

[Ensure independent investigations into Nicaragua protest deaths – UN rights office](#)

The United Nations human rights arm has called for investigations into all acts of violence in Nicaragua, where scores of people – the majority of them students – have been killed in protests that began in mid-April.

The [Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR), has officially requested Nicaraguan authorities to grant it access to the country so that it can gather first-hand information about what happened during the protests, spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said on Friday.

“With demonstrations continuing, including a march that passed off in Managua on Wednesday, [we once again call for an investigation into all acts of violence](#) and credible and inclusive national dialogue,” she added.

The OHCHR spokesperson also said that the country’s truth commission – established by the Nicaraguan National Assembly to investigate the deaths and allegations of rights violations during the protests – must be independent and able to conduct its work in a transparent and impartial manner.

According to reports, at least 47 people, including two police officers and a journalist have been killed in protests, which began as a reaction to social security reforms but widened to include calls for investigations into, and accountability for, the killings; as well as for justice and democracy.

In addition to poverty and discrimination, the administration of justice, including juvenile justice, child labour and trafficking remain [major human rights concerns](#) in Nicaragua.

Indigenous communities and Afro-descendants are among those most affected by poverty, and public services where they live, are run down – including health and educational facilities – in comparison with other areas of the country.