

Press Release

Managua, August 16, 2018

The Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI, for its acronym in Spanish) at its first press conference reported that it would keep the public informed. For this reason, and for the sake of transparency, a month and a half after the start of its work, it communicates the following to the national and international public opinion:

1. The GIEI began its work in Nicaragua on July 2, 2018, and as reported in the press conference of the same day, it has been holding meetings with Nicaraguan State authorities, with the victims and families of the violence that occurred between April 18 and May 30, 2018, with national and international civil society organizations established in the country, with the press, with academic and social personalities, as well as with the diplomatic corps resident in the country.
2. The GIEI has initially prioritized the collection of information on the deceased between 18 April and 30 May through direct interviews with family members. The work carried out so far corroborates the need for substantial information, which is held by national institutions.
3. In this regard, on July 2 and 20, 2018, the GIEI held meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, in which senior State authorities participated, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the representative of the National Police, among others, and in which we requested and reiterated the need for access to the files of the investigations carried out by the national institutions, to the legal medicine reports and the list of detained persons, as well as to the reparations plan.
4. The GIEI reiterates that this information is not only necessary but also essential in order to be able to carry out its function of providing assistance to the national authorities, as well as to present the technical analysis of the Comprehensive Plan for the Care of Victims and their Families, as agreed by the signatories of the "Agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Government of Nicaragua for the investigation of the acts of violence that took place during the period from 18 April to date in Nicaragua".
5. The GIEI urges the Government of Nicaragua to provide access, without conditions, to the files of criminal investigations and cases initiated by the authorities, the reparation plan and other information requested in a timely manner.
6. The GIEI wants to leave its concern for this situation on the record, which has a negative impact on the tasks entrusted to us and reiterates its willingness and commitment to carry out its work.