



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

NICARAGUA

Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

Religions of Individuals in Nicaragua on the FoRB Victims List

Christian – Catholic
Christian – Protestant
Unspecified



Evelyn Guillén

Religion or Belief: Christian - Catholic
Arrested: August 5, 2023
Reason for Persecution: Religious activity and religious expression



Emmanuel Gutierrez

Religion or Belief: Christian - Catholic
Arrested: April 5, 2023
Reason for Persecution: Religious activity
Sentence: 8 Years' Imprisonment

CATHOLICS

Catholics face severe repression in Nicaragua. The government of Nicaragua arbitrarily imprisons clergy on spurious charges, eliminates church-affiliated organizations, and places restrictions on religious observances. Catholics also endure hate speech and clergy entry bans. At least one wrongfully detained Catholic lay leader has died in state custody under unclear circumstances.



Rudy Palacios Vargas

Religion or Belief: Christian - Protestant
Arrested: July 17, 2025
Reason for Persecution: Religious leadership role and criticism of the government
Charges: Treason and conspiracy



Efrén Antonio Vilchez López

Religion or Belief: Christian - Protestant
Arrested: May 15, 2022
Reason for Persecution: Religious activity and leadership role
Sentence: 23 Years' Imprisonment

PROTESTANTS

The Nicaraguan government has shuttered Protestant organizations and arbitrarily arrested and detained Protestant religious leaders. At least one individual detained in a raid targeting a Protestant pastor has died in custody under unclear circumstances.



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NOT RELEASED

Bladimir Pallés
Ervin López
Evelyn Guillén
Carmen María Sáenz Martínez
Efrén Antonio Vilchez López
Emmanuel Gutiérrez
Francisco Odorico Castilblanco
Frutos Constantino Valle Salmerón
Lesbia Gutiérrez
María Asunción Salgado
Raúl Francisco Villegas
Rudy Palacios Vargas

RELEASED

Adela Tercero
Alester Sáenz
Alex Javier Gómez Bustos
Álvaro Daniel Escobar Cabrera
Álvaro Toledo
Carlos Alberto Bojorge Martínez
Carlos Avilés
César Facundo Burgalin Miranda
Cristóbal Gadea
Danny Garcia
Darvin Leiva
Denis Martínez García
Edgar Luis Sacasa Sierra
Enrique Martínez
Eugenio Rodríguez Benavides
Evelyn Guillén
Fernando Calero
Fernando Zamora Silva
Freddy Quezada
Freydell Andino
Freylin Axarael Moreno Ponce
Gabriela Morales
Gerardo Rodríguez
Harry Lening Rios Bravo
Harvin Tórrez
Héctor Treminio
Isidro Mora
Ismael Serrano
Iván Centeno
Jader Hernández
Jaime Iván Montesinos Saucedá
Jairo Pravía Flores
Jimmy Antonio Bonilla
José Gustavo Sandino Ochoa
José Luis Díaz
José Luis Orozco Urrutia

Juan Carlos Chavarría Zapata
Juan Luis Moncada
Julio Berríos
Julio Ricardo Norori
Julio Sevilla
Leonardo Guevara Gutiérrez
Leonel Balmaceda
Manuel de Jesús Ríos Flores
Marcos Díaz Prado
Marcos Sergio Hernández Jirón
María Verónica Herrera Galeano
Maricarmen Espinosa Segura
Marisela de Fátima Mejía Ruiz
Mariví Andino
Marlon Velásquez Flores
Melkin Sequeira
Miguel Mántica
Mykel Monterrey
Orvin Alexis Moncada Castellano
Oscar Benavidez
Óscar Escoto
Osman José Amador Guillén
Pablo Villafranca
Ramiro Tijerino
Ramón Esteban Angulo Reyes
Raúl Antonio Vega
Raúl Zamora
Rolando Álvarez
Sadiel Eugarríos
Salvador Paguaga
Sergio Cárdenas
Silvio Fonseca
Silvio Josué Romero Juárez
Tony Palacios
Ulises René Vega Matamoros
Victor Salvador Godoy Morales
Victor Ticay
Walner Omier Blandón Ochoa
Yesner Cipriano Pineda Meneses