



Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition Newsletter

April 11, 2023

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**Nicaragua
Solidarity
Coalition**

ALFRED DE ZAYAS

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The UN Human Rights Council has a sacred obligation to the Nicaraguan people and the world to be rigorously objective, avoid politicization and hyperbole. [The report] should be withdrawn.

Sign Protest Statement Here: | nicasolidarity.net

1. [Webinar Sunday April 23, 2023: U. Maryland Students Study Agroecology in Nicaragua](#)

Register: bit.ly/NicaApril23



Friends of the ATC Nicaragua Solidarity network with the Rural Workers Association of Nicaragua. ATC, 45 years of defending worker and peasant rights in the countryside.

From [45th Anniversary of the Anniversary of the ATC \(Rural Workers Association\)](#).

“This Food Sovereignty policy has favored farmers who have less than four hectares, freeing them from tax burdens and facilitating resource plans, training and market containment to usury. In this way, the popular economy is oxygenated, primary and basic education is expanded, the coverage of electricity and drinking water, highways and rural roads, land ownership and health programs for children, pregnant women, adults in general and the disabled. All under the method of Popular Education and Peaceful Coexistence.

In these 45 years of organization of ATC and the Revolution, the ills of illiteracy have been left behind, extreme poverty and poverty have been reduced, the right to land and agroecology has been vindicated, peasant production has been dignified and community solutions of rootedness and permanence in the places of origin have been achieved.”

The Food Sovereignty Approach in Nicaragua

The peasant movement in Nicaragua The Asociación de Trabajadores del Campo (Rural Workers Association or ATC) was founded during the war to overthrow the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship, one year before the 1979 victory of the Sandinista People’s Revolution. It brought together peasants, both small farmers wanting to procure their own land as well as farm workers organizing for union rights. The ATC has continued to represent these groups of workers throughout its history and was one of the national organizations that founded La Vía Campesina in 1993.

Food Sovereignty since 2007 In the current stage of Sandinista governance that started in 2007, the strategy to increase food sovereignty by providing land has continued. Almost 140,000 land titles (some from land distributed during the 1980s land reform) were issued to small producers from 2007 to 2019. Women have particularly benefited from receiving proper titles to their land (55 percent) and 304 indigenous and Afro-descendant communities on the Caribbean coast have received collective titles. The titled area amounts to 37,842 Km², or 31.16 percent of the national territory.

The signature initiative is the Hambre Cero (Zero Hunger) program which began in 2007 and provides pigs, cows, chickens, plants, seeds, and building materials to women in rural areas to

diversify their production, improve the family diet, and strengthen women-led household economies. By 2016, the program had benefited 150,000 families or 1 million people, increasing both their food security and the nation's food sovereignty.

In its 2019-2023 Strategic Plan for Nicaragua, the United Nations World Food Program said that "In the last decade... Nicaragua is one of the countries that has reduced hunger the most in the region," while the government reports that chronic child malnutrition dropped from 21.7 percent in 2006 to 11.1 percent in 2019 for children under 5 years of age. Nicaragua was also one of the first countries to achieve Millennium Development Goal Number 1 of cutting undernutrition in half from 2.3 million in 1990-1992 to 1 million in 2014-2016, placing it among the countries of the region that had reduced hunger the most in the previous 25 years. Vitamin A deficiency among children under 5 was also eliminated.

Food sovereignty and the pandemic in Nicaragua

Ninety percent of the food consumed in Nicaragua is produced within the national borders, 80 percent of it by peasants. This includes all of the beans, corn, fruits, vegetables, honey, and dairy products, while there is sufficient surplus of beans and dairy to export. Nicaragua's food self-sufficiency is growing precisely while other developing countries are increasingly becoming agro-exporters of a few crops (e.g. pineapples or bananas) while ever more dependent on imports to feed their populations. Rice is the only component of the basic diet that is not completely homegrown, but domestic rice production has increased from meeting 45 percent of the country's demand in 2007 to 75 percent of demand today. The government is working with producers to bring it up to 100 percent within 5 years. Nicaragua is indeed very close to achieving food sovereignty, the true anti-hunger model, which bodes well for times of crisis such as now with the economic impacts of the pandemic and the interruption of food distribution supply chains in other countries.

2. Video: Nicaragua at UN Emergency Session on Ukraine Nicaragua defends the territorial integrity of countries, condemns US/NATO provocations going back to 2014 coup, condemns all sanctions.

3.. Upcoming Delegations to Nicaragua

The best way to understand the political situation in Nicaragua – and to enjoy the warmth of the people and the beauty of the country – is to join one of these delegations:

April 27-May 6 Nicaragua delegation by Friends of the ATC The delegation will visit and work with members of the Rural Workers' Association (ATC), the organization that represents the people who grow the country's food, a founding member of the international movement for food sovereignty, La Via Campesina.

May 13-22 Health and Hope delegation Casa Ben Linder Learn about the family and community based health system, visit state-of-the-art hospitals and talk with policy-makers,

accompany community health workers on home visits to see how integral care is provided at the grassroots level.

June 19-26 delegation: Voltage and Volcano Brigade Casa Ben Linder Visit a geothermal plant, solar installation, biogas, and electrical grid and recharging station projects. Peer into the second-most dangerous volcano in the world. Zip line among the trees of a dormant giant

June 17-27 Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast Delegation with Friends of the ATC will visit afro-descendant and indigenous communities that are important groups in the Caribbean Coast autonomy process and Nicaraguan culture, and witness examples of concrete gains in quality of life in education, healthcare and women's rights.

Internship with Friends of the ATC, July 3 – July 29 “Agroecology & Revolution”

4. Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition: nicasolidarity.net

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