

# “Professor Oscar-René Vargas must be released. His physical integrity assured, as well as all his rights.”

November 29, 2022



Oscar-René Vargas, a 77-year-old citizen of **Nicaragua**, is an economist, historian and current affairs analyst in Central America whose qualities are recognized in academic circles, especially by those who have constantly defended the social and democratic rights of the Nicaraguan people in the face of various authoritarian regimes.

However, we learned of his “sequestration” -- his de facto arrest and imprisonment -- by the police of President Daniel Ortega’s regime on Tuesday, November 22, 2022. This arbitrary act shocks us deeply, especially since it prolongs a series of arrests of people critical, from various angles, of the current Nicaraguan regime.

Oscar-René Vargas is renowned for his numerous historical works -- more than 35 works -- on Nicaragua, as well as for his commitment, from the mid-1960s, against the Somoza dictatorship, his support for the initial government of the FSLN , and his support for the popular movement of demands that emerged in 2018. The commitments mentioned here reflect the ethical and political rectitude of Oscar-René Vargas, his attachment to democratic rights, and therefore to freedom of expression as well as that of of organization.

We ask the Nicaraguan authorities to fully respect the physical integrity of Oscar-René Vargas, all his rights of defense and his immediate release. Any possible future procedure must absolutely obey respect for human rights and international legal standards.

This requirement is in accordance with the Estatuto sobre derechos y garantías de los Nicaraguenses, adopted by the Governing Board of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua on August 21, 1979 and with the judgment passed in 1980 by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ, Geneva ) which welcomed “the humanitarian concerns of the [new] government” (p. 6).

Our support for this call addressed to the present authorities of Nicaragua echoes these principles and values that Oscar-René Vargas defended then and still defends.” (November 23)

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## **First signatures gathered since November 23, closing on December 5**

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