<u>Press Releases: Call for Calm in Nicaragua</u>

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The United States government regrets the loss of life and injuries suffered in Nicaragua during protests by its citizens. We condemn the violence and the excessive force used by police and others against civilians who are exercising their constitutional right to freedom of expression and assembly.

The United States calls for a broad□-based dialogue involving all sectors o□f society to resolve the current conflict, restore respect for human rights, and achieve a better, more democratic future for all Nicaraguans.

We also call on the Nicaraguan government to allow journalists to operate freely and restore all television coverage to the air. Additionally, we urge the government to allow an independent investigation and to prosecute those responsible for the deaths.

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