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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on report of Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua

6 March 2023

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Group of Human Rights experts for the presentation of this first report.

Ireland remains gravely concerned by the situation in Nicaragua, and condemns the continued human rights violations; crackdowns on opposition voices, civil society, human rights defenders and independent media; and the severe backsliding on democratic norms.

Ireland also deeply regrets Nicaragua's continued lack of cooperation with regional and international human rights mechanisms and calls on the authorities to re-engage with this Council.

While Ireland welcomed the recent release of 222 political prisoners from Nicaragua, we note that they should never have been detained. Ireland condemns the decision to strip them of their Nicaraguan citizenship, an act inconsistent with Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call on the authorities to reverse these arbitrary steps, to engage in dialogue, and to take further actions to the benefit of the Nicaraguan people.

Ireland will continue working to support the people of Nicaragua in order to support a return to democratic norms and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

Mr. Simon,

The decision by the Nicaraguan authorities to deprive political opponents of their citizenship, and civil and political rights, is gravely concerning. Could you outline the consequences of this decision for the human rights situation in Nicaragua?

Thank you.