



NSCAG AUGUST UPDATE

Dear Colleagues

On 19 July, tens of thousands gathered in the centre of the Nicaraguan capital Managua to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinista revolution. Roger McKenzie, International Editor of the Morning Star was there. See his account [here](#)

His latest piece – *‘Now is not the time to abandon the Sandinistas’* - penned on his return, can be found [here](#)

See also Alliance for Global Justice report back on the 44th anniversary celebrations – link [here](#)

Forthcoming event, 5th September 2023, 6pm BST, London – Nicaragua: Truth Versus Lies

We are delighted that John Perry and Abigail Espinoza Muñoz from Nicaragua will both be in the UK and speaking in person at the event. Roger McKenzie, International Editor of the Morning Star will also be speaking about his recent visit to Nicaragua. The event is primarily an in-person event, but remote access via zoom will also be possible. For further information and to register see [here](#)

Webinar recording

On 23 July, visitors to Nicaragua for the 44th anniversary celebrations participated in a webinar - *‘Why is Nicaragua important in today’s world?’*- organised by our international partners, the Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition. Speakers offered first-hand observations of the July 19 festivities, tours of hospitals and clinics, visits to renewable energy and agroecology projects, interchanges with Afro-descendant and indigenous communities and meetings with government officials – a recording of the webinar can be found [here](#)

Health Care

Nicaragua has a family and community-based model of health care with emphasis on prevention. It relies on a network of 60,647 lay health care workers and volunteers who go door-to-door doing health care, education, mosquito eradication, vaccinations and census taking. In Nicaragua so many people suffered so much during the neoliberal years that society became scarred. Sometimes it still seems too good to be true – clean, modern hospitals with trained medical professionals for free? Thanks to the Sandinista government’s political will to prioritize the poor and its Herculean efforts to modernize and expand its system, the best health care in the country is now free. Read more in this article by Becca Renk – link [here](#)

Sanctions

Britain and the U.S. impose economic sanctions on dozens of governments they don’t like, write Erik Mar and John Perry. Some people in Nicaragua are being targeted on the basis of little or no evidence. Read more [here](#)

At the same time, US Senator Tim Kaine has joined Senator Marco Rubio to propose a new round of sanctions and psychological operations against Nicaragua until regime change is achieved. Rick Kohn has

written an article illustrating how new sanctions could impoverish and destabilise Nicaragua – read it [here](#)

2018 Attempted Coup

On the fifth anniversary of the 2018 coup attempt in Nicaragua, conflicting accounts of the violence and killings still persist. The mainstream media has characterized the opposition protests as generally peaceful and cases of opposition violence as counter violence against brutal repression of dissent by the government. John Perry has written a series of articles that call into question this one-sided narrative, and his appeal to empirical evidence and lived experience have broadened the parameters of debate. In a recent article, John Perry revisits the case of the murder of police officer Faber López Vivas, a case that highlights the need for impartial investigation of the events of 2018. See link [here](#)

Poverty Reduction

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Oxford University Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) presented the “2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)” Report on July 13. The report states that with an MPI of 0.074 registered between 2002 and 2012, Nicaragua is one of nineteen countries that halved their global MPI value during one period and one of three in Latin America and the Caribbean that was able to reduce in half the unsatisfied needs of its citizens in short periods. The MPI is an international monitoring tool that measures acute multidimensional poverty, to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Speakers

We are always pleased to provide speakers for regional/branch meetings, so if you would like someone to come along to one of your meetings, please email Louise on nscag@nicaraguasc.org.uk

And finally.... there's still time to take part in our Summer Raffle which will be drawn on 25th August. You can buy tickets online – see [here](#)

Wishing you well over the summer months... we'll stay in touch to update you on developments in Nicaragua.

In solidarity



Louise

Louise Richards, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group www.nscag.org Twitter: @NSCAG_UK