



December 3, 2018

President Daniel Ortega Saavedra  
Presidencia de la República  
Frente a Palacio Nacional  
4 Calle Noroeste  
Managua, Nicaragua 11001

Dear President Ortega,

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is writing to express our deep concern about reports of interference that have impeded the ability of physicians and other medical personnel to provide care to those wounded in recent demonstrations in Nicaragua. ACP is the largest medical specialty organization in the United States with members in more than 145 countries worldwide. ACP membership includes 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have issued reports that demonstrate how actions by State security forces and para-statal groups have hindered the work of medical personnel. Physicians report being ordered to deny services to protesters, and those who have refused the order have been subject to firings and death threats. Physicians and paramedics who have tended to the wounded in the streets also recount being subject to attack and even arrest.

Physicians and other medical personnel are duty bound at all times to care for the sick and injured without regard to ethnic, political, or other affiliation, even in situations of conflict or social unrest. This is a long and firmly held ethical conviction of all physicians around the world and across time. States should protect physicians' ability to provide impartial health care to all, and indeed, States have long respected this ethical duty of medical professionals.

We, therefore, respectfully call on the government of Nicaragua to respect and protect the ethical duty of physicians and other medical personnel to provide safe and appropriate medical care to whoever has need of it, without regard to political circumstances.

Sincerely,

Ana María López, MD, MPH, MACP  
President

Nestor Sosa, MD, FACP  
Governor, Central America Chapter