

Her Excellency Guisell Morales-Echaverry
Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua
Suite 31 Vicarage House
58-60 Kensington Church Street
London
W8 4DB

24 July 2018

Your Excellency

I am writing on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our grave concern about recent reports, substantiated by Amnesty International and the World Medical Association, that Nicaraguan security forces have prevented injured demonstrators from accessing essential medical services following recent periods of civil unrest.

We understand that, on 20 April, at least three public hospitals refused to treat people who were gravely injured during demonstrations, including 15-year-old Álvaro Conrado, who was shot while handing out water to protesters. Security guards allegedly denied Álvaro access to the Cruz Azul public hospital and he died later that day at the private Bautista hospital. Staff there told Amnesty International that he could have survived if he had been treated sooner.

The rights of the injured and wounded to appropriate medical treatment are set out in a range of binding international laws, treaties and declarations. Similarly, medical staff are under a binding obligation to provide necessary and impartial medical treatment to the injured and wounded irrespective of their political or other affiliation.

The actions of the Nicaraguan security forces in denying medical treatment to the seriously injured are a gross violation of international law and medical ethics.

We are writing both to strongly condemn these violations and to ask you to call on the Nicaraguan authorities to guarantee the rights of all injured protesters to prompt and appropriate health treatment irrespective of their political affiliations.

Yours sincerely



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chisholm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr John Chisholm CBE
Medical Ethics Committee Chair