



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

The Evolving Human Rights Crisis in Nicaragua

Panel I



Maria Claudia Pulido has been the Assistant Executive Secretary for the Monitoring, Promotion and Technical Cooperation at the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) since September 1st, 2017. A Colombian attorney, she is responsible for the direction and supervision of situation-monitoring mechanisms on human rights, especially in the production of thematic and country reports, promotion activities, technical training and cooperation; and on the monitoring of the recommendations set by the IACHR to the OAS Member States. She has worked for the IACHR since 2001.

Previously she worked as an attorney at the Center for Justice and International Law, and prior to that, in Colombia, she coordinated the National Unit for Human Rights Monitoring at the National Inspector-General's Office.



Guillermo Fernandez Maldonado has been the Deputy Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Colombia since 2014. Between July and August 2018, he was the Senior Human Rights Officer and Coordinator of the mission team deployed by the OHCHR Regional Office for Central America to Nicaragua. With OHCHR, he has also served as Acting OHCHR Regional Representative for South America and as OHCHR Senior Human Rights

Adviser for the United Nations Resident Coordinator/UN country team in Ecuador (2007-2014). With the United Nations, he has also served in a number of other positions including as Head of the Justice and Human Rights unit in the United Nations Mission for Guatemala MINUGUA (1994 – 2003). Mr Fernández-Maldonado worked in the Truth Commission for El Salvador and as Legal Adviser and as Chief of the Central Verification Unit of the Human Rights Division of the UN Mission to El Salvador ONUSAL (1993-1995).

Panel II



George Henriquez is a member of the Creole community of the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua with years of experience in community development work and support for the rights of indigenous and afro-descendant peoples. He has advocated for autonomy for the Caribbean coast and opposed Law 840 which gave the Chinese investor group HKND large concessions to build the Trans-Oceanic Canal. He is one of the founders of the Self-Convended Coastal Movement (*Movimiento Costeño Autoconvocado*) created in the context of the recent protests.



Julio Martinez Ellsberg lives in Nicaragua and is a member of the Platform for Social Movements and Civil Society Organizations (*Articulación de Movimientos Sociales y OSC*) as well as an advisor to one of the main student movements in the National Dialogue (*Coordinadora Universitaria por la Democracia y la Justicia*). Both organizations have been working since April 18th to bring an end to the politically motivated murders and detentions in Nicaragua, ensure that there is justice for the repression that has occurred, and return the country to a democratic path.