini