CONSTRUCTING MEMORY

An Interactive Art Book



AMA: Constructing Memory

an interactive art book



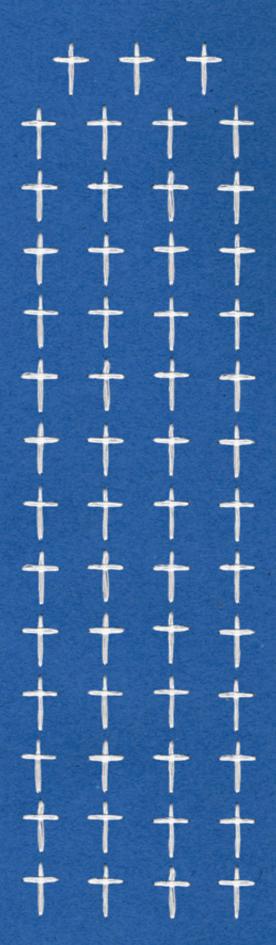
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"They thought that they killed you when they shouted 'Fire!'
They thought they buried you
But what they did
was bury a seed"

– Ernesto Cardenal

"Epitaph for the grave of Adolfo Baéz Bone," 1948

#US No Obrill



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Protest in the capital, 2018. Credit: Camaleoni

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Interactive instructions

AMA: Constructing Memory

Interactive instructions

AMA¹: **CONSTRUCTING MEMORY – an interactive art book –** provides a virtual experience that complements the information contained in its printed version. Through QR codes that maybe be found throughout this publication, readers gain access to the following interactive content:

- **1.** Testimonial videos of the relatives of the victims
- **3.** Interactive maps of the facts related to the murders

- **2.** Altars commemorating the dead, presented using Augmented Reality technology
- 4. The #YoNoOlvidoAbril filter

What is a QR code and how is it read?

To understand how this experience works, it is important to know that a QR code is an image. When it is read by a mobile device (cell phone or tablet), it allows the viewer to redirect to a website without the need to write or copy an address or link. An internet connection is needed in order to access the content of the QR codes.



1 | "AMA" is the Association of Mothers of April. In Spanish, the word "amar" means to love. "Ama" means she/he loves.

If you have an Apple device

You can use its camera to scan the QR codes.

1. Open the camera from the home screen, the control center or the locked screen.



2. Select the rear camera.



3. Focus on the QR code you wish to scan and hold the device still for two or three seconds.



4. The device will recognize the QR code and a message will appear



5. Click on the message to open the link, which will take you to the content of the corresponding QR Code.



If you have an Android device

You first need to go to Play Store to look for a QR code reader app.

1. Install the app on your device.



2. Focus on the QR code that you want to scan, and hold the device still for two or three seconds.



3. The device will recognize the QR code and a message will appear.



4. Click on the message to open the link, which will take you to the content of the corresponding QR Code.



Interactive instructions

AMA: Constructing Memory

Instructions for viewing the altars honoring the victims (by department²):

Using the QR codes, you can see the altars created by relatives using objects that had pertained to the victims. These will appear on the screen of the mobile device. They will look like a filter. We encourage you to create spaces, at home or in public places honoring memory, to be able to reflect on them.

In the introduction to each department, look on the bottom of your screen for cobblestones with QR codes. These will provide access to the altars.



1. To read the QR codes that correspond to the altars, the book should be opened on a flat surface, like a table or the floor.



2. Select the QR code from your preferred application (Facebook or Instagram).



3. Point the mobile device's camera (Apple) or app (Android) to scan the QR code.



4. The QR code will redirect whichever app you've selected (Facebook or Instagram) in the Stories mode.



5. If this is the first time you are using a filter, Facebook or Instagram will ask to access your camera and microphone. Indicate that you "accept."



6. Once in the Stories mode, point your rear camera at the map of the Book or the Poster. The altar will appear on the map's surface.



7. Place both fingers on the screen and pinch to change the size of the image to see it in your format.



8. Record a story by pressing on the Record button and share it with your social networks using the hashtag #YoNoOlvidoAbril (trans. I Do Not Forget April) and mention the user @museomemoria_ni.



Instructions for using the #YoNoOlvidoAbril filter:

By reading this QR code, you will have access to the **#YoNoOlvidoAbril** filter. You can film a selfie-style video with your front camera and light a virtual candle in honor of the victims.

1. Select the QR code from your preferred application (Facebook or Instagram).



2. Use your cell phone's camera (Apple) or application (Android) to scan the QR code.



3. If this is the first time you are using a filter, Facebook or Instagram will ask to access your camera and microphone. Indicate that you "accept."



4. Open the filter #YoNoOlvidoAbril using your front camera. The filter will take a second to recognize your face.



5. Hold down the Record button to make a video and see the complete animation of the virtual burning candle, with the text #YoNoOlvidoAbril.



6. Share it with your networks using the hashtags #YoNoOlvidoAbril #SOSNicaragua and mentioning the user @museomemoria_ni



² | Nicaragua is divided for administrative purposes into fifteen departments and two autonomous regions.

Introduction

AMA: Constructing Memory



Mothers of April, one year after the Mother's Day Massacre. Credit: Camaleoni

April 2021 was the third anniversary of the historical event that is known in Nicaragua as the "April Insurrection."

The uprising began with student protests, in response to a series of government decrees reforming the social security system (the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute, or INSS). A short time later, a civic rebellion against the Sandinista National Liberation Front (Spanish: Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional, FSLN) government, represented by President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice-President Rosario Murillo, began after the first demonstrators were killed by police and paramilitary forces on April 18, 19 and 20, 2018.

The brutal repression unleashed by the regime between April 18 and October 5, 2018, left 328 people murdered, as confirmed by data compiled by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH), based on documentation presented by the relatives of victims.

International human rights organizations have unanimously condemned the government's response to the protests. The report presented by the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI)—specialists selected by the CIDH and designated by the General Secretary of the Organization of American States (OAS)—concluded that "according to available information, and based on international law, we find that the Nicaraguan State has acted in a manner that should be considered crimes against humanity."

Three years after this crisis began—the most serious confronted by this nation in the past four decades—the Nicaraguan government denies any responsibility for the crimes it committed, dehumanizes the victims, and impedes the construction of any memorials in public spaces. In response, the relatives of the victims, especially the mothers, fathers, aunts and sisters of those assassinated, created the **Association of Mothers of April (AMA)**. Their goal is to struggle together to defend the truth and attain justice for the crimes against humanity committed by the government. They are fighting for comprehensive reparations for the victims and guarantees that no such crimes will recur.

AMAY NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, was created with the goal of honoring the memory of the victims, and returning a sense of dignity to their lives. The museum rejects the official narrative that criminalizes citizens who took part in the civic protests, and the climate of impunity being promoted by the Government of Nicaragua. The museum contains biographies, as well as testimonies and maps/stories about the events that took place, photographic archives, audiovisual materials, and various documents that help make sense of the lives and deaths of the victims and the context of the social protest.

AMA Y NO OLVIDA was created in a participatory manner. The members of the Association of Mothers of April (AMA), as subjects of rights, have played an active role in the museum's design, and in the collection of information and its presentation. They have received support from the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH), the Nicaraguan Academy of Sciences (CAN), and individuals committed to the search for truth and justice. This museum is AMA's contribution to actively construction the memory of their relatives, defending human rights, and rebuilding the rule of law in Nicaragua.

Introduction

AMA: Constructing Memory

Geographic routes to truth: The voices of the victims

The decision to begin the process of reconstructing memory "live," amid repression that has not ceased since April 2018, was a response to the outcry of the relatives of the victims, who wanted the truth to be known. They are also victims. They have confronted a regime which, since the beginning and in a very systematic manner, has denied the existence of their murdered loved ones. The government has gone to the extreme of stating that the deaths were "invented, fabricated," or were the product of clashes between parties not involved in the crisis. It has distorted the facts, the circumstances, and consequently its own role in the violation of human rights, specifically the inalienable right to life.

For these reasons, the research team of the AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity took on the challenge of beginning the work of reconstructing memory, since April, in the voices of the mothers and relatives of the victims, as subjects of rights, and as the "witnesses"—both as references and as actual witnesses. The goal has been to clarify the facts, the context, and the general and specific circumstances in which these events occurred.

In this first stage, a research platform was created to facilitate the tracing of the "geographic routes to the truth," ensuring work that spanned the territorial (urban and rural), ethnic, cultural and gender diversity that characterizes the Nicaraguan nation.

Tracing the geographic routes began with the creation of maps, made by the families who volunteered to recount the facts and circumstances surrounding the murders of the victims. These collective stories gave rise to "territorial stories," through geo-referencing using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The purpose was to support the narratives of relatives with scientific tools, and identify the places where events took place with the greatest precision possible. The testimonies were given while visiting these locations, to better document the details of the times, spaces, conditions and circumstances in which the victims were deprived of their right to life as a result of the State's repressive actions.

Our premise was that the geo-stories, in addition to registering the facts, could help clarify the truth through identifying the institutional actors responsible for these actions, together with the patterns that have predominated over time and in different territories. With the explicit goal of establishing a link between memory and justice, understanding their differences and assuming the complementarity between both, an effort was made to document the circumstances. The idea was to provide input for analyzing the legal dimension of the events, in terms of Nicaragua's judicial norms (the Penal Code) as well as international norms that refer to crimes against humanity.

Through these routes, the Museum of Memory reaffirms its commitment to the demand for "Justice without Impunity," as defined by the members of AMA, who will not cease in their efforts.



Presentation of the maps, the Geographic Routes to Truth. Ciudad Sandino, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive

A labor of love

AMA: Constructing Memory



Visitors observe the collective altar, part of the Museum's temporary exhibition in the Historical Institute of Nicaragua and Central America, IHNCA, UCA, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

A labor of love

Emilia Yang Rappaccioli
Director – AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity

The process of creation led by AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity has been and continues to be a labor of love, of loving and not forgetting. The centerpiece of this work is our love for our relatives, and surrounding this love is strength, courage, and the fight for freedom and justice that we inherited from them, and which we pursue as the Association of Mothers of April (AMA). This organization was founded by the relatives of those assassinated by the Nicaraguan State. "What can we do with all of this pain?" we asked ourselves one day. And the answer was, "we must share the pain, the love, the hope, the memories, and the fight for justice."

"We construct memory as lived and embodied stories, that struggle to not be forgotten."

AMA: RECONSTRUCTING MEMORY—an interactive art book—

is an Augmented Reality extension of AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity. The museum project grew out of a collaboration between a multidisciplinary team and AMA. It was created during a time of repression conducted clandestinely, using collective and participatory methods of art and design, combining social research and pedagogic and community actions. The components and different digital formats of this project allow the stories of the victims to travel beyond their homes and families. Despite the de facto state of exception in Nicaragua, they are able to transform public and private spaces into sites of collective memory.

We construct memory as lived and embodied stories, that struggle to not be forgotten. In the many spaces we have created, the victims—our victims—are PRESENT. The concept of museum-altar allows us to honor them while also telling the truth about who they were and what happened to them, and strengthen our cries for justice together with the people of Nicaragua. Our effort demonstrates that the victims were not anonymous people, much less criminals, as they have been portrayed by the Nicaraguan dictatorship. They were young students, workers, engineers, journalists, artists, tradespeople, farmers, producers, fathers and sons, defending the freedom of their families and communities! And so, honoring them always as we walk forward, we continue sowing the seeds of their memory, so they will blossom, grow, and live, replete with truth and justice.

AMA the Truth, AMA justice, AMA and Do Not Forget

AMA: Constructing Memory



Members of AMA at the inauguration of the temporary exhibition at the IHNCA, UCA, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

AMA the Truth, AMA justice, AMA and Do Not Forget

Francys Valdivia Machado
President – **Association of Mothers of April (AMA)**

The Association of Mothers of April (AMA), an organization comprised of the relatives of victims of the Nicaraguan government's repression, in collaboration with the AMA Y NO OLVIDA Museum, has undertaken this effort to construct our collective memory. This is a mirror, that allows citizens to reflect, learn, and act in response to a dark, unacceptable past, which is still part of the present, and should never be repeated. *Holding this collective memory, to demand and know the truth, is part of our nation's present and future history.*

"This is a mirror, that allows citizens to reflect, learn and act in response to a dark, unacceptable past, which is still part of our present, and should never be repeated."

The Amnesty Law passed by the government in 2019, the suggestions that we reduce our demands, the proclamation of forgetting as the basis of social peace, and the calls from some sectors to accept a "smooth landing" of the regime seek the installation of a legal and political forgetting, covering up the criminal responsibility for events of this historical period in a cloak of impunity.

The promoters of these projects hope that us, as the Association of Mothers of April will be forced to accept the reality of those acts, and the consequent impunity.

If we wish to live in a democracy, we can never forget that our relatives fought against oppression until the last minutes of their lives. They fought against an authoritarian system where thinking differently is punished by harassment, threats, imprisonment, exile, and in many cases death. We believe it is not possible to build a true future atop "lapses" of historical memory, without knowing the facts, distorting the truth or hiding the existence of a totalitarian regime. A society that forgets does not know where it comes from or where it is going. Without memory, there is no identity. Without collective identity, there is no society. Maintaining memory is an essential need and a duty.

This museum is one way we are trying to recover, maintain, organize and publicize a memory that counters the Nicaraguan State's hegemonic narrative. We present our collective memory as a form of struggle against forgetting, and against the impunity promoted by the Nicaraguan State. Through the museum, we extend the voices of those who are absent, and of their families. It represents our profound rebellion against lies, violence, injustice, arrogance, and the flagrant violation of human rights.

The museum is a space, an open house to preserve the dignity of the people, to store different memories that encourage reflection and the development of social awareness, so that so much pain is never repeated. The museum names what happened. It recognizes the events that took place and helps to untangle the truth in the present and the future. Providing a home to memories allows the redefinition of life, the mobilization of experiences, the opening of horizons, and the exaltation of peoples and communities in resistance.

Introduction

AMA: Constructing Memory



AMA members in a photographic installation demanding justice, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

Memory and Human Rights

AMA: Constructing Memory



Workshop, mapping geographic routes of the truth, Estelí, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

Memory and Human Rights

Vilma Núñez de Escorcia Human rights activist and president of the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH)

The day I first visited the Museum of Memory against Impunity, I was filled with a sensation of impotence, due to the arbitrary occupation and destruction of CENIDH by government forces. I felt this, even though I always firmly believed we could recover it, so that the Center would continue at the service of all Nicaraguans. I saw evidence of the barbaric human rights violations that we are experiencing in the different sections of the museum. Behind each personal item exhibited, I glimpsed the strength that motivates the Mothers of April and their relatives, in their determination to struggle against impunity.

"The four traditional components of transitional justice: truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence."

I left the museum very moved, feeling even more committed to my decision to continue fighting. Standing before the belongings of Alvarito, Sandor and Matt Romero, I told myself, "We cannot let them down!"

The different initiatives to construct memory have different effects, based on the objectives that guide them. For example, contributing to transitional justice, or transcending to achieve social transformation. It is dangerous to generalize their impact or try to determine a priori how they might contribute to transitional justice or social transformation.

The four traditional components of transitional justice—truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence—are interrelated areas of action that can and should be mutually reinforced. Where is memory inserted into this group of activities? Until now, initiatives related to memory have not been considered as one of the four key pillars.

Initiatives related to memory are frequently understood as unrelated to the political process. Sometimes, we limit ourselves to promoting processes that help heal painful traumas that are produced in families when a loved one is attacked, often situated in the private sphere, as part of the personal grief that needs to be processed.

I believe that memory, like any other process, is determined by the context or reality in which it is created, because memory means remembering. *How do we remember? Why do we remember?* We are led to consider the ways in which human rights violations are committed in a specific moment, and how we deal with them. All of this reveals what type of society we are, and what type we want to be. It leads us to define ourselves, and our capacity to exercise sovereignty as active subjects of human rights, so that forgetting, or the negotiations prompted by despondency or exhaustion, do not take the place of individual or collective memory. We must always remember that all of these are issues of human rights, and that human rights are not negotiable.

Memory and Human Rights

AMA: Constructing Memory

As a human rights activist, I see initiatives related to memory as an integral part of all strategies aimed at defending and promoting these rights. They require us to not only remember the victims, but also to think in a critical manner about the forces that unleashed the repression, the dictatorship, or political persecution. It means digging deeper into the factors that led to the violation of human rights.

Although they cannot establish democracy on their own, transitional justice and memory can help to consolidate it. These processes recognize the individuals, particularly the victims, whose rights were violated. As such, these rights must be defended before the State, and in a supplementary manner before international human rights organizations.

In this regard, the United Nations Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence has said: "It is not enough to recognize the suffering and strength of victims (...) What is required is remembering and acting in favor of the subject, as the rightful holder of rights."

It is important to clearly transmit the idea that serious human rights violations took place, and that they were not simply a moment of excessive behavior. Rather, they were a policy planned and executed by the State, in flagrant violation of the basic principles of humanity, legal norms, ethical and moral principles, and democratic ideals.

Certain United Nations positions insist on the duty to remember, to educate about the past, and to reject the negation of atrocities. However, not only should memory be acknowledged, and the most serious human rights violations avoided. It is equally important to reject the different ways that abusive power is exercised, and shed light on other, less recognized (generally silenced) violations. The ultimate goal of remembering, of memory, is to contribute to the creation of more just, equitable and democratic societies.

I believe that all of this is part of the project being promoted by the Mothers of April, with the installation of the Museum of Memory against Impunity. And this is not just my opinion. This is described in the project's second component, which goes far beyond "social research about the victims of state repression and its settings." It proposes promoting reflection about the following questions: What happened in Nicaraguan society beginning on April 18? What does this crisis and this cycle of political violence indicate to us about the organization of power in our society?

