

**Statement
by the President-Comandante Daniel Ortega
to the Nicaraguan People
April 15, 2020**

Good afternoon, Nicaraguan Brothers and Sisters, Nicaraguan families. First of all, our Solidarity and our Condolences to all the Families that are suffering the onslaughts of this Pandemic, those who have suffered the loss of Their Beloved; those in serious condition, connected in ICUs; others isolated. All suffering, with much pain, which calls us at this time to Solidarity and Unity of the Peoples of the World.

And if it calls us to Solidarity and Unity of the Peoples of the World, it means that it calls us to Peace. That is the first Principle, Peace, to put an end to all kinds of war, to all kinds of aggression against any People, and to cultivate Peace, to strengthen Peace. Because only a World in Peace will allow us, and especially the most Developed Countries, to create the conditions so that on this planet we do not encounter dramatic situations, where beds and medical instruments are lacking, just because the Health Service does not reach the People, it does not reach the Poor, it does not

reach the Working People. Public Services are totally abandoned.

Sure, there are large Hospitals, highly qualified, with a lot of Technology, with great Scientists, but who can pay for the service of a Private Hospital in a Developed Country or a Developing Country? This is what is bleeding, the World has been ripped open by this Pandemic.

What is the importance of atomic bombs? Are they going to end the virus with atomic weapons, with rockets that are now being developed in these armed race to

conquer Space and turn Space into a battle field for more death? What are those weapons for? Those weapons are not for Life, they are not for Health, they are not for feeding millions of Human Beings who perish year after year because of hunger.

Those weapons are for killing! And billions of billions are invested! And those who invest billions of billions know perfectly well that these weapons cannot be used, because the day they are used the entire population of the planet disappears. They know it perfectly well!

So why this madness of investing billions and billions of billions in armaments?

How many Epidemics, how many Pandemics has Humanity lived? How many? How many millions of Human Beings have died during these Pandemics, during these Epidemics? In the World Wars, World War I, World War II, there were Epidemics and Pandemics, and in the midst of Epidemics and Pandemics there was no Ceasefire. They kept killing each other, waging war.

I am convinced that this Pandemic, this virus that has multiplied throughout the

planet and where there is indeed no force that can block it, there is no barrier that can block it, there is no wall that can block it. There is not! There is no way! There is no billionaire who can block it.

Of course, the Developing Peoples are the most exposed, the most vulnerable to this Pandemic, and we already know how tragedies are repeated in Developing Countries every year. The migration from Africa, searching for Europe, where thousands of Adults, Women, and Children die, people drowning in the Sea, in that

beautiful Sea that is there, facing the North of Africa looking for the entrance to Europe.

Those migrants are there, right now, they are there. What will these migrants be able to do in the face of this Pandemic, as are the migrants who are moving North, here, and we see that many of them are caged there. Nicaraguans who have been deported speak of how they are caged, mistreated, and that there is no Health Care.

But, what Health Care can they give them, if they do not even have capacities. That Power, the largest Power in the World, the largest Military Power in the History of Humanity, the largest Economic Power in the History of Humanity, does not have the capacity to respond to its own Citizens in the great Cities of the United States. And the tragedy that Europe also lives.

This is what it indicates to us and the call it makes to us, and it is the call that we can make from this small Territory, where we face the Pandemic with our limited resources. With a lot of

patience, with a lot of discipline, with a lot of self-sacrifice of the Health Workers, with a lot of citizen participation, with a lot of discipline of Workers, with a lot of dedication from the Army, the Police, safeguarding Security and Territorial Integrity; well, that is how we have been fighting the battle.

From the start of the Pandemic, from the moment the Pandemic was decreed on March 11, look carefully, from March 11 to today, April 15, Nicaragua has reported 1,237 deceased persons. Of all of them, only one for Coronavirus. The other

deceased, Men, Women, Children, why?
Because of malignant tumors, diabetes,
kidney diseases, acute myocardial
infarction, hypertensive diseases;
traffic accidents, strokes, liver
cirrhosis, neonatal asphyxia, congenital
malformations, neonatal sepsis, bacterial
pneumonia, sepsis; Suicides ... yes,
suicides! Drowning, yes, by drowning! HIV
too.

Look how much pain we have also had in
these Families! How much pain! We are
saying that during this period, from March

11 to April 15, in Nicaragua, 1,237 people died from different causes.

And in that battle to attend these Families, the Families of the People when they arrive injured and they have to be attended in the Hospitals, in this fight to also bring Health to thousands of Nicaraguans, how many Consultations in this period? Thousands of Medical Consultations, thousands of operations, totally free. Thousands of Hemodialysis!

The Healthcare System has not stopped providing free Hemodialysis here. The

Healthcare System, the Private is something else it logically charges. The Healthcare System provides for the poor, the Working People, the hard-working Families who are looking for ways to improve themselves.

Hemodialysis! Even incorporating more Hemodialysis Systems; incorporating Radiotherapy to attack Cancer more effectively; opening ICU in Departmental and Municipal Hospitals. In these days we inaugurated an ICU in Juigalpa, Chontales.

In the midst of this Pandemic, work has not stopped, because here if work is stopped, the Country dies, and if the Country dies, the People die. We would become extinct if the producers stop planting to harvest Beans, if they stop planting to harvest Maize, if they stop planting to harvest Coffee, if they stop planting so that Potatoes, Carrots, Radishes, Onions can circulate. Because, thanks to God, we are a Country that in the midst of the greatest difficulties, of the greatest tragedies, of the greatest blockades, we are a Country with Working People, and thanks to God, with land which

People know how to cultivate very well,
and that also know how to develop their
Livestock.

This is a People that will not die of
hunger! Big investments and big Capitals
can be affected by all these events,
because there is a whole chain in the
Field of International Commerce, in the
Field of International Markets, which
indisputably affects and causes
unemployment.

Well, the important thing here is that we
continue to work, keeping with Norms in a

very conscious and disciplined manner; our People are keeping with the Norms that the Healthcare System dictates. And this is multiplied everywhere, and it is multiplied not only by transmitting the Norms through the Media, but also by visiting house by house, to deliver the brochures and explaining to the Families how to protect themselves from this Pandemic. That is what can explain why the Pandemic has progressed slowly. It is not that it has not entered Nicaragua, of course it entered and already caused a death, but its progress has been slow; and they all come by contact from outside.

These days they captured a Nicaraguan girl in Costa Rica, a 17-year-old girl who was pregnant. The Costa Rican authorities captured her because she was crossing illegally, and they have the border closed, and immediately the Media began to say that this Nicaraguan had Coronavirus. But the Costa Rican Authorities, acting with great professionalism, seriousness, and responsibility, examined her and said: She has no Coronavirus! That is, a Nicaraguan woman does not appear leaving Nicaragua towards a Brother Country carrying the virus.

But yes, Nicaraguan Brothers and Sisters who are in other Countries, when they come, they are detected; They do not come in serious condition, but they undergo the corresponding procedure and most have been coming out of the caring process, examination, follow-up, treatment process, including some serious cases that seemed that they could die.

One of them, a very well-known Comrade of ours, who lived in the United States, came in serious, serious, serious condition, with other illnesses already ... And well,

we asked God, and he has managed to come out of the state he was in, thanks to God, because it seemed he could have passed away.

Likewise, another lady, in a serious, very serious condition, that is, when the Doctors treated her, they thought that she would hardly survive.

And with the attention that Nicaraguan Doctors give, who are highly specialized, highly qualified, not only for the fact of having studied in our Country, but also for having made Specialized Careers,

Specialties in other Countries, in other Sister Nations.

In Cuba, in the Soviet Union, how many Doctors got specialized! How many Doctors have specialized in Mexico! In Venezuela, how many Nicaraguans have specialized! And in the United States too, Specialized Physicians. In other words, we have highly specialized Doctors.

And the Hospitals? Practically 90% of the Hospitals that are State run are equipped with all the basic resources to attend, to

the logic extent of our capacity, in terms of beds that these Hospitals have.

There are enough ventilators. Thank God it was not necessary to use all the ventilators; some have been used, not all have been used.

Intensive Care Units? Yes, we have Intensive Care Units everywhere, with highly specialized Doctors.

The stock of medicines that the Healthcare System and the entire State System has, logically including Social Security, we

are talking about 90% and sometimes more, and some medicines that only the State has, such as Interferon for example.

