



Brussels, February 15th, 2023

**Nicaragua Bishop Rolando Álvarez,
sentenced for raising his voice in the face of injustice**

Pax Christi International, a global movement for peace and nonviolence, is deeply concerned about the unjust sentence of 26 years imprisonment handed down by the Appeals Court of Managua, Nicaragua against the Bishop of Matagalpa, Rolando José Álvarez, for allegedly engaging in treason, undermining national integrity, and spreading false news. Bishop Alvarez has actively advocated for civil and political rights, including for freedom of expression, conscience, and religion, and for the protection of human rights.

Pax Christi expresses its solidarity as well with the Catholic Bishops' conference of Nicaragua, which has been similarly subject to prosecution and harassment for taking positions in support of civil and political rights.

We pray for those who are striving with great effort to build a more just and peaceful Nicaragua. We stand in solidarity with the Catholic Church and other faith-based and civil society organizations calling for genuine democracy grounded in international human rights standards.

Pax Christi International is a plural faith-based peace network, promoting peace, respect for human rights, justice, ecological sustainability, and reconciliation for almost eight decades.