What aspects of the past generated this crisis? What memories emerge from it? What does justice mean? What future can we dream of? What memories are needed to realize our longing for a different future, of non-recurrence, of never again? What memories are essential for reorganizing power and democratization? This is a comprehensive strategy for defending and promoting human rights, that is an essential part of any research aimed at characterizing the brutal repression that began on April 18, 2018, in Nicaragua.

There is another important element to consider which is different from other processes of constructing historical memories, which have usually taken place after conflicts have come to an end. The AMA initiative is different because it is addressing a conflict underway, which is not ending but is growing and extending over time.

The museum, as a result, becomes an element of permanent resistance. It captures the immediate contradiction of the lies, the cynicism, and the false discourse of the Ortega-Murillo dictators. This museum converts a slogan into a just demand: "They were students, they weren't delinquents." They are the mothers and relatives, defending the honor and reputation of their children and relatives, while also offering us an impressive example of self-defense of their own rights. Their belongings give evidence of their lives, their habits, and their dreams. This is an invaluable contribution to the truth. A fundamental aspect of justice, which we must never forego.

This speech was delivered on December 5, 2019, in the Amando López Auditorium of the Central American University (UCA), Managua.

Memories of politics and the politics of memory

AMA: Constructing Memory



Mother of Matt Romero, in a photographic installation demanding justice, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

Memories of politics and the politics of memory

Apropos of AMAY NO OLVIDA

Dr. Víctor H. Acuña Ortega Researcher and Academic Staff, University of Costa Rica

Thank you for honoring me with this invitation. I view my presence here, first and foremost, as a way of paying homage to the dead and expressing solidarity with their relatives, especially their mothers. I also see it as an invitation to reflect upon the significance of this museum.

"Here, we are talking about the duty of memory, a task that is first and foremost ethical, and also a subjective resource for processing pain and loss."

I. The imperatives of this initiative.

If I understand correctly, the imperatives of AMA Y NO OLVIDA are:

- 1. The duty to remember those who died due to the repression, the ethical imperative of the families, and also of the society to which they pertain. Here, we are talking about the duty of memory, a task that is first and foremost ethical, and also a subjective resource for processing pain and loss. This double exhibition—physical and virtual—fulfills both tasks in an exemplary, moving and reasoned manner. It is unlikely that there are many cases in which testimonies of such human rights violations have been collected almost at the moment they've occurred, while the government is simultaneously demonizing the victims and their surviving relatives. It is clear to me that this museum is a work in progress, that will continue growing and perfecting itself.
- **2.** The right of the families to know what really happened and obtain justice, and the obligation of civil society to accompany them in these dual processes, which do not only pertain to them but to the entire society, for its own survival in the present and for its life in the future. The exhibition contributes basic elements for future legal investigations, which will be crucial for clarifying the truth and identifying those responsible. Here, we are situated in the sphere of rights and justice.
- **3.** This right to justice is the basis of the legitimate expectation that way can be found to ensure that these crimes do not happen again. In other words, a means of social coexistence and institutional organization must be established in which this cannot ever occur again. Here, we are talking about democratic politics, in the best sense of the word. Of the possibility of creating a long-lasting and irreversible republican system and the Rule of Law in Nicaragua.

Memories of politics and the politics of memory

AMA: Constructing Memory

4. Both of these—the right to justice and the hope of abolishing a perverse political system (because it is not only the State, but also minority sectors of society who have carried out and justified these crimes)—imply or assume the need and the task of understanding, thinking, investigating and analyzing the reasons or factors (both long-term and from the more recent historical period) that have provided the context or basis for what has happened. Here, we are no longer speaking of memory or justice, but rather of history, and more specifically, of history and social sciences. Thus, this brave, sensitive and loving work of memory that you have created must evolve into a work of historical research, in an effort to discover why they were killed. An exploration about the conditions that have made it possible for the State in this country, its government, some of its key institutions and certain groups or sectors of society, to so unscrupulously violate human rights, or to be accomplices to such violations.

II.- The meeting of history and social sciences with memory and justice.

As you know, there have been spontaneous and massive civic mobilizations in different parts of the world over the past two years: in the Middle East (Iran, Iraq and Lebanon), in Africa (Sudan and Algiers), in Asia (Hong Kong), in Europe (France), and in Latin America (Chile, Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua). In this global context, the bloody outcome of the repression of protests in Nicaragua is quite noteworthy, disproportionate to its size and population. It is logical, therefore, to ask why. Several other questions related to this "why?" come to mind.

- **1.** What are the structural conditions of political life in Nicaragua—some older, others more recent—that provided a framework for these political crimes and human rights violations, and made them possible? In other words, what can we learn from studying the history of this country that can help us understand this tragedy?
- **2.** What political and social conditions would make it impossible for these crimes to go unpunished, and for justice to reign? In other words, is it possible to achieve a process of transitional justice in this country?

- **3.** What conditions would be needed to ensure that such crimes do not happen again, and what would be the role of memory in relation to these crimes, as a resource for generating a democratic political transition in Nicaragua? Which is to say, what could the "pedagogies of memory" do to help institutionalize political life and social coexistence in this country?
- **4.** If the memories of politics could and should serve as a mirror for the sustainable and long-lasting democratization of Nicaragua, then the politics of memory could and should make it possible to integrate the people from the recent past who were massacred, repressed, and innocent, with other victims from other historical moments in the country, into one single memorial. Peace and harmony among the living will require the reconciliation of memories of those who are unjustly absent.
- **5.** Memory and history should meet each other in this sense. The first as a living and calming preservation of memory, and the second as the critical and reasoned reconstruction of the past. Both are at the service of a new form of existence for civil society and the political system.

This speech was delivered on December 5, 2019, in the Amando López Auditorium of the Central American University (UCA), Managua.

Introduction

AMA: Constructing Memory



Grandmother of Josué Israel Mojica using his mask, Carazo, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

"How many screams are hidden in the walls of San Jerónimo, Laborío, Monimbó, Sutiaba, Tipitapa. Kettledrums that roar, marking the Hail Marys. The ashes of the dwelling of rest and prayers are put out with tears.

At the barricades a nocturnal megaphone greets the thugs who robbed the angel of various myrmidons, their roaring voices explode like mortars in our arms,

 $they will \ bathe \ us \ in \ peace \ and \ will \ always \ have \ the \ people's \ glory \ and \ jubilation."$

– Madeline Mendieta

v 32

Darwing Hannel Urbina Urbina

Richard E. Pavon Bermúdez

Álvaro Hanuel Conrado Dávila

Michael H. CRUZ Sonchez

HANNER THOSE GARCIA SOLINAS

MoroNi Jacob Lipez Garcia

Marlon mana ses martines Ramirez

JUAN CARLOS LOPEZ MARTINES

MARCOS ANTONIO SAMORIO ANGESON

Jeisson Antonio Chavarria Urbina

Jesper Josues Rivers

I Small Jo Sues Perrez Villatez

KEVIN R. Davila L.

Noel Calderón

JAVIER Alexander Munsura Mendoza

MARLON JOSE Drozeo Larga espoda

Francisco Javier Reyes Zapata

ORLANDO DANIEL AGUIRRE CORDOBA

Edgard Isaac Guevara Portubunco.

Daniel Josias Reles Rivera El Chino

Maycol Cipriano González Hernándes

Jonathan Morazan

Gedvanuy Higuel Ryes.

Roberto Pablo Corea Chavez

Agustin EZequiel Mendora Irra

Teylor Leonardo Lorio Navarrete

Thon son Tonthe mak sain

WENDELL FRANCISCO PINERA NARVAEZ.

Gerald José Vasquez López

MAtt Andres Romero



Managua is the capital of Nicaragua and the capital of the department of the same name. It is the seat of the national government and of the branches of State. Of the 2,223,000 inhabitants in the department, 1,357,330 live in the capital; 95% of its population is urban and 5% is rural

Between April 18 and September 23, 2018, four municipalities of Managua (Managua, Ciudad Sandino, Ticuantepe and Tipitapa) were the scene of brutal repression carried out by the National Police, paramilitary groups, and Sandinista "turbas" (pro-government thugs). During this period, dozens of people were murdered by the regime.

The main acts of violence are summarized here:

April 18

A protest by people opposing Social Security (INSS) reforms was attacked by thugs on motorcycles and members of the pro-government Sandinista Youth in front of the Camino de Oriente shopping center. The attackers wounded several people and stole cell phones and the video equipment of journalists. Students also were rallying in support of the elderly protesters, and gathered at the main gate of the Central American University (UCA), where they were attacked by mobs that caused destruction in the area.

April 19, 20 and 21

Protests took place at universities (UNAN-Managua, UPOLI, UNI, UCA, UNA) and in the municipalities of Managua (Tipitapa, Ciudad Sandino and Ticuantepe). The police increased their attacks with the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. The demonstrators defended themselves with rocks, homemade mortars and Molotov cocktails. There were reports of students and citizens wounded, detained and murdered.

April 22

Looting by pro-government mobs generated confrontations with neighbors who tried to defend the businesses under attack. Various citizens were wounded and murdered.

May 30

An attack on the Mothers' Day March by paramilitaries and snipers left nine dead in Managua and other parts of the country.



Mothers' Day March in Managua, May 30, Nicaragua's Mother's Day, 2018. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

June 22 and 23

Police begin the so-called "Operation Clean-Up" in neighborhoods of Managua. Reports of attacks against the population and murders.

July 13 and 14

An attack by police and paramilitaries for 12 continuous hours against the UNAN-Managua and the nearby Divina Misericordia Catholic Church, where students took refuge. This attack caused the deaths of two students.

September 23

An attack on the Blue and White March, organized to demand the release of political prisoners, took a new victim: a 16-year-old boy.

***** 36

Darwing Manuel Urbina Urbina

≥ 29 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Managua on April 19, 2018. He was the first victim at the UPOLI.

Facts Darwing Manuel Urbina Urbina had a daily routine. After he left work, he passed by his mother's house in the Américas barrio. On Thursday, April 19, 2018, she unsuccessfully tried to warn him not to visit her, because the situation in her neighborhood was tense. The streets were blocked and there were barricades in the barrios near the UPOLI, in support of the protests against the Social Security reforms.

On this day, Darwin got out of the car that had given him a ride to the traffic light of the Miguel Gutiérrez barrio, but there was no way to get through. A witness who today is living in exile explains that Darwin joined the protest. At 6:30 in the evening, when they were singing the national hymn and shouting slogans, they were surrounded by police and anti-riot forces, who shot at them and threw tear-gas. When Darwin went to the aid of a girl screaming for help, he was shot by the anti-riot forces and felt down, wounded. The students thought the police were shooting blanks. They chanted: "Darwin, go on, get up Darwin..." They took him to the Alemán Hospital by motorcycle, but he was dead when he arrived. Later he was taken to the Forensic Examiner's, where his sister went to retrieve his body.

"They wanted us to accuse the students, but we refused because we knew that they weren't armed. Other students told us that the anti-riot police were shooting to kill," his relatives said.







Biography Darwing Manuel Urbina Urbina was happy and helpful. He was the oldest of four, and a good son and grandson. He was father to his girfriend's two son, who today are adolescents. He sold nacatamales and baked goods at the UPOLI, worked for years at a construction company, and since 2016 was a subcontractor for a chain of supermarkets, picking up their garbage. He used to always say, "You need to work, because if you don't work, you don't eat."



📤 Richard Eduardo Pavón Bermúdez

[▽] 17 years old – Student

† Murdered in Tipitapa, April 19, 2018

Facts On April 19, 2018, there were simultaneous protests in different parts of Managua. That day, the school where Richard Eduardo Pavón Bermúdez studied, in Tipitapa, sent its students home early. Richard joined the march in his municipality. "He got involved because of the injustice committed against the old people," said his father, Carlos Pavón.

They told his mother, Maricruz Bermúdez, that Richard left the march and went to the park for a while. He returned when the protesters were marching toward the Tipitapa Municipal Government office. Around 6:30 in the evening, Richard was 30 meters away from the government building when he was shot multiple times, causing his death. His father recalls that some boys came to tell him that Richard had been shot. When he reached the hospital, he was told his son had been dead on arrival. "I couldn't believe it. When I saw my son on a stretcher, I removed the sheet that covered him, I hugged him, and I said, "Get up, get up," he sadly explains.

The Minister of Health, Sonia Castro, and the hospital director, offered to help with the costs of the burial. Don Carlos said, "We want justice." During the wake, Richard's friends filled the house. "The place was overflowing with kids, and this is his main legacy: love, affection, something that I am now experiencing with these kids," his mother shares, with deep emotion.







Biography Richard Pavón Bermúdez lived with his parents and two sisters in Tipitapa. He was in his last year of high school, at the Gaspar García Laviana School in Tipitapa. He was 17 and worked at the "Las Marías" kiosk. "The family relationship was beautiful.

He was very active, caring and playful. He was an angel for me," says doña Maricruz. Don Carlos adds: "They destroyed his dreams and stole our dream of seeing him grow up and study at the university."



He was a good son, a good grandson, attentive and loving."



'He left us the love of his friends, who loved him so much."



v 38

Álvaro Manuel Conrado Dávila 15 years old – Student

† Murdered in Managua, April 20, 2018

Facts When the repression began against the students on April 19, Álvaro Manuel Conrado Dávila asked why the students were being left on their own.

"I told him I didn't think he should go out to the streets because things were dangerous, but on April 20, he got up early and went to find his friends to go to the protest. Since he had just turned 15 he had some money in his wallet, so he went to buy water for the students at the Engineering University (UNI)," explains his mother, Lizeth Dávila Orozco.

At 10:30 in the morning, Álvaro Manuel was headed to the UNI. There were police and anti-riot forces around the perimeter of the Metrocentro Mall, the Cathedral of Managua, the UCA and the UNI. Men on motorcycles drove by shooting at the students every 15 to 30 minutes.

Between 11:15 and 11:30 in the morning, Alvarito was shot in the neck from above, with the bullet perforating his internal organs. University students helped him and took him to the Cruz Azul Hospital, just five minutes away from the university, but they closed their doors to him. They then went to the Bautista Hospital where doctors struggled for three and a half hours to save his life. The surgeon in charge informed the family that Alvarito bled to death. If he had received medical assistance at the first hospital, he could have lived. Just days before he died, Alvarito wrote in Facebook: "We are Nicaragua, we are one. Our flag is stained with the blood of our sisters and brothers. We are Nicaraguans and they will never silence us."







Biography Álvaro Conrado was in his fourth year of high school at the Loyola Institute in Managua.

Humble and very talkative, he was a member of the school's athletics team, with whom he had won three medals.

He liked to ride his skateboard, play guitar and study English. He was a big fan of video games and Harry Potter.

He dreamed of getting a scholarship to study at the UCA.His mother remembers him as a boy who defended the weak and showed great solidarity.



"It hurts to breathe..."



Testimonial vide



⇒ 30 years old – Engineer

† Murdered in Managua, April 20, 2018

Facts Michael Humberto Cruz Sánchez went to the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua (UPOLI) on April 20, 2018, to support the student protests against the social security reforms. Michael joined the cause because "he was upset about the attack on the old people. He was indignant and saw his own grandfather and grandmother in each of them," relates his aunt, Elizeth Cruz.

Michael bought water and headed over to the UPOLI. He wanted to help the students who were being attacked, but he couldn't get through with his car, so he walked. The entire area around the university was filled with police, paramilitaries, members of the Sandinista Youth, and anti-riot forces who were throwing tear gas and shooting at the protesters.

Around 3:00 in the afternoon, the young people withdrew to the back of the UPOLI to set off some mortars. Michael Cruz entered an alley and tried to launch a mortar, but a policeman shot him point blank.

Several students took him to the Alemán Hospital, where his aunt Elizeth arrived and was able to see her young nephew on a stretcher surrounded by hospital personnel, but she was not allowed to go in. Someone said to his aunt, "Señora, don't leave him alone, there are orders to let them die." Minutes later she was called in to identify his body. He was wrapped in a sheet. No one explained what had happened, while a large contingent of police remained in the hospital.







Biography Michael Humberto Cruz Sánchez was the son of Rosa Amanda Cruz Sánchez, who emigrated to the United States to be able to support her family. Michael had studied business administration and was a salesman, but

her family. Michael had studied business administration and was a salesman, but he returned to the university to study project formulation and evaluation. He wanted to create a business offering civil engineering and electrical and construction services. When he died, he was 30 years old and was the father of a seven-month-old baby boy.



"He went out to fight for justice. His legacy is his love for the elderly."



Testimonial vide

v 40

Harlinton Raúl López García 19 years old – Manufacturing employee

† Murdered on April 20, 2018, in Managua

Facts On April 20, 2018, Harlinton Raúl López García headed to the protests that were underway near the UNI. He was going to support the protesters and was planning to take photos and videos. He never arrived, because the protesters had been thrown out of the university at 5:00 in the afternoon by pro-government shock forces and the police.

At approximately 5:30, Harlinton Raúl was hit with bullets from an automatic weapon in the thorax and his leg.

According to the police investigation contained in the forensic report, he was shot "three blocks south of the Jonathan González traffic light, on the right side of the road, walking in the company of other relatives, in a west to east direction." This is the zone where the protesters had retreated to.

Different civilians came to his aid and transported him to the David Bolaños Military Hospital in Managua. There, they circumvented the hospital's initial resistance to admitting him. Despite the surgery performed, the doctors were unable to save him. He died on the operating table at approximately 8:00 at night. His heart and one of his lungs had been damaged by the bullets.





García was originally from
Siuna and had arrived in Managua one
year earlier in search of better economic
opportunities. He worked in a furniture
factory and was the youngest of four
brothers. In media interviews, his
mother—overcome with emotion—
stated that her son had often said he
would die before her, as was the case.

"He often said he would die before his mother."



Facts



† Murdered in Tipitapa, April 20, 2018

Facts Hammer Jhoel left his house in Tipitapa on the night of April 20, without telling his family where he was going. Around 9:30 that night, in the area near the Municipal Government buildings, the police, shock forces and members of the Sandinista Youth were shooting at anyone protesting against the government. Hammer ran to get away from the attack but was hit by a bullet that entered on the left side of his back and perforated his heart, causing a massive hemorrhage.

"That day, he had arrived early from work, at midday. He washed his clothes and hung them up to dry. At night, we were all together and he wanted to show me a photo of Richard Pavón, the young man who had been murdered on April 19, near the Municipal Government building," recalls his mother, Mayra Salinas Flores.

The next day, after looking for him around town, his girlfriend and mother went to the hospital. They'd been told that two wounded boys and one dead one had been taken there. The doctor asked doña Mayra to describe her son, and when the doctor mentioned the bracelet that the dead boy was wearing, she knew that it was Hammer.

The Vice-Mayor arrived at the hospital and offered to help the family, covering the cost of the wake. Days later, a boy who was a caponera driver (a 3-wheeled taxi) who had witnessed everything told Hammer's mother that her boy had held up his hand asking for help when the bullet that ended his life hit him.

"They were students with dreams, with goals."







Biography Hammer García Salinas
was 19 years old. He began
studying systems engineering at the
UPOLI, but later he transferred to the
Vocational School to study electronics.
Despite the economic difficulties,
he took courses in residential electricity
and networks. "Hammer dreamed of
building his own house, and he wanted
to build me a house that had every
comfort. He thought about returning to
the university in 2019 and finishing his
studies. He wanted to work, and he also
wanted to get married," his mother recalls.





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estimonial video

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Moroni Jacob López García

22 years old – Student and worker

† Murdered in Managua, April 20, 2018

Facts On Friday, April 20, 2018, Moroni Jacob López García, left his home in Ciudad Sandino to head to the UNI and support the protests of university students, who were being attacked by the police, anti-riot forces and shock troops.

Doña Alba del Socorro García, Moroni's mother, called her son to find out where he was. He told her he was giving first aid to people in the Cathedral. She told him to be careful and as they were speaking she heard an explosion. After giving first aid to the wounded students, he was in an open field to the north of the UNI, when he was hit by two bullets. One entered the upper part of his right arm, and the other the right side of his thorax, which killed him instantly. A short time later, a girl called on Moroni's telephone to say that he had died. "I had the privilege of hearing him speak for the last time," his mother says, with indescribable pain.

"We started to look for him in the hospitals, until we found him at the Forensic Examiner's." They delivered Moroni's body to us at around 11:00 p.m. They were traveling on the highway when they ran into a barricade that was blocking traffic. "Let me through, because otherwise the police are going to take the body of my son, who they just murdered," she begged of one of the boys. They told her, "We're so sorry, madre. We are going to fight in his name."







Biography His relatives describe Moroni as an intelligent person, with a great passion for learning. He graduated with honors from the Fe y Alegría School of Ciudad Sandino and received a full scholarship to study medicine at the university. After he passed his second year, he withdrew from his studies to go on a religious mission to the Dominican Republic. He loved to cook, and his greatest dream was to be a doctor. He was only 22 years old when he died.



📤 Marlon Manases Martínez Ramírez

≥ 20 years old – Student

† Murdered in Managua, April 20, 2018

Facts On April 20, 2018, sometime after 4:00 in the afternoon, the National Police and shock forces attacked the protesters near the UNI. Marlon Manases Martínez was in an empty field north of the university when armed groups came in shooting. He received a bullet in his head that caused a severe cranioencephalic trauma. It was difficult to evacuate him because the police and paramilitaries prevented ambulances from entering the UNI. The students transported him to the Vélez Paiz Hospital, but they were told to take him to the Lenín Fonseca Hospital, where he died at 8:30 p.m.

One of his cousins alerted the family that Marlon was wounded. His father, Edgar Manases, explains that they searched for him in numerous hospitals. "It was total chaos at the Lenín Fonseca. Ambulances arrived and dropped off the wounded. The hospital closed its doors and wouldn't let relatives enter. From outside, we could only hear the cries of the wounded," he remembers. They asked the security guard to let them in to identify a young man who was wounded. They'd heard that he didn't have any ID documents. When they entered, they were told that the only wounded person without identification had already died and was in the morgue.

"They didn't attend to him as they should have. They just let him die," laments his mother, Juana Ramírez. She saw videos that verify that Marlon was not carryingany weapons, that he only had a slingshot.







years old. He liked to joke around and was friendly. He grew up in a large and close-knit family. His parents gave him strong values, and taught him about living in harmony. He was in high school at Sendero de Luz, a Christian school in Ciudad Sandino. He got good grades and played soccer with his friends. He was a good artist, was an assistant on construction projects, learned carpentry, and worked in Bluefields for more than a year.



"Not one step backward, mother. If you make a decision, do not backtrack. Keep going forward."



Testimonial video



"They were brave young people who made others open their eyes to injustice."



Testimonial vide

📤 Juan Carlos López Martínez

24 years old – Cell phone repairman

† Murdered on April 20, 2018, in Managua

Facts There were confrontations between the police and protesters in Ciudad Sandino on April 20, 2018. That is where Juan Carlos López Martínez lived. At 8:10 p.m., when he was on his way home, he was near a food stand and was hit by a bullet in his chest. The shot had come from a motorcycle driving down the street. According to information that was obtained, the driver was wearing a security uniform from the Municipal Government, and a policeman riding on the back is the one who shot the gun.

People nearby first moved him to the Ciudad Sandino Hospital, and later, after being denied entry, they took him to the local branch of the Monte España Hospital. He was dead on arrival. To be able to collect his body, his relatives had to sign a statement indicating they would not take any legal action. They stated that they did not want to send the body to the Forensic Examiner's and absolved the police from District 10 of any responsibility.

Biography Juan Carlos was 24 years old, and he worked repairing cell phones. His main hobby was getting tattoos. He wanted to have his own cell phone shop.

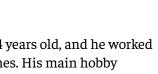
He wanted his own cell phone shop."













† Wounded in Managua, April 21. Died on April 22.

Facts Danny Stalyng Rivas joined the protests in Managua on April 19, 2018. On Saturday the 21st, he took part in a demonstration near the UPOLI, which was attacked by the police who shot at the protesters. Danny was wounded in the abdomen by a bullet from a shotgun, when he was one block from the Rafaela Herrera monument, just 20 meters from a barricade. The bullet perforated his femoral artery.

He was helped by people at the scene and was first taken to the medical post at the UPOLI, set up for the protesters. The fierce resistance of students inside the UPOLI against the police offensive, and the number of barricades that had been set up around the university campus, made it hard to reach the Alemán Hospital. He urgently needed to get to a medical center due to the seriousness of his wound. Although he was finally admitted to the hospital and between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m., the young man died the next day.

His mother explains the difficulties he had reaching the hospital, and the scarce information provided by the medical personnel who attended him. She says she was able to see her son in the ICU, after he had been operated and intubated. The doctor who operated on him explained the seriousness of his wound and gave him little chance of surviving. Danny died hours later.







Biography Danny Rivas was 25 years old. He was a simple, humble young man, very committed to his family. He had a special love for his grandfather, who he called "papa." His mother, Darling Rivas, says that he was religious and a true believer in justice. He played basketball and took part in neighborhood activities. He used to say that life should be lived with health, love and education. He worked at the Casa McGregor in León, but he joined the protests at the UPOLI with his cousin.



Life should be lived with health, love and education."



Managua

AMA: Constructing Memory

Marcos Antonio Samorio Anderson

29 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Managua, April 21, 2018

Facts On April 21, 2018, between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. near the Municipal Government of Managua, the police, paramilitaries, and members of the Sandinista Youth attacked a protest. Marcos Samorio Anderson was returning from work with the AGROSACO transport bus, but the paramilitaries had blocked entry into the San Judas barrio, so he got off the bus and walked. A pickup truck filled with paramilitaries passed by shooting, and the young man was hit by three bullets: in the hand, in his ribs, and in his chest.

Since Marcos Antonio had disappeared on Saturday the 21st, his family started to look for him. There was news that the wounded had been transferred to the Vélez Paiz Hospital. His aunt went to look there, but she was told to go to the Forensic Examiner's. "I was the one who went to the Forensic Examiner's to ask about my son, and they made me wait. They were the longest 50 minutes of my life," recalls his father, Tomás Samorio Torres. He explains that it was painful to confirm his son's death, but what really hit him was receiving his body. He was completely naked. The father observed his son and remembered him as a newborn. An intense chill ran through his body. A horrific experience, never to be forgotten. The death certificate stated the cause of death as "wounded by a bullet, massive hemorrhage, laceration of the lung and heart."







Anderson was about to turn
Anderson was about to turn
When he was murdered. As a boy,
he was raised by his grandparents.
He had two daughters, but he never met
the youngest one. "We remember him
as an innocent boy. We remember how
hard he worked to get ahead and help his
family. He was the victim of something
he didn't deserve... He was in the wrong
place," affirms his father.



📤 Lester Adán Vindel Picado

37 years old – Retail merchant and athlete

† Murdered in Managua, April 21, 2018

Facts On April 21, 2018, Lester Adán Vindel Picado had gone to the protests near the UPOLI.

He brought some supplies to the students and others who had congregated there. At approximately 8:00 p.m., he was near the Iván Montenegro Market when he was shot. The bullet entered the right side of his thorax.

He was taken to the Alemán Hospital, where he was admitted at approximately 9:00 p.m., dead on arrival.







Biography Lester Adán Vindel Picado worked as a retail merchant. He was a cyclist and took part in different activities organized by the cycling community. After he was murdered, Nicaraguan cyclists organized an activity to share a message of peace and peaceful resistance, honoring those who died during the protests, including their friend Lester Adán, whose photo was held high.



"He was in the wrong place."



Testimonial video



"He went to the protests to bring people supplies."

Fact

Jeisson Antonio Chavarría Urbina **≥** 24 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Ticuantepe, April 21, 2018

Facts On April 20, 2018, Jeisson Antonio Chavarría Urbina joined the protest on the Masaya Highway, at Km. 14. He came home early the next morning, very happy, saying that they had knocked down a metal "chayo" tree. The next day he joined the "blue and white" march in Ticuantepe. "When they reached the Municipal Government building, they saw the Sandinista Youth gangs and police," his sister, Yerling Ninoska Chavarría Urbina, recounts.

The police forced them to retreat to the traffic lights, where paramilitaries, police, and shock forces shot at them. The protesters responded by throwing rocks and firing mortars. Between 8:30 and 8:45 p.m., Jeisson was captured and murdered by a paramilitary, who shot him in the head, despite his pleas to not kill him. A friend who tried to pick him up from the ground was also shot at. His friends took him by motorcycle to the Primario Amistad Mexico-Nicaragua Hospital, but he died en route.

His mother, Cela Nereyda Urbina Membreño, recalls that Jeisson had many plans. He wanted to study English, go to school, and have a family. The young man was well informed about the situation. He read news on Facebook and was outraged when the first young people were killed. He wanted to support the protests of the elderly, because he had a special awareness about their condition. Today, his mother only asks for justice. "Those who killed him should pay, but also those who sent them out to kill." she affirms.







Biography Jeisson Antonio Chavarría Urbina was 24 years old and worked as a trainee to a caponera. He was happy, friendly, and enjoyed spending time with his friends. They played billiards on his days off. They affectionately referred to him as "Calulo." He got along well with his sister and brother-in-law, the owner of the caponera. In his free time, he liked to watch Real Madrid soccer matches, and play Play Station.



His legacy is his fearlessness, and his struggle for justice."

📤 Jesner Josué Rivas

i 15 years old − Student

† Murdered in Managua, April 22, 2018

Facts At approximately 9:00 in the morning of April 22, 2018, teenager Jesner Josué Rivas was walking to the PALI supermarket in Managua's La Fuente barrio. Meanwhile, neighbors were clashing with members of the Sandinista Youth, who were trying to loot the store. The police began shooting at people and wounded Jesner, who was walking along the northern side of the Japón School, his uncle explains. The young boy was shot in the upper part of his chest, on the left, and the bullet stayed lodged inside.

According to his family, the shots were made by police who had entered the Adolfo Reyes barrio. Wounded, Rivas was taken to the Manolo Morales Hospital. There, they told his relatives that he was in the operating room, but later the doctor said that he had died due to a lack of blood.

The death certificate issued by the hospital was altered, indicating that a wound from a gunshot was the cause of death. The police registered him as having a criminal history, and to collect his body the family had to sign a document agreeing to forego any judicial process.

The family hopes for justice. "We want the murderers to go to prison, to pay for the crimes they committed, because they murdered unarmed people. I am a Sandinista, but I am not a "Danielista" and it is painful to see the way the FSLN has been tarnished. In Nicaragua, we have a dictatorship. We are prisoners, and we want to be free," affirms his uncle, Norlan Rodríguez.







Biography Jesner Josué Rivas was 15 years old and was attending primary school at the Japón School. He lived with his grandmother, Maritza Yamileth Rueda Sáenz, and helped her with the family shop. Sometimes when there was mechanical work to be done, he helped his uncle Norlan. In his free time, Jesner played marbles, spinning tops, or played soccer with his teammates, who gave him the nickname "Pepito."



We are prisoners in Nicaragua."



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AMA: Constructing Memory

🚔 Ismael Josué Pérez Vílchez

32 years old – Construction worker

† Murdered in Managua, April 22, 2018

Facts On Sunday, April 22, 2018, Ismael Josué Pérez Vílchez went to work. His mother, doña María Ramona Vílchez, hugged him like never before. "I gave him such a strong hug, which was strange for me... I walked him to the corner, and this is the last image I remember of him." she recalls.

That day, the city was tense. "Police were everywhere and there were robberies here and there, so they decided to go home. Later, they heard that the Sandinista Youth were looting the PALI supermarket, and Ismael decided to go defend the supermarket. When he got there, the police were protecting the looters and there was a shootout. One of the police shot him in the face," says his mother.

Ismael was hit by a bullet in his right cheek, destroying his face. Neighbors took him to the Roberto Calderón Hospital, where he died at around 10:40 a.m. María Ramona reached the hospital before he died. "His eyes were open. I put my hand under his head, and he looked upward with his eyes when he heard my voice. A little bit later, he died in my arms." To receive his body, the family had to sign an agreement to not accuse the National Police of his murder.

According to his mother, Ismael "was a Sandinista. He went to the repliegues and to the Plaza." After his death, the Minister of Health, Sonia Castro, came to offer money in exchange for changing their testimony. She asked her to declare that her son had died in a gang fight, and they offered her 75,000 córdobas (a little more than US\$2,000). "I want justice," she told them. "I don't want money, I want justice."

"I don't want money, I want justice."







Biography Ismael Josué Pérez
Vílchez was 32 years old
and worked in construction. He put up
gypsum ceilings in hotels and other
projects. Sometimes he would go to the
departments to work, at times for 15 days.
He lived with his wife and two children.
He was dynamic, helpful and generous.
His son, Jeffrey Gabrael, said Ismael
was happy, he had charisma, and he was
a good cook. He always helped his mother,
helped take care of his children, and was
loving to his wife.





Testimonial vide

🚔 Kevin Roberto Dávila López

≥ 23 years old – Student

† Wounded in Managua, April 21, 2018. Died on May 6.

Facts On Saturday, April 21, 2018, Kevin Roberto Dávila
López headed to the UPOLI with a cousin and
two friends. All along the road from the Rafaela Herrera
barrio to the Miguel Gutiérrez traffic lights, police were
attacking protesters, who responded with mortars, rocks
and sticks. Kevin spoke with journalists at the scene,
showing them bullet casings as proof of the armed attack.
His friends asked him to leave with them, but he stayed
on in the same area.

Between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m., Kevin's uncle received a cell phone message that Kevin had been shot in the head. He was moved, wounded, to the UPOLI, and later an ambulance took him to the Lenín Fonseca Hospital, where he underwent two operations. His father found him there after an anguished search in different hospitals of Managua. He was in a coma and died there on May 6. One day before he was wounded, Kevin had been beat up when he took part in a protest in the same place that was attacked by the police.

"We want justice for Kevin and for all of the young people who were murdered. To date, no one has been accused of the deaths of so many young people. We want real justice, justice with freedom. We want justice, and acknowledgement that we have lived through this struggle with our children, with our dead," demands his godmother, Martha Lorena Blandón.

"We want real justice, justice with freedom.







was 23 years old. He was a simple person with a good heart. He was part of a tight-knit family with strong values. He loved animals and he was enrolled at the veterinary school at the Central University of Nicaragua (UCN). After three years he had to discontinue his studies due to economic problems. "He took a pause in his university education to take up technical studies in refrigeration. He looked for work in order to return to the university and finance his studies. His dream was to be a veterinarian," says his godmother.





restimomai video

Noel Ramón Calderon Lagos

i 19 years old − Student

† Murdered in Managua, May 16, 2018

Facts Noel Ramón Calderón Lagos went to the UPOLI on April 20, 2018, to support the protest of the university students. On May 15, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Señora Iris Lagos and her husband Humberto Parrales went to the UPOLI to see Noel, who had told them he had a stomachache. Close to 11:30 that night, Humberto, Noel and his cousin, identified as Hansell, left on a motorcycle to look for a pharmacy, without realizing they were being followed by a Hilux pickup truck and a white taxi. On their way back to the UPOLI, as they passed by the Don Pez restaurant, next to the Pío X Church in Bello Horizonte, they were hit by the taxi, who rammed into them from behind and then the side, causing them to fall off the motorcycle. The taxi driver signaled to a group of paramilitaries, who arrived shooting from the truck.

Hansell escaped, terrified, and ran to the UPOLI. Other students hopped on a motorcycle and went to the location where Noel had been shot and brought him to the university. Noel, wounded, was transported to the Vivian Pellas Hospital, but he died en route, in the early morning hours of May 16. The doctor who prepared his body indicated that he had signs of torture: electric shocks to his feet, and bruises and hematomas on his hands, his legs, and on both sides of his body. The doctors attending to the wounded who defended the university campus told doña Iris how deeply they admired Noel, for his commitment to supporting the struggle and his help with logistics.







Biography Noel Calderón Lagos was 19 years old. He was in his second year of high school at the Diriangén School and worked during the day at a bottling company. He was introverted, had a strong character, but he told his mother that he loved her. "He was always easy going. He liked animals and plants. He was helpful and won over the hearts of all our neighbors. We were a very close family. Everything was lovely when he was here," recalls his mother.







📤 Humberto Antonio Parrales Reyes

▼ 40 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Managua, May 16, 2018.

Facts Humberto Antonio Parrales walked his wife, Iris Magalis, to visit her son, Noel Ramón Calderón Lagos, who was behind the barricades at the UPOLI. When he was there, he began to collaborate with the university students, and also those at the barricades in the Carlos Marx barrio, bringing them water and supplies.

On May 15, 2018, at around 9:30 p.m., Humberto and his wife arrived at the UPOLI and found Noel complaining of a stomachache. Since there was no medicine to relieve his discomfort. Humberto. Noel and a nephew named Hansell left on a motorcycle to look for a pharmacy. It was almost midnight. On their way back they were rammed into by a taxi that had followed them, and the driver then signaled to some paramilitaries who were pursuing people in the area. Hansell was able to flee, but Humberto and Noel were murdered.

According to the testimony of the doctor who prepared the body of Parrales Reyes, he died just past midnight on Wednesday, May 16, as a result of a gunshot that perforated his lung. He also had a dislocated pelvis and signs of torture on his face and body. "I want him to be remembered as a hero, because he gave his life for Nicaragua, so that we can be free of so many crimes, of so much impunity. We were blind and we didn't see so many things that were happening," says his wife.







Biography Humberto Parrales was 40 years old and worked in the Pepsi Cola bottling plant. His wife says they had a beautiful relationship. They had married at the Ríos de Agua Viva Church, where the whole family attends services. "Humberto was a man who went from his home to work, and vice-versa. He organized a children's soccer team called Los Galácticos. He wanted to work hard to build a home and provide us with a more comfortable life.



His legacy is for young people to be able to grow up without being killed." 'I want him to be remembered as a hero."



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AMA: Constructing Memory

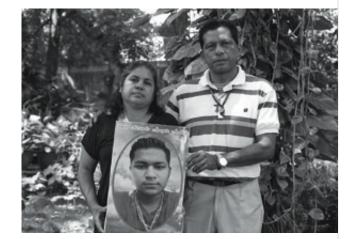
Javier Alexander Munguía Mendoza 18 years old – Student

† Murdered in Managua after disappearing on May 8, 2018

Facts Margarita Azucena Mendoza doesn't know the exact date of her son's death. She knows that Javier Alexander Munguía Mendoza, 19 years old, disappeared on May 8, 2018, near the Multicentro Las Américas mall, and that he appeared ten days later in the morgue of the Forensic Examiner's, with signs that he had been tortured on his face.

"I started looking for him from that day. I went to the District One police station, and they told me they didn't know anything. Later I went to El Chipote, and some prisoners told me they had seen my son, that he had been beaten and they were passing him from cell to cell," she explains. The police and the Forensic Examiner have repeatedly denied this information about Munguía.

On May 18, Javier's mother received a call from the Forensic Examiner asking her to come in to identify the corpse. One official indicated that Javier had died a "natural death," but a private forensic examination established the cause of death as "mechanical asphyxiation." The body also presented bruises on different parts of the body, including the face and head. "My son's face was unrecognizable. They say that he fell, that he was bruised and that he had a heart attack. How is it possible for them to say that, when my son was young and was not ill? My son was healthy," his mother affirms.







According to the lawyer, Karla Martínez, the team of coroners from the Forensic Examiner's office did not know how to answer some of the questions asked by the delegation from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IACHR), which became interested in the case. It was very striking to us when they asked him whether he had a protocol for the intake of bodies and he responded that they did. We asked why the body wasn't registered and, if they'd found an identification card on the body, why they didn't give the mother any information when she came here," Martínez said.



"My son was not a delinquent."



Testimonial vide

Marlon José Orozco Largaespada 48 years old – Bricklayer

† Murdered on May 24, 2018, in Managua

Facts Francis Indiana Mejía Sequeira, the wife of Marlon José Orozco Largaespada, remembers that on May 24, he was home because he didn't have a job. At night he went out with his brother. They left in his brother's car, which had Nicaraguan flags hung on both sides. They ran into a group of hooded government supporters on motorcycles at the Primero de Mayo gas station. Marlon's brother turned the car around to leave, but the guys on motorcycles followed them and shot at them, until their tires were punctured. The car crashed. Witnesses say that the motorcyclists pulled Marlon out of the car, put him up against a wall and beat him with a gun butt. He fell face down, and they shot him in the head. This was at the carpentry shop, across from the El Madroño restaurant.

One of Marlon's relatives contacted his family at 11:30 p.m., and they went to look for his body. The Forensic Examiner's office didn't call, "because they were going to open him up and give us an empty body," says his wife. "All of us were angry and couldn't understand why they had killed him." According to a private physician, the fact that the encephalic mass was scattered on the ground indicates that it was a shot from an AKA, at close range. The death certificate specifies "a serious cranioencephalic trauma," due to "a traffic accident." The government's Commission on Truth, Justice and Peace registers his death as "a death unrelated to the conflict," the victim of a robbery and homicide.



"We were all angry and couldn't understand why they had killed him."







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Biography Marlon José Orozco was from Managua. He lived in Villa Libertad and was married to Francis Indiana Mejía. His three children, Jeffrey, Sahid and Vicky, were all high school graduates, something which gave him great pride. His dream was for them to become professionals. People affectionately called him "Pipoca," because he was skinny and had a big nose, and he looked like a Brazilian actor from the soap operas. He liked to dance and always helped his neighbors. He was a refrigeration technician, and a very experienced bricklayer.

Francisco

Francisco Javier Reyes Zapata

i 34 years old − Merchant

† Murdered in Managua, May 30, 2018

Facts Francisco Javier Reyes Zapata participated in the march on May 30 in Managua. According to witnesses, around 5:00 in the afternoon, minutes before the march concluded, he was hit by a bullet shot by government forces, presumably snipers stationed on the roof of the new Baseball Stadium. One bullet entered his head and three entered his thorax. He was rescued amid the chaos by a student known as "Colocho", who was agile, dark-skinned, with curly hair, who evacuated him on his motorcycle when he saw him lying on the cobblestones near the UNI. A team from the International Rescue Brigades (BIR) transported Francisco to the Bautista Hospital, where he died a short time later. Colocho's attempts to balance Francisco's bleeding body on his motorcycle as the multitude ran from the gunshots were caught on television.

"Colocho" followed Francisco's funeral in the media and that is how he found out that he was the son of an active police officer and that his mother, Guillermina Mercedes Zapata, had also attended the march. He wanted to give Francisco's mother the bloodstained flag that Francisco had waved on the day he was killed. He gave it to her on Good Friday, in April 2019.

"I was going to give it to you once I had won this war, but there you have it. It is yours, take care of it," the young man told her. "I was moved. I wanted to meet this young man who had picked up my son when he fell near the UNI." she told the media.







Biography Francisco Javier Reyes was single. He helped his mother, Guillermina Zapata, who sold clothes in Rivas. She says he "was shy but very loving with me. He liked to play soccer, go for trips to the countryside, and go hiking in the mountains. He loved animals and was very responsible, and very good with the whole family. He had filled the gap left by his father and was always willing to help out."



"I received the flag stained with his blood."



Testimonial vide



† Murdered in Managua, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30th, 2018, at about 4:30 in the afternoon, Orlando Daniel Aguirre Córdoba received a gunshot in the thorax while he participated in the May 30th march honoring the Mothers of April.

According to witnesses, the gunshot came from a sniper. The young man was taken to the Fernando Velez Paiz Hospital by motorcycle where he died two hours later.

According to relatives, the hospital took a long time to attend to him. When his mother got to the hospital, she had to wait one hour until the doctors told her that her son was not in the operating room but in the morgue, and that he died of a heart attack caused by the gunshot wound in his thorax.

Doña Yadira says she didn't go to the march because she was too tired, "but I did not discourage him from going. It was for the mothers, and no one believed that they would attack that march. No one imagined what would happen, that they would dare to attack. And this day, I became one of those mothers. His solidarity with the mothers cost him his life."

According to witnesses, Orlando Daniel was shot by snipers who were located at the top of the National Baseball Stadium. It was difficult for his mother to get to the hospital because "the streets were filled with people and the police didn't let people through," she affirms. When she finally arrived, Orlando had died. "The doctor told me that the bullet entered through his rib and damaged his lung."



"His solidarity with the mothers cost him his life."







Biografía Orlando Daniel Aguirre
Córdoba was the youngest
of four children. His mother, Yadira
del Socorro Córdoba Obando, says he
was "a very happy and enthusiastic child
who didn't like seeing anyone unhappy."
He was in the sixth grade and joined the
Soccer Federation. His dream was to be
a great soccer player, to play in Spain
and play drums. He took classes at a
music school and the pastor invited
him to play in church.



Testimonial video

Managua

AMA: Constructing Memory

Edgard Isaac Guevara Portobanco

i 38 years old − Taxi driver

† Murdered in Managua, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30, Edgard Guevara Portobanco was visiting his mother, Marta Alicia Portobanco Vallejos, who had stayed home taking care of her youngest grandchildren while her daughters, sons-in-laws and older grandchildren went to the Mother's Day March.

Around 5:00 in the afternoon, Edgard saw on TV that police and paramilitaries were attacking the protesters near the UNI and the new National Baseball Stadium, and he decided to go. He went to the central offices of ENEL on his motorcycle, where he joined a group of "blue and white" motorcyclists. Meanwhile, a group of paramilitaries that had gathered around the Hugo Chávez roundabout advanced toward ENEL Central. According to witnesses, Edgard was shot in the right arm and was taken by ambulance to the Bautista Hospital, where he died at 9:00 that night, while on the operating table. According to the doctors, the bullet entered through his arm and perforated his thorax and heart.

"There has been no investigation, because the government knows that it ordered them to be killed. They are not interested in knowing how many young people died between April 18 and May 30," says doña Marta. She adds, "We want justice, we want an investigation about who fired, and we want people's rights to be respected, because they died demanding those rights. Every time I remember what happened, I re-live what happened and I feel as if those young people that were killed were my own children."

"I feel like these young people were my own children."







was married and had three daughters. Marta Alicia Portobanco
Vallejos had three children, and he was her only son. She says he was a very responsible and caring father. He was a jeweler and drove a taxi. He finished high school late and went on to study law in the University of the Americas. He was in his fourth year. His dream was to become a professional and buy his own taxi.





Testimonial vid



25 years old – Student

† Murdered in Managua, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30, Daniel Josías Reyes Rivera left his house in Ticuantepe to join the march. "He was up front, part of the front line the students had formed to protect the mothers," recalls his mother, Alejandra Rivera. She watched the coverage of the march on the television and saw the beginning of the attack, and the first wounded by bullets.

Daniel reached the main gate of the UNI where, according to witnesses, snipers stationed at strategic points shot at the protesters. He was shot in the abdomen and was transported to the Vivian Pellas Hospital, first by motorcycle and then in an ambulance along with another seriously wounded protester. He died around 7:00 p.m., according to the doctors, due to massive internal hemorrhaging.

In her youth, doña Alejandra participated in the fight against the Somoza dictatorship. She asked her son to leave the Sandinista Youth organization (JS), "because we are living in similar situations: two people clinging to power, who have the Army, the Police and a third army dressed in white, who are you, the Sandinista Youth, she told him. Finally, Daniel listened.

When the protests broke out, Daniel joined them, despite his mother's pleas. His father, Cándido Reyes Luna, says that "he raised his flag for a just cause, outraged at seeing elderly men who were beaten for protesting. We want justice, my son did not deserve to die." Doña Alejandra asks "that we never forget what happened. Memory means never forgetting."

"The struggle pertains to all of us, not only those who are marching in the streets."







Biography Daniel Reyes Rivera was in his third year studying veterinary medicine at the University of Commercial Sciences (UCC).

He loved animals and wanted to have his own veterinary clinic," says his mother.

According to his father, he worked hard.

He worked at a carwash and at a small restaurant. "He longed to finish his career and help his family. He was not only my son. He was my friend and confidant.

He was very smart, and he loved to study," affirms don Cándido.





Facts

Testimonial video

• 60

Maycol Cipriano González Hernández

i 34 years old − Student

† Murdered in Managua, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30, 2018, Maycol Cipriano González
Hernández, from Ticuantepe, joined the
Mothers March and had reached the UNI university
when the attacks began. His mother and other relatives,
who were also taking part, were near the Teresiano
School, since the multitude kept them from moving
forward. They saw people running back, shouting
"They're shooting, they're shooting!"

Maycol was shot in the stomach, and although he was admitted to the Vivian Pellas Hospital alive, he died around 7:00 p.m. that night. According to the medical report, the bullet was compatible with an AK 47 assault rifle and produced a diaphragmatic lung injury and internal hemorrhagic shock.

His mother, Paula Hernández, recounts that on that morning, Maycol went to work and did not tell her that he would go to the march. The entire family had joined the anti-government protests since April 21, which was the day Maycol's cousin Jeisson Antonio Chavarria was murdered in Ticuantepe. "His cousin's murder was a heavy blow for Maycol. He joined the protests because the social security reforms were going to affect us all, but he also decided to demonstrate against the repression," doña Paula says. She adds that the family expects justice, and want the material and intellectual authors to pay for their crimes. "When there is justice, our hearts will be at peace. Memory is remembering everything that happened, what they did, so that future generations know and do not repeat it."







Was the eldest of Paula
Hernández's seven children. She says
he "was good and friendly." His favorite
sport was soccer. He was a construction
worker and studied English at a
university. His cousin, Katherine González
Hernández, says that "he was known
for being modest and sincere. He worked
hard and had a dream: to build a home
and to learn English in order to get ahead."



Testimonial video



"When there is justice, our hearts will be at peace."



† Wounded in Managua, May 30. Died on June 1.

Facts On May 30, 2018, Jonathan Eduardo Morazán Meza participated in the Mother's Day March, along with the rest of his family. "I was further behind, and my son was ahead of me with all his university classmates, between the UCA and the UNI. When the attack began, they formed a human barrier to protect the rest of the demonstrators," says his mother, Josefa Esterlina Meza.

At 4:40 in the afternoon, near the UNI, Jonathan was shot in the forehead by a sharpshooter, according to witnesses. He was taken to the Vivian Pellas Hospital, where the surgeon told his mother, doña Josefa, that he was in a coma. He died at 10:00 in the morning on June 1.

"He remained unconscious because the bullet went directly into the brain stem. It was a shot to kill," says his mother as she points to the x-rays. She recalls that her son joined the protests on April 18, unhappy with the negligence of the government regarding the fire in the Indio Maíz Reserve and, later, in opposition to the Social Security reforms. "Everyone in my family joined the protests," she says, and affirms that "the deaths of all our children will not be in vain." His father, Eduardo Morazán, a former army major, announced that he would not stop protesting against the government. "My husband was always a Sandinista, but today he is outraged because this is no longer Sandinismo. It is a system established by one family that represses the people," doña Josefa states.







studied graphic design at the Del Valle University, and had graduated with a degree in tourism and hotel administration. He lived with his mother and his younger brother Kevin, who says Jonathan "was very happy and active, never angry, and he made us laugh with his jokes. He worked repairing cell phones and computers. He was very compassionate with people, and often didn't charge them. His dream was to finish his studies, to work and to travel."



"They shot to kill."



Testimonial video

• 62

Geovanny Miguel Reyes

≥ 28 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Tipitapa on June 2, 2018

Facts Between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. on June 2, 2018, Giovanny Miguel Reyes was walking with some friends towards the exit of Tipitapa, past the Gaspar García Laviana School—today known as the Salomón Ibarra Mayorga—located in the Oronte Centeno barrio where protesters had built a roadblock.

Three white Hilux pickup trucks filled with paramilitaries arrived. The people at the roadblock yelled out, "Run!" but Giovanny's sandal broke, so he was unable to escape quickly. As he turned and looked behind him, a paramilitary said, "You got here, but this is it," and shot him in the forehead. A friend of Giovanny's, Franklin, tried to help him but he was also then shot in the head.

His wife Jennifer de los Ángeles Reyes Castrillo recounts that she was having dinner with her children when she heard the gunshots. A little while later, someone came to her door to tell her that Giovanny had been murdered "with a gunshot to his forehead."

Jennifer does not understand why he was killed. They had collaborated with Sandinistas at the voting tables and he recently had begun going to the pro-government Citizen Power Council (CPC) meetings. They never shared their opinions and followed the lead of other members of their family who were Sandinistas. "My dad was a staunch Sandinista. On July 19th he took us all to the plaza," recalls one of his daughters.







Biography Giovanny Miguel Reyes Mena was 28 years old, and he worked as a textile operator in the free-trade zone, close to the city of Tipitapa, where he lived with his wife, Jennifer de los Ángeles Reyes Castrillo and their three children. She describes him as a responsible and helpful man. "He was a hero, he was a life, the father of my children. He had been unemployed for a year, but he took care of the house and the children while I went to work."



📤 Salvador de Jesús Arévalo Martínez

⇒ 33 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Managua, June 4, 2018

Facts On June 4th, 2018, at around 3:00 in the afternoon, Salvador de Jesús Arévalo Martínez had taken water to protesters who had built a barricade in the area near AGRICORP. A white Toyota Hilux pickup truck, property of the Municipal Government, arrived. Salvador said, "He who is not guilty has no fear," and he stood up. Someone in the Hilux shot him twice. He was taken to the Yolanda Mayorga Hospital in Tipitapa, and from there to the Alemán Hospital where he died. His family is convinced that he died because he did not receive the emergency care that he needed.

