

Her Excellency Guisell Morales-Echaverry
Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua
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Your Excellency

I am writing on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our grave concern about recent reports, substantiated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, and the World Medical Association, that physicians in Nicaragua have been dismissed and in some cases criminalised for providing medical care to persons involved in protest activities. We understand that there have also been instances in which healthcare workers have been prevented from providing care to protesters or forced to prioritise care of certain groups based on their political affiliations.

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. This is in accordance with international humanitarian law, established human rights norms, and the statements and protocols set out by the World Medical Association. We urge the Nicaraguan Government to put an end to the persecution of medical personnel.

In addition, the rights of the injured and wounded to appropriate medical treatment are set out in a range of binding international laws, treaties and declarations. The actions of the Nicaraguan security forces in preventing the injured from seeking or receiving treatment are a gross violation of international law. We strongly condemn these violations and call on the Nicaraguan authorities to guarantee the rights of all injured protesters to prompt and appropriate health treatment irrespective of their political affiliations.

I would be happy to meet you at your earliest convenience to discuss these vital issues.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Chisholm CBE
Chair, BMA Medical Ethics Committee