In other words, we have the capacities to attend our Population, while the rate at which the Epidemic has been manifesting itself has been manageable... Yes, we have managed it! I mean, we didn't go out in a stampede. If we had went out in a stamped, we could have experienced what happens to people in Stadiums, we could have end up crushed. Rather, in an orderly manner, we have been adopting a series of Measures, guided by International Standards, but

applying them according to our reality, our material possibilities, our economic possibilities, and our scientific possibilities.

Meanwhile, the Police also safeguarding the Security of the Country. Imagine, if we send the Police to isolate themselves, and if we send the Army to isolate themselves, and the Producers to isolate themselves and stop producing, the country disappears, it simply disappears. Therefore, it has been a combination of decisions to be able to deal with this plague.

The Doctor gave the latest data today, he gave the latest data on the cases that we currently have.

In the Region, we have the least number of cases. Of course, the fact that we have enough Hospitals, we have built many Hospitals; even the Hospitals that were burned in April (2018), we have already re-built them; the Healthcare Centers that were burned in April, we have already re-built them ... Yes, we have already re-built all of that! Moreover, all the equipment, medical instruments that were

burned in April, we have already bought, we have replaced.

We are building roads we are opening bridges. Yes, this Malacatoya Bridge, that is a historical Bridge, that is similar to what the Highway to San Carlos was, years and years, centuries waiting for the Highway.

Likewise, the Malacatoya Bridge, which is the second largest Bridge in Nicaragua, opened in the midst of this situation, and none of the Workers was affected, no cases have been found in the town of Malacatoya.

Therefore, it is to continue managing with a permanent follow-up. Likewise, of the cases that come in and are found to have signs that could bring the virus, they are isolated, they are treated and when the isolation period is over, well, did it went well? He can leave for his house or to the street.

Yes, I believe that this is the moment for changes to take place in the World. This is a Sign of God, yes, this is a Sign of God, who is saying to us: You are going astray, spending billions upon billions on

atomic bombs, atomic weapons, on Military Bases, on Military Alliances. We understand, it is fine for the Army to protect the Sovereignty of the Country and the Territory and it is fine for the Police to protect the Security of the Country, but now those Transnational Forces that are just looking for the dominance of the entire Planet, that is a sin!

God is telling us! The Lord is telling us! he is sending us this sign, and it is the opportunity to make a change towards Peace. This is the time for those great

resources to be decided once and for all, for the Peoples of these Countries who are suffering the onslaught of this pandemic, the Peoples of the Developed Countries who are suffering, are getting hit terribly, to decide to tell your governments: the money for atomic weapons, for sophisticated weapons is over. Let us limit the weapons to protect the Territory.

In addition, those funds that are already allocated, which are billions of billions, must be assigned to build Hospitals for the poor, for the People and for Workers,

right in the United States, where they are so lacking. To provide all the Medical Equipment to be in a position to face situations like this. Because it is not the first time that a Pandemic affects the World. But it is the first time that a Pandemic is affecting with such force. Because it has also affected before the Developed World, but now it is affecting the Developed World much worst, and it is hitting the Markets, it is hitting the Stock Market, and it is hitting the World Economy.

So, it is time to change atomic weapons for Hospitals, for Healthcare Centers, for all the basic conditions, where they can be offered to the Peoples of the Developed Countries, and that they also may cooperate so that the Developing Countries can also be protected.

In other words, the best atomic weapon that Humanity can have, is Health, it is Medicine, it is Hospitals, it is Preventive Medicine, and it is Curative Medicine, and for that we need resources, and we know well who has the resources,

and we know well what the resources are used for; therefore, it is time to change.

And it is time to also change the United Nations, we have been repeating it for years. The United Nations has to be totally remodeled, reconverted, re-founded ... It has to be re-founded, as Father D'Escoto said when he was President of the United Nations Assembly. It has to be re-founded and as he carried the Nicaraguan Flag there, he proposed the re-founding of the United Nations, the re-founding of all United Nations Instruments, the re-founding also of the

Regional Institutions that are totally discredited, decrepit and worn out.

The World demands an Ethical, Moral Re-foundation, and that happens when the resources are placed where they should be placed, to save Lives and give Security to Families, and give true Christian Love to Humanity.

Thank you, Nicaraguan Brothers and Sisters