His mother, Isabel Arévalo Martínez, says that her son "saw that they were taking away the pensions of the elderly and so he went to the UPOLI to support them." She knows he was on a list that some neighbors had brought to the CPC, "and he had been threatened because he accused the Sandinista Youth of setting the Municipal Government building on fire, contradicting the government's version that it had been young people from the blue and white movement."

She recalls that her son proudly declared that he was "fighting for his country, defending the young people." "He was a hero, a young man full of life. He was very loving with his son. His principal legacy is his courage. He wanted a free country where there would be work, a place where he could see his son grow up properly," she adds, and demands justice "for her son and for so many innocent children who were killed."







Biography Salvador Arévalo Martínez was Isabel Arévalo Martínez's youngest child. "He was easygoing, fun and he got along well with his motorcycle for work, but previously

his three siblings," she notes. He used he worked in the free-trade zone and in Costa Rica. When he returned to Nicaragua he continued working in the Oriental Market selling appliances. He lived with his wife in Tipitapa, and they had a two-year-old boy.



He was a hero, he was a life, the father of my children."





"I often feel like he is just outside, and that soon he will return."



Roberto Pablo Corea Chávez

≥ 24 years old – Street seller

† Murdered on June 12, 2018, in Managua

Facts On Tuesday, June 12, the government's

"Clean-Up Operation" began a new attack on
the eastern neighborhoods: Santa Rosa, Larreynaga,
El Dorado, Paraisito, María Auxiliadora, Villa Progreso,
Enrique Smith and Nueva Libia. According to witnesses,
the police had 15 patrol trucks in the area near El Edén
bridge. A caravan of Hilux pickups with police and
hooded paramilitaries accompanied two excavator trucks
and knocked down the barricades. The paramilitaries
fired at anyone there. In the Enrique Smith barrio,
the attack by 20 hooded paramilitaries left behind nine
wounded and two dead: Ariel Ignacio Vivas, who worked
as a street cleaner for the Municipal Government, and
Roberto Pablo Corea Chávez, who sold sweets in the street.

Roberto's mother, Nora Isabel Chávez, recounts that since June 1, when the paramilitaries strafed at least 20 houses near the Shick barrio where her two granddaughters lived, Roberto stayed at their house to take care of them.

She says that on the 12th, her daughter told her he had been shot. Roberto "had been left lying in the street for about an hour until the armed forces left. When we got there, some caponeros had taken him to the Manolo Morales Hospital, but he was dead on arrival. My younger daughter and my husband saw his tattered shirt and his destroyed mouth. We didn't let them take him to the Forensic Examiner's because they would erase the evidence. Finally they gave me his body, with the bullet, and a death certificate that said: Death due to a firearm."







Biography Roberto Corea Chávez had studied at the Experimental Mexico National Institute through the third year, but he wanted to keep studying and be a lawyer. His mother, Nora Isabel Chávez, says that Roberto's biological father left when he was three years old, but that her new husband had raised him like his own. Roberto helped his mother sell sweets near the UCA. "I would like him to be remembered as he was: loving, a big mouth, a joker, and very helpful," she adds.



📤 Agustín Ezequiel Mendoza Lira

22 years old – Worker

† Murdered on June 14, 2018, in Managua

Facts Following the initial protests, a group of young people and community members formed the April 19 Movement of Tipitapa, which put up two roadblocks beginning in early May. One was in Las Maderas, and the other in the Oronte Centeno barrio. On June 14, in response to the opposition movement's call for a national strike, the government shifted its targets in Operation Clean-Up. One of the new targets was Tipitapa. The attack on the Oronte Centeno roadblock by police and anti-riot forces began at 4:30 in the morning. The population ran out of their homes with pots and pans, shouting "Go away!" The police and paramilitaries opened fire, and one of the paramilitaries shot Agustín Ezequiel Mendoza Lira point blank, as he was trying to record the events on his cell phone. His neighbors tried to help him, but he died on his way to the hospital.

Everyone in Tipitapa knew him and his talent as a hair stylist. On June 28, during the LGTBQ Day march, the community honored him, shouting "Agustín Ezequiel Mendoza: Present! Present! Present!"

Agustín joined the movement after his friend and fellow band member, Richard Pavón Bermúdez, was killed. He was the first person who died in the April protests.

Agustín's mother, Martha Lira, who had emigrated to Costa Rica years earlier, traveled to Nicaragua to give him her last goodbye. She holds "Ortega's forces in the Tipitapa municipality" responsible for her son's murder.







Biography Agustín's friends remember him as "a great person, friendly, happy, and very respectful."
He worked in the free-trade zone and studied hair styling on Saturdays.
Martha Lira says her son's dream "was to have his own beauty salon at home, and work for himself." At his funeral, relatives and friends painted his coffin blue and white, and the Tipitapa community put up new roadblocks to protest the repression.



"I would like him to be remembered as he was: loving, a big mouth, a joker, and very helpful."

"His dream was to have his own beauty salon one day and work for himself."



Fact

•66

Managua

AMA: Constructing Memory

📤 Jarod Daniel Ramírez Cerda

i 18 years old − University student

† Murdered on June 21, 2018, in Managua

Facts Doña Raquel Cerda Méndez, the mother of Jarod Daniel Ramírez Cerda, recounts that around midnight on June 21, three armed and hooded subjects aboard a motorcycle stopped and pointed a gun at Jarod, who had just gone out of the front door of the house.

"They took him to the room in the back, where I was," says doña Raquel. "They identified themselves as members of the Sandinista Youth (JS), and started going through everything looking for weapons. When I insisted that we didn't have any, one of them pointed the gun at me, but my son intervened. The man turned to him and threatened him, saying 'I told you that I was going to kill you for being mixed up in the marches."

As they left, they shot three times point black, once into Jarod's thorax and twice into his abdomen. He died instantly. "I started screaming for someone to help me get him to the Red Cross. A neighbor put him on his motorcycle, but at the Red Cross they left him on the pavement and said if we wanted a death certificate, to take him to the Forensic Examiner's. I was devastated, but they took him there."

The next day at the funeral of her only son, doña Raquel fainted in the arms of her husband. "Don't leave me, my baby, wait for me! What will my life be now?" she cried out.

With respect to why the JS looked for him, the family believes that perhaps they confused him with another relative who took part in the marches and the barricades.

"He had a lot of dreams.

He wanted to make something of his life."







Biography Jarod Ramírez Cerda was in his second year studying communications and public relations at the American University, and he wanted to study odontology. He spoke English and Mandarin and liked to box and play soccer. "He was exceptional. He was the most beautiful thing I had. He wanted to make something of his life," says his mother. A nephew who witnessed his death was left traumatized. He cries and says, "Why him? They should have killed me instead."



Facts

📤 Wendell Francisco Rivera Narváez

† Wounded on June 22, 2018, in Managua. Died on June 23.

Facts On June 22nd, 2018, close to 10:00 at night,
Wendell Francisco Rivera Narváez was walking
with his brother, Reynaldo José, near the second
entrance to the Santa Elena barrio. When he and his
brother passed the central office of the Internal Revenue
Institute (DGI), two Toyota Hilux trucks appeared with
police and hooded men, who shot in different directions.

Reynaldo detected danger and made Wendell walk ahead and look for cover. A policeman launched a grenade that dazed them and knocked Reynaldo to the ground, while Wendell was able to hide on the porch of a nearby house. When Reynaldo was able to stand up, 15 police surrounded him and beat and kicked him. Wendell came out from where he was hiding and begged the assailants to let them go home. He was also attacked. One of the masked gunmen grabbed Reynaldo by the neck and threw him in the back of the District VI patrol truck. As they drove off, Reynaldo heard a gunshot.

Around 10:40 p.m., friends of Wendell found him with a gunshot wound to the head that had entered his forehead and exited through his left ear. He was taken to the Alemán Hospital where he died at 12:35 a.m. on June 23. The medical record states the cause of death as "destruction of vital areas of the brain."







Narváez was 17 years old.

He worked as a bricklayer and in his free time he played soccer. "His memory is something that they will never be able to take away from us because he lives in our minds and in our hearts," affirms one of his aunts.



"They will never take away our memory of him."



Testimonial video

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Managua

Teyler Leonardo Lorío Navarrete

† Murdered on June 23, 2018, in Managua

Facts On the morning of June 23, 2018, Nelson Lorío
Sandoval and Karina Navarrete, parents of the
baby Teyler Leonardo Navarrete, were late leaving their
house. The day was gray and it looked like it would rain.
Everything seemed calm, but they saw a lot of police.
Later, they learned that the so-called Operation Clean-Up
was being carried out this day, Father's Day, in the 8 de
Marzo and Américas 1 barrios.

As they walked in the Américas 3 barrio to the home of Teyler's grandfather, they heard gunshots. *Nelson was holding the boy in his arms when a bullet hit his little head.* They desperately called out for help, and a woman let them enter her home. Still afraid of the shots, she washed his head, and Teyler had a convulsion. Karina ran desperately to ask for help, until someone on a motorcycle drove them to the Alemán Hospital.

Karina says they attended to Teyler quickly. They put him on a stretcher and placed a catheter in his mouth.

"Five minutes later, the doctor informed me that they couldn't save him, and that I should get a box to receive his body," she remembers. The certificate issued by the hospital indicated that the cause of 14-month-old Teyler Lorío Navarrete's death was "suspected suicide."

The family asked why that was listed as the cause of death, but they never received an explanation.







Biography Teyler Leonardo was a child who was very much wanted.

His parents are a young, hardworking couple who struggled for five years to have their boy. He was also very loved by his paternal grandfather, who took care of him when Nelson worked. They called him "Titi" and "Little blacky." His favorite toys were a blue car that he rode in, his stuffed animals, a battery-run car, and a plastic mortar launcher that he'd received as a gift.



† Murdered in Managua, June 23, 2018

Facts At 5:30 on the morning of June 23, police forces shot at demonstrators behind a barricade on the Iván Montenegro Market road, in the 8 de Marzo barrio, trying to disperse them. A video captured the moment when several young people desperately yelled, "They hit Tony!", while they dragged his body and tried to put him in a vehicle to take him to the Vivian Pellas Hospital, where he arrived already dead.

Jhonson Tonytiu Merlo Sevilla, better known as Tony Merlo, was shot in the abdomen. His body remained lying on the pavement, because his friends couldn't help him immediately. Yanilda del Carmen Sevilla, his mother, cannot forget the most terrible moment that she ever experienced. "I cannot conceive of the idea that my son is dead."

His mother notes that June 23 is Father's Day in Nicaragua. It is the day her son would himself have become the father of a baby, who also died due to the repression. Elsa Valle, a university student, was Jhonson's girlfriend. She was pregnant when she was kidnapped by the police and taken to prison. There, she lost the baby due to beatings and torture, Yanilda affirms. "My son lost his life, and then he lost his son. That is why I ask for justice, justice without impunity. No forgiveness, no forgetting," she says, indignant.







Elsa Valle, Jhonson Tonytiu Merlo
Sevilla's girlfriend, was released from jail
after several months in custody. She says
that she will never forget Tony or the son
that they both lost. "I will never be able
to forget all that... I have had dreams in
which he is with our baby. So, I think that
now they are both together and they take
care of each other," she states, unable
to hide her sadness.



"We will love you forever, my boy."

"No forgiveness, no forgetting."



Testimonial video

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Managua AMA: Constructing Memory

📤 José Eduardo Trujillo Vanegas

ightharpoonup 19 years old – Three-wheeled cart driver

† Murdered on June 24, 2018, in Managua

Facts On June 24, 2018, between 3:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon, hooded paramilitaries riding in a Hilux pickup truck were carrying out the so-called Operation Clean-Up. They were "hunting down" young people who, according to their information, took part in manning the roadblocks. José Eduardo Trujillo Vanegas and his brothers, who were on their way home from the barricade at the entrance to the Yolanda Mayorga Hospital in Tipitapa, were attacked by paramilitaries.

José Eduardo was hit by a gunshot in the thorax, right in his heart, which caused his instant death. The day he was murdered, his father felt anxious, as if he sensed what would happen to his son. "My sister called and told me: 'They wounded José.' I thought he'd gotten a bullet in his leg. I never thought he was dead. I got in a taxi and asked the people if they knew about a boy who was shot. They told me he had died."

His family explains the overwhelming solidarity of their neighbors at his wake and funeral. "The wake was the same Sunday, and I went to bury him in the cemetery. People told me to be calm, that they would get them to open the cemetery for me. I am going to visit him, so that I don't lose him in the grass," his father adds.





Biography José Eduardo Trujillo Vanegas was the oldest child from his father's first marriage. "They were five. He got along well with the little ones," his father, José Eduardo Trujillo, recounts. He studied until he completed the sixth grade of primary school. "He stopped studying, he told me, because he knew how to read and write, and all the high school graduates were working in the free-trade zone. He started driving the three-wheeled cart when he was 16," he continues. "He was very happy, a real joker."

"Since he was a boy, until they killed him, he was always smiling."



📤 Gerald José Vásquez López

20 years old – Student

† Murdered in Managua, July 13, 2018

Facts On July 13, 2018, the government implemented what they called Operation Clean-Up at the UNAN-Managua. Police and paramilitaries blocked access to the area. They used weapons of war to attack the students who had been occupying the campus since May 7. As part of the operation, a portion of the Arlen Siu Child Care Center was burned, and the university campus was looted by groups of Sandinista shock forces. The pastor of the Divina Misericordia Church, near the UNAN, decided to offer refuge to more than one hundred university students in the church, including Gerald José Vásquez López, during a ferocious armed attack of the church premises by police and paramilitaries. The attack lasted more than 10 hours. Gerald died in the early morning of July 14, from a shot to the head that came from outside the church. He was transported to the Metropolitano Hospital and was dead on arrival.

"He strongly opposed the repression against the students and the injustices that the new pension law meant for the elderly. He thought about his grandmother," said his sister Paola. She adds that her brother cried a lot when he heard about the death of Richard Bermúdez Pavón. "Richard was like his brother, and he felt like he couldn't do anything because he had to go out and sell to help his mother."

"He had promised me that he was going to come back." I couldn't imagine how the paramilitaries, the Army and the Police could go along with killing young people," says Susan López Gutiérrez, Gerald's mother. Gerald's friends called him "the dancer in the trenches."

"The dancer in the trenches."







Biography The young student Gerald Vásquez was 20 years old and was in his third year studying an advanced technical degree in construction at the UNAN. He also taught folk dance, his passion since he was a boy. His sister, Paola, describes him as "a charismatic, friendly, responsible and respectful young man." Susana López Gutiérrez affirms: "The way I lost my son is so painful. I do not understand how this government has killed unarmed young people."





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AMA: Constructing Memory

Rayneia Gabrielle da Costa Lima

i 30 years old − Student

† Murdered in Managua, July 23, 2018

Facts On the night of July 23, 2018, Rayneia Gabrielle da Costa Lima was driving in Reparto Montserrat, a residential zone with a lot of police security due to the student occupation of the nearby universities.

The neighbors in the area said they heard an intense burst of gunshots, similar to the attack at the UNAN.

Ten minutes later, they heard another, less intense burst of shots.

Rayneia was hit by a bullet from a shotgun. The bullet entered her thorax, after perforating the door of the vehicle she was driving. Dr. Ernesto Medina, at that time the president of the American University (UAM) where Rayneia was studying, was notified by various students who were on call at the Military Hospital that night, and who received her as she was dying. Some hours later, he announced that the young woman was the victim of shots from a "group of paramilitaries." The government quickly declared that it was a private security guard who had shot her, but its report did not explain how a security guard had an automatic assault rifle in his possession. Her mother, María José, expressed her solidarity with the other mothers who had lost a child because like them, her daughter's murder made her feel that she had lost part of her life. She hopes that an investigation will take place and that the guilty will be tried and convicted.

Biography Rayneia Gabrielle da Costa Lima came from Brazil in 2013 to study medicine at the American University (UAM) in Nicaragua. In the words of her mother, María José da Costa, Rayneia was always loving and studious since she was a little girl, and had a great sensitivity for the needy and most vulnerable.







Despite their economic constraints, her mother always supported her daughter's dream of becoming a doctor. Rayneia also liked to travel, to know other cultures, and she fell in love with Nicaragua and its natural beauty.

"Loving, studious, with a great sensitivity for the needy and most vulnerable."



Facts



old − Student

† Murdered in Managua, September 23, 2018

Facts Matt Andrés Romero took part in the last mass independent protest in Managua on September 23, 2018. Protests were forbidden by the police shortly afterwards. Matt left his home at 10:40 in the morning with his cousin and joined the protest demanding that hundreds of political prisoners be freed. A bullet from a low caliber weapon penetrated the left side of his thorax with no exit wound, producing massive internal hemorrhaging. Firemen transported him to the Alemán Hospital, but he died on the way. According to the government, Matt was the victim of "crossfire" between the police and protesters, but the family maintains that the shot was fired at a distance of 2 to 3 meters.

Dilcia Romero, Matt's aunt, says that she only believes what her 14-year-old son says, who was with Matt at the time. "First the paramilitaries attacked with rocks and then came the shots from AK-47 rifles. They shot at everybody: children, adults, the elderly. The police, anti-riot forces and paramilitaries don't care about anything." The day of the burial, the Milagro de Dios Cemetery was surrounded by eight police patrol trucks. "Why were they afraid if they'd already taken away a piece of our family?" asks Dilcia.

To honor Matt's memory, the Blue and White National Unity called for a march on September 21, 2019, but it was forbidden by the police, who deployed hundreds of agents. Despite the harassment and the insistent rain, dozens of anti-government protesters took to the streets, challenging the state-sponsored terror.







Rosa Largaespada, 70 years old, who taught him how to cook nacatamales and sell them while his mother worked. She says that when she saw the news that he was injured, she thought it was a lie. "I imagined he would die because these people shoot to kill. They don't shoot you in the arm or in the leg. They shoot you in the head or in the chest."



"We are not afraid. They already took away a piece of our family."



