Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in Geneva

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
60th Regular Session

Interactive Dialogue on the HC report on Nicaragua
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Thank you, Mr. President,

Austria aligns with the EU statement and thanks the High Commissioner for his report.

Austria is deeply concerned by the continued deterioration of human rights and shrinking of civic and democratic space in Nicaragua. Authorities continue to severely curtail the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression, both online and offline.

We urge the Nicaraguan Government to cease arbitrary detention and release all remaining political prisoners, including those arbitrarily detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression, and to end the practice of stripping of citizenship. We reiterate our call to take immediate steps to end and prevent acts of torture and ill-treatment during detention and to ensure access to adequate medical care.

Austria is also deeply concerned by systematic violations of due process and the right to a fair trial of persons perceived as opponents of the Government. We call on Nicaraguan authorities to ensure fair trial and due process, including access to legal assistance without interference.

We reiterate our call on the Nicaraguan Government to renew the cooperation with OHCHR and to grant access to international human rights mechanisms.

Madam Director,
With reference to your presentation today, could you further elaborate on the prosecution of human rights defenders and journalists?

Thank you.