

Managua, Nicaragua, 11 May 2010

To: Women's and feminist networks and organizations
Human rights organizations
Women and men in solidarity with the rights of Nicaraguan women

To all of our Colleagues:

We would like to inform you that on 28 April the Public Prosecutor's Office finally notified us of the closure of the complaint filed against us by representatives of ultra-conservative groups, in collusion with Nicaraguan government institutions. For more than two and a half years we were subjected to a senseless investigation which was intended to silence our voice and our work as human rights defenders and leaders of the women's movement in Nicaragua, as well as attempting to make us submit, in the same way which has been attempted with Nicaragua as a whole, using blackmail, intimidation, and the use of public institutions and the justice system as a means to silence voices and dismantle social movements.

The solidarity we received from hundreds of women's organizations, human rights organizations, and women and men committed to justice and respect for Nicaraguan women's human rights, was critical in achieving the closure of the complaint, even in the face of the illegal and abusive conduct of the Nicaraguan public authorities, who tried to accuse us and prosecute us until the last moment.

We know that threats and harassment against the leadership of the women's movement in Nicaragua still persist, which is why we are calling for continuing attention to the risks human rights defenders continue to face in Nicaragua.

We recognize and appreciate all the support which, in different ways, was expressed to us during all these months: actions which were decisive in ensuring that our words were not silenced and that our rights did not go on being violated by authoritarian power.

To our families, colleagues in the women's movement, human rights organizations, Amnesty International and the International Organization against Torture: our thanks. We will continue to work for the defence of the human rights of Nicaraguan women with even more strength and more commitment.

With affection and gratitude,

Ana María Pizarro

Jamileth Mejía

Juanita Jiménez

Lorna Norori

Luisa Molina

Martha María Blandón

Martha Munguía

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