Testimonial video

Alvaro Alberto Boinez Montalvain,

Carlos Monur Diaz

Cartos Manuel López.

JUNION ESTIBEN PANTAN.

JEISSON RICATDO POTOY

JORJE RENE ZEPEDA

DAR WIN POTOSME

ERICK ANTONIO JIMENEZ GÓPEZ

Marvin de los Santos Lopez

MARCELO MAYORGA LÓPEZ

ANUEL SALVADOR LOPE ROMERO

JOSE BISMACK MARTINEZ



Facebook



Instagram



AMA: Constructing Memory

The department of Masaya was founded in 1883, and was declared the "Cultural Heritage of the Nicaraguan Nation" on October 19, 2016. Masaya became a city on September 2, 1839. The department has a population of 375,083 inhabitants; the city has 162,868.

The monibeños are recognized as an indigenous people, and not just an "indigenous neighborhood" of Masaya. They have a cultural identity rooted proudly in their experience as craftspeople, artists, musicians, and dancers, and have fervent religious traditions. Its people were active in the struggle for independence, the National War, and building El Coyotepe. During the war of National Liberation, they were the epicenter of the first anti-Somoza uprising on February 26, 1978.

Nearly 40 years later, they became the symbol of resistance in the civic insurrection that began on April 18, 2018, against the violence and abuses of Daniel Ortega's government.

The following are some of the relevant events that occurred in the framework of the citizen protests of 2018:

April 19

Protests by Monimbó residents began in opposition to government reforms of the social security system (INSS) and were repressed by the police and shock forces in the area around Masaya's Central Park, which fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the population. The people of Monimbó erected barricades, strategically located to protect the city.

April 20 and 21

The police took possession of the entire block of the Artisan Market and scaled up the repression with the use of firearms, resulting in the first mortal victims.

During the month of May

Protests sprang up in other municipalities of the department of Masaya (Niquinohomo and Catarina), and the protests in Monimbó intensified.



One of the barricades erected by the population of Masaya. Credit: Carlos Herrera, Confidencial.

May 30

In the context of Managua's Mother's Day March, two residents of Nindirí were killed by police sharpshooters deployed against the protesters near the UNI and the Dennis Martínez baseball stadium. In Monimbó, a police offensive left one dead.

Throughout June

The police and anti-riot forces attacked the city and made several attempts to knock down the barricades, leaving a considerable number of victims. The population fortified the barricades and organized a "self-government."

July 17

Operation Clean-Up was carried out in Masaya under the command of Commissioner Ramón Avellán..

Álvaro Alberto Gómez Montalván 23 years old – Student

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† Murdered in Masaya, April 20, 2018

Facts On April 19, 2018, several young protesters, including Álvaro Alberto Gómez Montalván, went to Masaya's Central Park, where they were attacked by police and Sandinista Youth gangs.

Early on April 20, 2018, police units and armed pro-government shock forces attacked protesters who had built barricades near the Artisan Market of Masaya. Álvaro Alberto was hit by a bullet in his chest. His friends rushed him to the Humberto Alvarado Hospital, but he died en route. The hospital refused to give his family a post-mortem statement of the cause of death.







Biography Álvaro Alberto Gómez Montalván was from the indigenous barrio Monimbó, in Masaya, and was in his fourth year studying banking and finance at the Carlos Fonseca University campus (RUCFA), part of the UNAN-Managua. He attended classes on Saturdays and worked in the free-trade zone on weekdays. His father, Álvaro Antonio Gómez, remembers him as "rebellious, like all young people his age." He was 23 years old and wanted to travel to Europe to attend an electronic music concert. His father wants him "to be remembered as a young man willing to fight for what he wanted."

"The sacrifice of our young people should never become an empty slogan."





Testimonial video



† Murdered in Masaya, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30, 2018, around 9:30 p.m., Carlos
Manuel Díaz left the area near Masaya's Central
Park, which had been under attack for two hours by
paramilitaries and the police in an armed offensive that
ended at midnight. The demonstrators had retreated
for tactical reasons.

At 10:30 p.m., *Diaz was in front of the Public Prosecutor's office when he was wounded by a gunshot to his upper left chest.* The protesters took him by ambulance to the medical clinic at the Monimbó Plaza, but he died shortly after.







Biography Carlos Manuel Díaz was 28 years old and worked in the free-trade zone in Nindirí.

Prior to that, he worked for another company in Tisma and years before, in the market. "He struggled to get by. He supported his seven-year-old daughter, and he also left behind a two-month-old daughter," relates his mother, Candelaria Díaz. In his free time, he liked playing pool, he really enjoyed being with his friends and he also played soccer. "We had a good relationship. I was a mother who gave him time and showed affection.I remember when he was little, I would grab him and say, 'My boy, my little one, my little fatty," she recounts.

"He struggled to live."





Facts

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Masaya

AMA: Constructing Memory

늘 Carlos Manuel López

42 years old – Worker in a hide/leather shop and athlete

† Murdered in Masaya, April 21, 2018

Facts Around 9:30 at night on April 21, 2018, Carlos
Manuel López was returning from buying food
in the Fátima barrio of Masaya, accompanied by his
wife, when police and anti-riot forces attacked some
parts of the city with the goal of dismantling barricades
that had been put up by protesters. The protesters
responded to the attack by throwing rocks and
shooting homemade mortars.

Carlos Manuel was shot by a bullet, which perforated his two lungs. He was helped by the protesters, who took him to the home of a doctor, who told them to urgently get him to the hospital. They got a taxi to take him. His wife Janeira del Socorro López recalls: "I was putting pressure on the wound like the doctor had indicated, so that he wouldn't bleed out. I was praying and asking God not to take him. As we were turning near La Arenera, he looked at me as if he wanted to say something, then closed his eyes and let go of my hand."

Carlos Manuel died before reaching the Humberto Álvarado Hospital. "While the doctor was writing up the papers," Janeira explains, "the police arrived and asked who had killed him. I was crying desperately, and I screamed at them. 'Who else? You killed him!' And I screamed at them, 'Murderers! murderers!' A woman officer told me if I didn't shut up they would arrest me, and I answered, 'Why would you take me, for saying the truth?' And I kept screaming, 'Murderers!' "

"Who else? You killed him!"





Biography Carlos Manuel López was
42 years old. His wife,
Janeira del Socorro López, says he liked
to shoot pool and dress nicely, with a
cap and tennis shoes. His youngest son,
Alberto José López Luna, remembers him
as a good father. "We would hang out
together... wherever he went, he would
take me along." Janeira recounts that
hey loved each other very much.



Testimonial video

🚔 Junior Steven Gaitan López

15 years old – Student

† Murdered in Masaya, June 2, 2018

Facts On Saturday June 2, Junior Gaitán was uneasy.

He wanted to go out to join his friends at the barricades that had been erected in the town center.

He insisted so much that his parents finally let him go to the barricade where his friends were. "I was very worried because Junior didn't come home, and at 4:00 in the afternoon I asked his father to go look for him," recalls his mother, doña Aura Lila López.

He was with protesters on the western side of the artisan market, between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m., when a paramilitary killed him with a well-aimed shot to the chest. According to witnesses, he was on his knees, pleading with his murderer: "Hey man, don't kill me, I don't have anything..." Later, someone came by the house to tell the family that 'Pollito' had been killed.

His mother went immediately to the San Miguel Church, since she was told his body was there. Barricades and roadblocks had been put up throughout Masaya, built by protesters. Aura Lila was able to reach the San Miguel Church on her neighbor's motorcycle; the protesters let her through and said, "there goes the mother of the boy who was just killed." When she entered the church, she saw her son on a stretcher. His face was covered and he had a bullet wound in his chest. His sister recalls that when she got there, her mother was already at the church, "holding Junior's hand in hers. She didn't want to let go."







Biography Junior Gaitán López was a mischievous boy, happy and very active. He was 15 years old and was in his first year of high school. His mother, Aura Lila López, recalls, that "he was around 10 when he got serious about school. He was a soccer fan, he liked to draw, but his passion was painting graffiti. His father, José Javier Gaitán Mercado, has a bicycle repair shop. He says he spent a lot of time with Junior, because Junior would often help him out. His sister Giselle adds, "Junior didn't like to see injustice, and that's why he got involved in the protest."

"Hey man, don't kill me... I don't have anything."





Testimonial video

Masaya

▼84

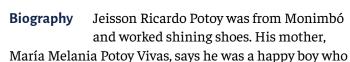
📤 Jeisson Ricardo Potoy

22 years old - Shoemaker

† Murdered in Masaya, June 3, 2018

Facts Around 10:30 on the night of June 3, 2018, Jeisson Ricardo Potoy was on the street that leads to the Central Park of Monimbó, when police and paramilitary forces opened fire against protesters who were barricaded along the periphery of the neighborhood.

Jeisson was shot and the bullet entered near the lumbar region of his spine which, according to relatives, perforated his liver, kidney and spleen. After he was shot, he was beaten and dragged by his murderers. His friends tried to rescue him. The paramilitary attack on the barricades near Monibó's plaza lasted from 8:00 in the evening until 3:00 in the morning of June 4.



helped her a lot. "He shined shoes, and in May he brought me three new pairs of shoes. He lived with a girl who was one-month pregnant. She now has a baby girl," she explains. "I felt like my life had ended. He was my boy," affirms María Melania.

















† Murdered in Masaya, June 6, 2018

Facts On June 6, 2018, Jorge René Zepeda Carrión was wounded by a firearm when police and paramilitaries attacked protesters at a barricade in the Monimbó neighborhood of Masaya. Eyewitnesses stated that the young man was shooting off homemade mortars when he was hit in the head by a gunshot that came from the tower of the National Police building. His friends took him by motorcycle to the Red Cross, where he received first aid, but he died while being transported to the Humberto Alvarado Hospital.

One week prior to his death, Zepeda Carrión had been wounded by a gunshot to his abdomen, during an attack by paramilitaries and the police against the protesters.

Biography Carolina Isabel Carrión García describes her son, Jorge René Zepeda Carrión, as "a friendly and helpful boy, who always had a smile on his face." At home, he did everything. He was a mechanic, he fixed bicycles, he learned to make sandals, bake bread, and later he learned to paint and do body work on cars. "Here they called him 'Commander Chabelo' because my name is Isabel, but his friends from Monimbó called him 'Pineapple,' and those from the San Juan neighborhood

called him 'Chambe," his mother recalls.







"He was always smiling."





Testimonial vic

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Masaya

Darwin Ramón Postome José

33 years old – Shoemaker

† Murdered in Masaya, June 17, 2018

Facts On June 17, 2018, around five in the morning, the National Police and armed pro-government shock forces and paramilitaries attacked protesters who were gathered near the Central Park of Masaya. Darwin Ramón Potosme José received a call informing him about what was going on, and he headed to a place on Real Street in Monimbó. Other friends from the Guardabarranco Group were at the kiosk in the park, and they began to resist the attack.

At approximately 6:10 in the morning, paramilitaries attacking the protesters shot Darwin in the head. The bullet entered his left eye and exited the back part of his skull. He was murdered by a sharpshooter in Masaya's Central Park, a few meters from the police station.







Biography Darwin Potosme was 34 years old, and his nickname was "Fafo". His mother,

María Andrea José, recounts that he was a loving son, very happy. He livened up the house and he loved to joke around. Darwin had many friends because he was outgoing with neighbors. Like many from Monimbó, he was a good craftsman and he liked to paint. He sold his paintings in the Masaya artisan market. His sister, Meylin Potosme, recalls how close they were. His brother, Edwin Monge, says that at the football games, Darwin always encouraged the players to do their best. "You've got to give it your best, without fear," he would say.

"You've got to give it your best, without fear."





Testimonial vide

📤 Marvin de los Santos López

▼ 48 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Masaya, June 19, 2018

Facts On June 19, 2018, the government carried out an operation to destroy barricades and roadblocks. This day, at approximately 9:00 in the morning, Marvin de los Santos López was at the second barricade near the entrance to Masaya. Kevin López García, Marvin's son, gives a detailed account of what happened: "The paramilitaries were shooting off rounds nonstop. They began to knock down the first barricade that was at El Coyotepe, and they kept advancing to the San Jerónimo traffic circle. They were gaining ground and advancing. They placed snipers at the traffic circle. We were more exposed at the two barricades near the entrance to Masaya, on a downward slope. My father was at the second barricade and he stuck his head up to take a look. He was shot in the jaw and fell to the ground. Everyone ran to help him. We took him to the medical post, but they said he needed to go to the hospital. We couldn't get him out because the paramilitaries were now entering the city, shooting like crazy. They shot at anything that moved. They didn't care if it was a child or anything else. If we stayed there, they were going to kill us or kidnap us. So, we broke through the walls of a house, and then another, until we were safe in a house in another neighborhood. That's where my father died. We had to wait, and when we could finally move, we carried him, but we were all afraid. We crossed three streets and could hear gunfire all around us. With help from others, we carried his body to our home."

"It's been hard to accept that he is dead.

We want justice."





Was 48 years old. He was an agronomical engineer. Unemployed, he began driving a taxi. He was happy, concerned about others, and had a lot of charisma. "Everybody talked with him and no one ever said a bad word about him," explains his wife, Zobeida García Toledo. "It was really hard for my mother, for my brother and my daughter. I myself couldn't believe it. It seemed like a lie. We want justice," affirms his son, Kevin Matías López García.





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Testimonial video

Masaya AMA: Constructing Memory

Marcelo de Jesús Mayorga López

40 years old – Merchant

† Murdered in Masaya, June 19, 2018

Facts Early on June 19, a strong firefight began in Masaya. Marcelo de Jesús Mayorga López took part in the protest. His wife Auxiliadora Cardoze recalls that she spoke to him at 11:25 a.m., and asked him to come home, but he said he couldn't because the police and pro-government shock forces had surrounded the place. A short time later, Mayorga was shot in the head by a bullet from an AK. The population was connected through social networks, and Auxiliadora discovered her husband had been wounded from a photo that was circulating.

Crossing barricades, pipes and cobblestones, she was able to reach the place where the photo was taken, but the barricade was gone. She asked the police nearby about the boys from the barricade. The police answered that "those dogs" were no longer there, and she should never have let them out. And then she saw Marcelo's body on the side of the street, where he had been dragged to let the "death trucks" pass by. She went to him, picked up his backpack, his cap, and his slingshot, and screamed for help but no one responded. The police prevented firefighters from removing her husband's body, and she was finally able to get him out in a garbage cart with help from a neighbor. When he was murdered, the only "weapon" Marcelo Mayorga was carrying was a slingshot.

He died seeking freedom for Nicaragua."







Biography Marcelo de Jesús Mayorga was 40 years old and had a very close family, together with his wife Auxiliadora Cardoze, and their two sons Marcelo and Ricardo. "Being a father was more important to him than anything else," recounts his wife. He was happy, loving, and was a huge baseball fan. Marcelo's friends said goodbye to him with the music of the San Jerónimo processions. "Marcelo died seeking freedom for Nicaragua, and I will not rest until there is justice for the murder of my husband, and for everyone else," she affirms.









¥8 years old – Shoemaker

† Wounded in Masaya on June 19. Died on September 16.

Facts When the protest began, José Bismarck Martínez went to the barricades. His only weapon was a homemade mortar launcher. His wife, María Graciela Pérez Ruiz, recounts that she asked him not to go, telling him to stay home, but he insisted. "He said that what they were doing to the university students was not just, that one day his children would go to the university and he didn't want them to go through the same thing."

On June 19, 2018, between 4:00 and 4:30 in the afternoon, he was guarding a barricade in the Fátima barrio when he was wounded by gunshots in his back. His friends told his wife, and she went to a house where the wounded were receiving medical care. He was taken to the Masaya Hospital, where he spent one month, and was later transferred to the Lenin Fonseca Hospital. After one month in intensive care and another month in regular care, he was sent home but was told that he would never move again because the bullet had damaged his brainstem. Despite everything, María Graciela says she "was happy because he could speak and was conscious, although he couldn't move and had trouble breathing, at times practically suffocating." Shortly afterwards, he experienced complications and was transferred to the Masaya Hospital, where he died on September 16.





Biography María Graciela Pérez Ruiz affirms that her husband, José Bismarck Martínez, was a responsible father, concerned about his children, who tried to provide them with all they needed. He was a shoemaker and was always working. People liked his work and he was very popular. They called him "Shinola." He loved soccer and had his team at the Salesiano School. He was also a huge Real Madrid fan.



'He didn't want his children living under a repressive regime."

v 88

Masaya

Manuel Salvador López Romero 31 years old – Baker

† Murdered in Masaya, June 21, 2018

Facts Manuel Salvador López Romero "joined the protest when he saw a policeman hit an elderly man, and saw students defending old peoples' rights but the government responded with bullets. That's why he got involved in the barricades and was running all over to help, sometimes not even coming home to sleep. On June 6, our 8-year anniversary, he was wounded in the leg, but we took care of it at home," recalls Gema González, Manuel's wife.

Fifteen days later, on June 21, he was recovering from the injury when he heard that the barricades near MEBASA were being attacked. "Since his mother lived nearby, he decided to go see if she was ok," she explains. Manuel was near the barricade that protesters had erected near MEBASA, on the Las Flores-Catarina highway, which was attacked by armed paramilitaries and pro-government shock forces. During the attack, he was hit by a bullet on the left side of his body, which perforated his stomach. He was taken to the hospital, where he was accompanied by a sister. At a certain moment when he was alone, he was taken in for surgery without authorization by his family. He died there.





Biography Gema Concepción González, the wife of Manual Salvador López Romero, remembers him "as an excellent person, serious and upstanding. Manuel worked in a bakery during the week, and he spent Sundays with his family. For Gema, keeping a memory alive means remembering a loved one who was lost. "When someone is killed in this way, it stays inside your heart and mind. Those who died in 2018 deserve respect, and a museum to honor their memory."



† Murdered in Masaya, July 17, 2018

Facts On July 17, 2018, the government mounted its so-called "Operation Clean-Up" in Monimbó, Masaya. The protesters responded to the assault by paramilitaries with rocks and homemade mortars. an unequal fight given the heavy weaponry used in the attack against the neighborhood. Nelly Grisselda López García, the aunt of Erick Antonio Jiménez López, will never forget what he lived through. "We heard the gunfire near MEBASA, and the protesters were running away. The girl (Erick's sister) said, 'I think it was Bambi.' When I heard this, I went outside and I saw Erick there, on the ground. I threw myself on top of his body, I grabbed him, hugged him. I felt the bullets flying over my head. Everything was soaked in blood, pouring out of his chest where he'd been shot. I stayed there, embracing his body so that they wouldn't take him. My husband told me to get inside, but I wanted to bring Erick's body into the house..."

While Nelly was covering the body of her nephew, the paramilitaries continued shooting and screamed, "This one should die like a dog, like the dog she has next to her." She heard it but didn't move. When the paramilitaries were momentarily distracted, the protesters helped move Erick's body. "When my mother realized what had happened, she went crazy. Everyone was crying; no one could believe he was dead," explains Nelly.







García was the maternal aunt of Erick Antonio Jiménez López, but she says they were raised as siblings because they were so close in age, and because they were both raised by their grandparents. For her, "justice would mean identifying the people who did this, and reparations would lessen this pain a little. With the memory of what we lived through, we will prepare our children for a better future and keep this from happening again."



"Those who died in April 2018 deserve respect and a museum to honor their memory."



Testimonial video



"Reparations would lessen this pain a little."



Testimonial vide

• 90

Wente Rappacioli Navas.

José Marvel Narvaez Campos "Chema Campos"

Alejandro Carlos Othon Acuña

Gerald Antonio Villavicencio

JOSUÉ ISRAEL IMOJICA GARCIA "FETITO"



Facebook



Instagram



Carazo

AMA: Constructing Memory

The department of Carazo has a population of 177,000 inhabitants in eight municipalities. The protests occurred mainly in the cities of Jinotepe and Diriamba, the department's main urban centers.

April

The first demonstrations were against reforms to the social security system (INSS), which were repressed by members of pro-Sandinista shock forces. The Municipal Government building in Diriamba, where fireworks were stored, was set on fire, and shots were fired at the Santiago de Jinotepe parish church.

May

A barricade was set up in front of the San José High School after the Mother's Day protest march, paralyzing transit on the Pan-American Highway for over a month and leaving more than 200 trucks stranded.

June and July

The paramilitary checkpoint at the Las Esquinas junction was the site of the department's first victim. During "Operation Clean-Up" in the department, which was conducted on June 8 by a contingent of well-armed anti-riot police and paramilitaries, dozens of dead and wounded were reported, and an undetermined number of people disappeared.



"Güegüense," a protester at one of the roadblocks set up in Jinotepe, Carazo. Credit: Carlos Herrera, Confidencial

Carazo

AMA: Constructing Memory

Vicente Rappaccioli Navas

60 years old – Business administrator

† Murdered at Las Cuatro Esquinas, June 26, 2018

Facts The afternoon of June 26, Vicente Rappaccioli left his house for the bank to withdraw money.

On his way back, a couple of hours later, he was stopped at a paramilitary checkpoint at Las Cuatro Esquinas, an intersection between the highway to San Marcos and the Pan-American Highway. He didn't return home that night and his family began to look for him. After three days of intense searching, the family received a call from the Forensic Examiner's Office asking them to identify a body that coincided with the description of Vicente that had been published in an ad.

Vicente Rappaccioli had received a fatal shot to the head which, according to a forensic examiner contracted by the family, entered the left temple from top to bottom and front to back, a trajectory consistent with an execution. According to officials of the Forensic Examiner's Office, four hooded men dumped the body there at 11:30 p.m. on the night of June 26. A watchman at the Regina residences near Las Cuatro Esquinas said he heard four shots that night, in the area where paramilitaries had set up a checkpoint.

Biography Vicente Rappaccioli Navas was a peaceful, likable, quiet person. Emilia Yang Rappaccioli, his niece, explains that Vicente "was very concerned about climate change and wrote scientific articles about how to mitigate global warming, reforestation and caring for the planet." He exercised outdoors, rode a bicycle, practiced yoga and often went to the sea.







"He was very active, like a kid... he didn't seem like a 59-year-old," says his young niece. His sister, Luvy Rappaccioli Navas, remembers him with love: "For him, God was nature's pure energy. He was very spiritual and said Nicaragua belongs to all of us."

"Nicaragua belongs to all of us."





Testimonial vide



† Murdered in Jinotepe, July 8, 2018

Facts On July 8, 2018, when the police and paramilitaries moved into Jinotepe to take down the roadblocks and barricades, José Manuel "Chema" Narváez Campos was on his motorcycle with his cousin. When they were attacked, his cousin managed to flee. Chema couldn't run because he had hurt his foot and couldn't climb over a nearby garden wall to get away. The paramilitaries shot him head on, perforating his right lung. As in the case of others who were killed, his body was thrown into a Municipal Government truck that was carting away rubble, so he was buried under a lot of rocks and cobblestones.

His mother explains that when the attack began, people heard shots but no one dared to go out. "We were incommunicado. There was no Internet or electricity, and cell phone batteries were soon discharged. There was no way to know what was going on," she recalls. During the attack on the roadblocks, doña Eva Ruth Campos, José Manuel's mother, peeked carefully out the window. "I saw a sea of people coming and the boys were spreading out. Some shouted to me from the street as they passed by the house that my son had been killed..." Chema's mother identified her son's body at the Forensic Examiner's Office in Managua. It had multiple abrasions.

"A popular, kind and helpful boy."







Campos was 22 years old.

His mother, Eva Ruth Campos, says
everyone in Jinotepe knew him as
"Chema." Isabel Cristina Narváez Grijalva,
his aunt, remembers him as a popular,
kind and helpful boy. He had worked in
the market at a stand selling chickens, and
before his death he was working in a bar.
In all of his jobs, he was loved for his good
nature. His father, José Alejandro Narváez
Grijalva, describes "Chema" as a strong,
very friendly and charitable person."





Testim

Facts

Carazo

AMA: Constructing Memory

📤 Alejandro Carlos Ochoa Acuña

i 18 years old − High school student

† Murdered in Jinotepe, July 8, 2018

Facts The so-called "Operation Clean-Up" began in Carazo on July 8, in the early morning hours. Paramilitaries and special police troops were armed with assault weapons: AK rifles, M-16s and Dragunovs, RPG-7 grenade launchers and PKM machine guns. On this day, Alejandro Carlos Ochoa Acuña was at one of the barricades. A friend who was with Ochoa explains: "The paramilitaries came in shooting. We were behind a barricade, resisting, and the paramilitaries retreated a little. He went out to see if they had left, but they were behind a wall. They shot him with a machine-gun in cold blood."

Getting Ochoa out was an odyssey. His friends moved him under a hail of bullets as the police and paramilitaries continued firing. "One kid risked his own life by inching his way over to Carlos and dragging him back. Alejandro Carlos was gasping, drowning in his own blood. Several of us carried him from the barricade to the hospital," recalls his friend. He was dead when they got him there, with bullet wounds in his abdomen, back and one leg, as his mother, Griselda Acuña Cruz, confirmed when she went to identify his body. "We couldn't hold a wake so we took him directly from the hospital to the pantheon," she mentions, filled with grief.

Biography Griselda del Socorro Acuña Cruz remembers her son Alejandro Carlos as a very loving, smiling, and dynamic young man who liked spending time with his friends. He was a student who had just graduated as a chef. His dream was to open a restaurant to help his mother and the family. His father, Alejandro Carlos Ochoa Umaña, remembers that "he wanted to travel to meet other people and learn how they cooked in other places."







His father also comments that "he wanted change and criticized the government for only responding to the interests of a few." Alejandro Carlos was one of 32 people killed on this day in Carazo, in one of the bloodiest operations ordered by the regime.

"He wanted a change, not a government for only a few."





Testimonial vide

📤 Gerald Antonio Barrera Villavicencio

† Murdered on July 8, 2018, in Jinotepe

Facts On July 8, at 5:30 in the morning, police forces and armed civilians violently stormed through all entrances to the Carazo department, to carry out the so-called "Operation Clean-Up." During the attack against Jinotepe, Gerald Antonio Barrera Villavicencio was hit with bullets from firearms shot by paramilitaries, aimed at protesters at the barricades, who defended themselves with homemade mortars. He was just a few meters from his home when a bullet hit him in his ribs, with a clear entry and exit wound, perforating his lungs.

"At 11:00 in the morning, I went out in the middle of a firefight to find his body. The paramilitaries were there, but God protected me with the blood of Christ. At the Carazo Medical Center, I saw someone lying on a stretcher. I never thought it was my son there," recalls Alisseth Barrera Reyes, Gerald's aunt, who had raised him like her own son.

Biography Gerald Antonio Barrera Villavicencio was from Jinotepe, Carazo. His mother died when he was only three years old, and his father abandoned him. He and his brother were raised by his aunt Alisseth Barrera Reyes, who was like his real mother. He was very attached to her and loved her. He loved to celebrate her birthdays and see her happy. He worked as a bricklayer, but life brought him new opportunities and he discovered that he was talented as a salesman. He sold eggs and plastic bags. In 2018, he worked as a sales executive for a Colombian company that distributed feed for animals. Because of his great commitment to his work, he was given a vehicle for getting around. He was married to Karen Mayela Martínez, and they had two children, a 3-year-old daughter and an 8-month-old baby boy, who were his life.







"They took away a piece of my heart, but I am proud of him, because he struggled and gave his life for us. He was a great son, a great father, a hard-working man," declared Alisseth during an event honoring him.

"They took away a piece of my heart."



Fact

Carazo AMA: Constructing Memory

🚔 Josué Israel Mojica Velázquez

20 years old – High school student

† Murdered in Diriamba, July 8, 2018

Facts Carmen Velázquez Gutiérrez, the grandmother of Josué Israel Mojica Velásquez, recalls that on July 8 she heard shooting at 6:00 in the morning. She went to see about Josué and saw that he was getting ready to go out. "The boys from Jinotepe are coming," he told her. It didn't matter that his grandmother was begging him not to go. He slung on his backpack, put on his cap and left the house at 6:16 in the morning.

Soon after, a neighbor came to tell them "he had been shot." Doña Carmen says she wouldn't let her daughter go out and she herself grabbed a white rag to use as a flag and went with two nephews to look for him. "Along the road I ran into some armed hooded men and asked if they had seen the boy. I told them to give him to me so we could have a wake and bury him. They answered that 'we don't go around killing, we're only doing cleanup," she recounts, painfully.

"His mother went to Managua to look for him and found him in the morgue," she recounts. Josué was hit by a gunshot in the back that perforated his liver. Witnesses said the young man, clearly dying, was tortured by paramilitaries who hit him in the face, fractured a rib and dislocated his left shoulder. They finished him off with a bayonet stab in the chest.







Velázquez was small and thin. He was studying at the La Salle high school. His mother, Elizabeth Velázquez, says his passion was soccer. "He went to the protest marches joyfully but could never decide where to put his flag. One day as he was heading to a march, he wrote 'Josué M, April 19' on a wall in the park. He took a photo with the flag and shared it on social media," recounts his mother.



Testimonial video



"He went to the marches joyfully, and never left his flag behind."



Barricade/altar with objects remembering Carazo. Installation in the temporary museum exhibition, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

Ismael Ismas Perez Martinez (El Guapo)

Ruin Ramon Cruz Alvarado

Juan Alejandro (El Gastón)

RUDDY Hernandez

Marco Antonio Radilla Dioz

JOSÉ LEONEL CASCO BERRIOS <u>EL CHINO</u>"

CESAR ONIEL L'O Pez Nega

CHINANDEGA



Facebook



Instagram



Chinandega

AMA: Constructing Memory

The department of Chinandega has a population of 433,000 inhabitants, 62% urban and 38% rural, distributed in 13 municipalities. Here, the protests and resistance took place between April and June 2018, when marches were organized, barricades were built, and a roadblock was put up on the main highway that connects with the border post of Guasaule.

The protests, marches and barricades were first attacked by the police and pro-government shock forces, and later by combined forces with paramilitaries, using the Municipal Government building and the FSLN's municipal offices as command posts. The government also encouraged land takeovers by paramilitaries:

April 24

More than 500 demonstrators joined together to oppose the repression.

May 23

Demonstrators from the San Agustín and Guadalupe neighborhoods manned the barricades and were shot at by police and pro-Ortega thugs who came to beat up, wound, kill and kidnap the protesters, who responded to the gunshots with homemade mortars. The attack left more than 63 wounded, and one person deads.

May 30

Police, paramilitaries and pro-government thugs launched an attack on protesters that lasted hours, killing two.

June 6 and 7

A new attack aimed at demolishing the barricades cost the lives of another three young people.



Documentation of Civic March in Chinandega, May 27th 2018", 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

Chinandega

🚔 Ismael Isaías Pérez Martínez

≥ 24 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Managua, April 21, 2018

Facts The night Ismael Isaías Pérez Martínez was killed, there were barricades up in the Waspan neighborhood of Managua. Anti-riot police forces were in the area, and there was gunfire in the zone near the Subasta. Ismael was walking near the Rubenia bridge, and it was around 10:00 p.m. when the shooting began. Pérez was hit by a shot from a firearm that caused multiple wounds. According to information from the Forensic Examiner's, officers from the District VI Police Station found his body the next morning, near the Subasta, while making their morning rounds.

On Sunday the 22nd, in the morning, a call made from Ismael's cell phone asked the family to come to the Forensic Examiner's to identify a body. Doña Mariana Quintero, Ismael's mother, asked Migdalia Pérez Martínez, Ismael's sister, to go. "I got to the Forensic Examiner's at 6:00 that evening. They showed me the body. It was him. He had bullet holes in his neck and thorax and a lot of shots in his side. They had riddled him with bullets. They shot him like an animal," says Migdalia. It was hard to transport the coffin all the way to Posoltega where the family lived, because they couldn't get past the roadblocks on the highway. "When we finally got to the house at about one in the morning, everyone was there waiting. Friends arrived in two buses, and we buried him on Monday," she adds.







Biography Ismael Isaías Pérez Martínez was 24 years old. His sister, Migdalia Elizabeth Pérez Martínez, remembers him as "a positive person, sure of himself, a fighter." She explains that Ismael went to Managua to work as a bricklayer, and that when he died he had only been in the capital one week. "When your son dies of an illness, you know and are sort of prepared, but when someone is destroyed like this, it's horrible," expresses his mother, Mariana Quintero.



† Murdered in Chinandega, May 23, 2018

Facts That May 23, the repression in León and Chinandega began at close to 8:00 at night, when the roadblock at Chinandega's Los Encuentros traffic circle was surrounded and attacked by the police, paramilitaries and pro-government mobs. The upheaval spread to the San Agustín and Guadalupe neighborhoods. "My son heard the attack on the kids and said, 'I'm going to go help them, because I can't let them die" recounts Luis Manuel Cruz Hernández, the father of Luis Ramón Cruz Alvarado.

Luis Ramón was shot in the thorax as he was riding his bicycle. Wounded, he was abused by paramilitaries who left him in the street. He was taken to the España Hospital where, according to his family, he did not receive proper medical attention and died. His body was transported to the Forensic Examiner's Office in León and delivered to his family at 4:00 p.m. the next day.

Luis Ramón's funeral was very emotional. After a Mass in the El Redentor Church, the funeral procession left for the cemetery accompanied by neighbors and other residents of the area. "The procession was four blocks long, filled with people carrying blue and white flags, because that's what I wanted. Behind them was a long line of cars that couldn't get past. All of the students were crying when they buried my son," recalls his father.







Biography Luis Ramón Cruz Alvarado is remembered by his family as a good son, excellent brother and hard worker. His mother, Berta María Alvarado Rivas, describes him as "easygoing and caring; he never used harsh words with us." His father, Luis Manuel Cruz Hernández, remembers him as "an excellent worker. He was a truck mechanic and they sought him out from all over Nicaragua." Doña Berta believes his desire to see Nicaragua free and protect the younger ones is what led Luis Ramón to join the protests and assume leadership in the rebellion.



Facts

"My son was full of life. He was 24 and had his whole life ahead of him."



Testimonial video



"He fought with all of his heart for Nicaragua!"



Testimonial video

Chinandega

📤 Juan Alejandro Zepeda Ortiz

ightharpoonup 19 years old – High school student

† Wounded in Chinandega on May 30, 2018. Died on May 31.

Facts Juan Alejandro Zepeda Ortiz first joined the marches on May 23 in Chinandega, and was later harassed by police from their motorcycles and patrol pickups. On May 30, he left home at about 7:30 in the morning to join a protest march in solidarity with the mothers of young people already killed by government forces. As in other departments of the country, the march was attacked by the National Police and pro-government forces.

From the moment he left the house, doña María Elena felt very uneasy. "I knew there were roadblocks and the boys were there. Suddenly a neighbor approached me and said, 'They took your son to the España Hospital.'" She went immediately to the hospital, where she had to insist that they let her in. They told her that her boy had been shot in the eye and would be transferred to the intensive care unit. His father arrived a short time later. but Juan Alejandro had died. "My nephew was shot, and the police beat him on the ground. He was hit at about 11:00 at night with two mortar shots, in the arm and in the leg, and a gunshot that entered through his eye and exited through the occipital lobe," declared his aunt, Luz Indiana Zepeda.







Biography María Elena Zepeda explains that her son, Juan Alejandro Zepeda, was in his last year of high

school at the Polytechnic Institute in Chinandega. He liked to study and got good grades. He had a happy nature and was loved by his friends, who nicknamed him "Gastón." He alternated his free time between playing baseball in the street and visiting his girlfriend's house. When he was at home, he liked to swing in the hammock and watch television.





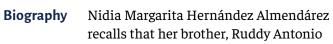
📤 Ruddy Antonio Hernández Almendárez

■ 34 years old – Three-wheeled cart driver

† Murdered in Chinandega, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30, Nidia Margarita Hernández Almendárez, the sister of Ruddy Antonio Hernández Almendárez, and her daughter, decided to participate in the Mother's Day march. "It was the first day my daughter and I wanted to support the protests, and not be indifferent to the pain of the mothers in Managua, with so many dead. Even without knowing them, just seeing them on TV, on the news, was something powerful, horrible. I couldn't even sleep," she says. She adds that "no one took us there in trucks, no one paid us, no one gave us anything. Each of us went on our own."

That day the protest was attacked by the police and Sandinista Youth members, who were barricaded in the Municipal Government building "because the protesters had forced them to retreat under a hail of stones." His sister recounts that at the march, Ruddy "went ahead, when suddenly a person came out shooting at pointblank range. They say he was hiding and then came out and shot at Ruddy who immediately fell." The bullet caused multiple shrapnel wounds to his thorax. His body was taken to the hospital on a motorcycle by unknown people, where it was left outside on a bench.



Hernández Almendárez, used to go with his father when he worked with his cart. After that he learned to be a three-wheeled cart driver, and made a living transporting people coming with their suitcases or bags of produce. He would go to work early in the morning with his "tricycle." His dream was to work hard and build a little house for his three children," explains Nidia Margarita.







My brother wasn't a student, he was a worker. The government should realize that they didn't only cut short the lives of students and professionals. They also murdered working people," she affirms.

"A worker who struggled alongside the students."





They killed his dreams."

le wanted to be a doctor.

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Chinandega AMA: Constructing Memory

🍃 Marcos Antonio Padilla Díaz

 $\stackrel{\smile}{=}$ 18 years old – Student and athlete

† Murdered in Chinandega, June 6, 2018

Facts On the night of Wednesday, June 6, paramilitaries and police attacked a march of young protesters. The demonstrators resisted with rocks, mortars and marbles. At seven in the evening, Marcos Antonio Padilla Díaz was shot in the forehead. His body was picked up by a Red Cross team and transported to the España Hospital.

"I didn't realize he was at the protest, and it wasn't until 9:30 at night that I was told he was dead and that I had to go to the morgue to identify the body," says his grandmother, Argentina García. The family was required to bring a coffin to the morgue, in order to receive his body. When they finally delivered his body, his grandmother saw "that they had stolen everything the boy had on him, his money, his glasses, everything... The only thing they left was his camouflage trousers, which Marcos loved. I took them all folded, and they felt heavy. On checking the pockets, I found a slingshot and some marbles, the only thing the boys carried to defend themselves against the armed paramilitaries."

Biography Marcos Antonio Padilla Díaz was a guy with an easy smile and brimming energy. He was 18 years old and in his second year of high school in the Chinandega Institute. He loved to dance at the high school parties, but his passion was skating and riding a bicycle. He was raised by his grandmother, Argentina García, and two aunts on his mother's side, Kerling Grisel Oviedo and Mariam del Carmen García. The aunts remember him as "a happy, fun-loving, charismatic and very sociable boy. He had a bit of character and at times was a little rebellious, but what stood out most were his happiness and his smile."







"He was only carrying a slingshot and some marbles."





Testimonial vide



≥ 21 years old – University student

† Murdered in Chinandega, June 6, 2018

Facts Ángel Adrián Flores, the cousin of José Leonel
Casco Berríos, says that on June 6, at around
3:00 in the afternoon, José Leonel left his house with
some friends to go to a march that would end at the
Los Encuentros traffic circle. Once the march was over,
the young people were trying to erect a roadblock at the
Chinandega exit to Corinto, when they were attacked by
paramilitaries who were illegally living on land they'd
occupied on the La Pañoleta farm. "They came in order to
kill. They were carrying weapons and you could see they'd had
military training," explains the cousin.

One of the armed men shot José Leonel, who couldn't be immediately evacuated from the area. He had received three shots from a firearm: in the groin, chest and abdomen. When he was taken by motorcycle to the España Hospital, those at the emergency entrance refused to admit him," affirms his cousin. "The hospital wouldn't release the body and they were planning to change the death certificate. They wanted to gain time and see how they could change the story and cover up the murder," he adds. That night, after Casco Berríos's death, the young protesters set up barricades on the main street of the San Agustín neighborhood, where the repression continued until the early hours the next morning. Two other people were killed there by the police and paramilitaries.

Biography Nicknamed "el Chino," José Leonel
Casco Berríos was 21 years old and lived
with his mother, doña Petrona Berríos, in the San José
neighborhood of El Viejo, Chinandega. He was a student
at the León campus of the UNAN. His goal was to work
and improve his family's economic conditions.







His cousin, Ángel Adrián Flores, explains that "he was very dedicated to his family and particularly close to his mom." José Leonel's traits that most stood out, according to his cousin, were "his contagious energy and the way he radiated enthusiasm to others. He encouraged other young people to work to make Nicaragua better, with equal opportunities for all."

"He wanted Nicaragua to be better, with equal opportunities for all."



Facts



Testimonial vi

Chinandega

AMA: Constructing Memory

🚔 César Oniel López Vega

25 years old – Worker

† Murdered in Chinandega, June 6, 2018

Facts Doña Leoncia Plácida Vega, the grandmother of César Oniel López Vega, remembers that at about 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, some boys came to get César to join a protest rally that had been attacked by paramilitaries and the pro-Ortega thugs. "He had come home exhausted from work, but given the insistence of his friends, he left his food, put on his shirt and went with them." She was left with the dinner served, waiting for his return. It wasn't until nearly 3:00 in the morning that she learned César Oniel was in the España Hospital's morgue.

César Oniel López Vega went to the area near the AMOCSA Clinic, where paramilitaries and pro-government shock forces were attacking people at the barricades. *He was shot and seriously wounded while trying to cross the street to the clinic.* He was then beaten and dragged to the FSLN's local headquarters, and later taken on a motorcycle to the España Hospital, where he died.

His mother, Azucena Vega, recovered his corpse from the morgue early the next morning and took it to her house. She says her son had been shot twice, once in the thorax and once in his head. She also said he had then been dragged by a motorcycle and beaten. Although he was still alive when he arrived the España Hospital, he was not given any medical treatment.







Biography At 25 years of age, César
Oniel López Vega didn't
miss a single game when Los Tigres,
Chinandega's baseball team, were playing
at home. His cousin, Eveling Lourdes
López Vega, says he was a huge baseball
fan. César Oniel and Lourdes grew up
like sister and brother in the home of
their grandmother, Leoncia Plácida
Vega. With tenderness reflected in her
face, she remembers César Oniel for his
cooperative, sociable spirit and for being
a good neighbor. "He was a person who
fought and died for his country," recalls
his cousin.



"He was a person who fought and died for his country."



Testimonial video



The ID card (cédula) of Luis Ramón Cruz Alvarado, Chinandega, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

victor Reynaldo Retes Perez

Sandor Dolmus

Alex EnRique machado vasque

Danny Ezequiel Lopez Morales.

Mario Antonio Hartines Peralta



Facebook



Instagram



León AMA: Constructing Memory

The first events during the 2018 protests in León occurred in the municipality and city of the same name ("the university city"), and in the Sutiaba neighborhood. The City of León is home to 184,041 of the department's 424,308 inhabitants.

Sutiaba is an indigenous community that has held a Royal Title from the Spanish Crown since 1727, and its cultural-geographical identity has played a determinant role in resistance to the regime.

April 18

Militants of the FSLN party and the Sandinista Youth attacked and beat elderly adults who were protesting against the social security (INSS) reforms. The aggression set off responses that night and the protests that followed.

April 20

Police, anti-riot forces and pro-government shock troops attacked protest marchers. Fires were set at the Darío Radio Station and the CUUN [the UNAN University Center], leaving three dead.

June 12

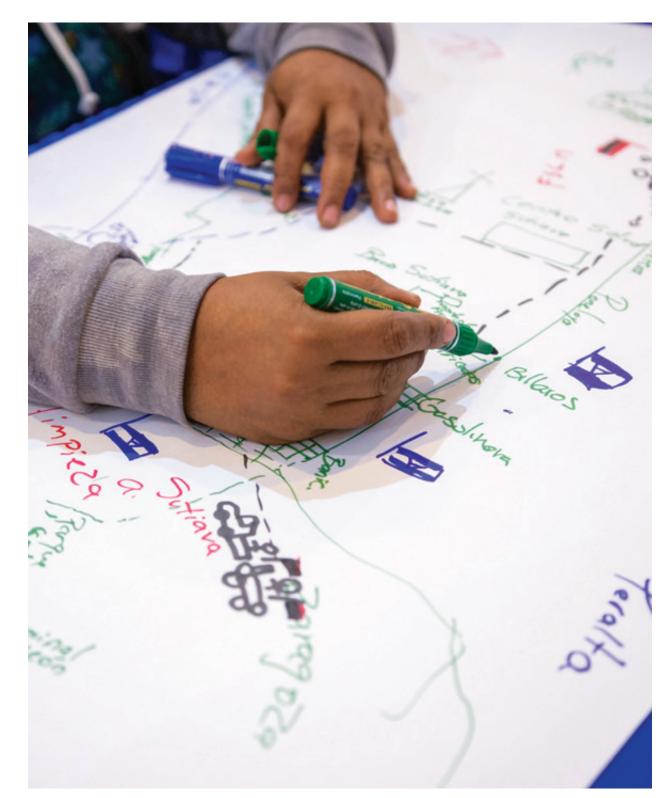
Protesters in León called for the country's first national strike. Barricades went up in Sutiaba at each of its main intersections.

June 28-29

The government began "Operation Clean-Up," carried out by police and paramilitaries in several zones of the city.

July 5

Four young people were riddled with bullets by the regime's forces, more than 20 received gunshot wounds and 60 were arrested.



Tracing of geographic routes of truth in León, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

León AMA: Constructing Memory

슬 Cristhiam Emilio Cadenas

23 years old – Student and worker

† Murdered on April 20, 2018, in León

Facts Alexander Sarria Cadenas recounts that on April 29, he received word that his brother Cristhiam Emilio "El Chino," had disappeared. "I was worried and spent the day looking everywhere, but couldn't find him," he recalls. On April 20 in the morning, there was a huge demonstration near the Oscar Danilo Rosales Argüello Teaching Hospital (HEODRA), and there was a fire at the CUUN University (University Center of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, UNAN) in the afternoon, which reached the Lezama Billiard Hall. That night, everything was dark in León.

"I kept looking for him and returned again to the UNAN and the streets near the CUUN with the hope of finding him. On April 21, at around 2:00 in the afternoon, his girlfriend called me and said she'd been told about a burned body found at the billiard hall. I recognized his pants. He was taken to the morgue and they told us to get a coffin. We got one, and buried him," explains his brother.

Questions about his death remain, and his brother has many. If the official investigation concluded that Emilio died because of inhaling toxic gases, why was his body completely burned but his clothing was not? Why was his body mutilated, without arms, legs or teeth? The regime maintains its story, blaming the protesters for burning the CUUN and for killing Cristhiam Emilio.



Biography Cristhiam Emilio Cadenas was 23 years old and studied agroecological engineering at the UNAN-León. He was a member of the UNAN University Center (CUUN). He liked soccer and played in the neighborhood league. Alexander Sarria Cardenas notes that Cristhiam Emilio was always his brother, from the time his family adopted him the week he was born. Emilio, as he was known, was very popular among the students. "He was a happy person, a joker, and very compassionate. His dream was to graduate as an engineer," he remembers.

"His dream was to graduate as an engineer."



† Murdered on June 12, 2018, in León

Facts According to relatives of Víctor Reynaldo Reyes
Pérez, his "sin" was having walked through the
Guadalupe barrio just when shock forces, paramilitaries
and police were attacking the barricades there, on the
night of June 12. Víctor Reynaldo was walking near the
police station of Guadalupe, when he was shot in the
back of his head—the bullet remained lodged inside—
and was wounded by a machete in his arm.

His mother, Reyna del Carmen Torres, *laments the fact* that he was left on the ground to bleed to death. No one went to help him. "What they did to him was tragic and unjust." They were told at 7:00 p.m. that his corpse was in the morgue of the Oscar Danilo Rosales Argüello Teaching Hospital (HEODRA). His body was delivered the next day, since the city center was still filled with barricades. They had to move him in a pushcart, from the morgue to the Primero de Mayo neighborhood, where his wake was held. He was buried on Thursday, June 14, in the San Felipe cemetery.



Biography Víctor Reynaldo Reyes
Pérez was 28 years old.
He was from León and always lived in
the Antenor Sandino Hernández barrio,
in the southeastern part of the city.
His mother, Reyna del Carmen Torres,
notes that he suffered from mental health
problems, and was self-employed.

"What they did to him was tragic and unjust."



Fact



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León AMA: Constructing Memory

Wilber Antonio Jarquín Rostrán

26 years old – Three-wheeled cart driver

† Murdered in León, June 29, 2018

Facts At around 4 in the morning on June 29, 2018, Wilber Antonio Jarquín was guarding a barricade in the Sutiaba neighborhood when police and groups of government sympathizers on motorcycles shot bursts of gunfire at the protesters. Jarquín received multiple shots to the chest. His body remained splayed out on the street for another two hours until his relatives could retrieve it. Wilber Antonio had eight bullet wounds to the thorax, according to his family. Some 20 days earlier he'd received death threats from members of the neighborhood pro-government CPC.

"It's inhuman that they killed him for thinking differently. They had Wilbur on a blacklist and had threatened me about what he was doing. It's unjust that they killed him. He was sacrificing himself so the paramilitaries wouldn't come in," adds his mother, Cristina Rostrán López.







Wilber Antonio Jarquín Rostrán made his Biography living driving a three-wheeled cart in León. He also had a cart he called "Fury," from which he sold

hamburgers in San Juan Park. In his free time, he liked to rap. "He was a very helpful boy, but like all human beings, he was loved by some people and not by others," recalls his mother.

"It's inhuman that they killed him for thinking differently."





📤 Sandor Manuel Pineda Dolmus

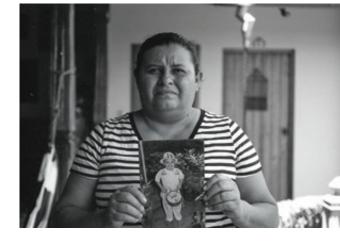
is years old – High school student

† Murdered in León, June 14, 2018

Facts Sandor Manuel Pineda Dolmus was murdered at midday on June 14. As his mother, Ivania Dolmus, explains, "We were there helping other people from the block who were putting up barricades. It was a small barricade. He was inside, but he heard all the noise. He stood in the doorway he asked me, 'Mom, can I help you?' 'No,' I said, 'We've finished.' 'And those things (the cobblestones used to make the barricade), are they heavy?' he asked. I told my sister to give him one to hold and he walked to the middle of the street. When we finished we stayed at the corner with a lot of people."

When the paramilitaries burst onto the scene firing their weapons, "I told Sandor 'run!" but they'd already shot him. We immediately put him in the pickup truck and he was still alive when he reached the hospital," recalls Ivania. The doctor at the Oscar Danilo Rosales Hospital said that the bullet had not touched his heart or his lungs, but he needed surgery. Ivania does not know how long she spent praying, but she does remember having a bad feeling. The doctor told her that her son had not made it through the surgery.

According to the death certificate, Sandor died from a bullet wound to the chest. Ivania says that they didn't want to hand over the body until the police and coroner arrived. However, she would not allow the coroner to touch his body and took him from the hospital as soon as the coffin arrived. "I told them no, why were they coming if they're the ones who killed him," she recalls.







Biography Sandor Manuel Pineda Dolmus was an altar boy at the León Cathedral, and the only son of Ivania del Socorro Dolmus. He was 15 and studying in the fourth year at the Corazón de Jesús High School. "He wanted to join the order of the Marian Missionaries and to go preaching around the world. His dream was to travel to Mexico to visit the Virgin of Guadalupe. He also said that he wanted to be like Bishop Silvio Báez," says doña Ivania. He liked baseball and also played in his school band.



'He was an altar boy and wanted to be a missionary."



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León AMA: Constructing Memory

📤 Alex Enrique Machado Vásquez

≥ 25 years old – Worker

† Murdered in León, July 5, 2018

Facts "The 'Clean-Up' Operation was coming from the Municipal Slaughterhouse, and there were roadblocks all along that route. A bulldozer with a sniper on top came along knocking down the roadblocks and the police and paramilitaries were shooting," recounts Mayling Machado, the sister of Alex Enrique Machado Vásquez.

On their block the people closed their doors on the police and paramilitaries, who entered firing their weapons. Alex's mother, Luisa Emilia Vásquez leaned out her door and heard a woman screaming, 'Don't kill him! Don't kill him! "Then I see a girl who was running directly towards me with my brother. He keeps looking at me, hugs me and says, 'You've got to be strong.' 'Why?' I ask him. 'Because they killed "el burrito" (the little donkey),' he tells me. I never imagined they'd kill my son," says doña Luisa, with a knot in her throat.

"Before they killed my son," she continues, "I went to the roadblock on the corner where he was. I said. 'Let's go, love, let's go. They're coming with weapons.' 'No, mom,' he tells me. 'I want my Nicaragua to be free. My sons aren't going to grow up like this." His sister affirms that "he was alive when they put him in the pickup truck, but at the morgue he had nine bullet wounds: three in his abdomen, three in his chest and three in his head."







Biography Alex Enrique Machado Vásquez was 25 when he was killed. His mother, Luisa Emilia Vásquez, says that he was a good boy who helped her and was very dedicated to her. He also really loved his sister Mayling and was a good dad to his two sons. They both describe him as a very popular guy who never got upset when people played jokes on him. He never gave up. He was known affectionately as "el burro" (the donkey) because he was tall and big with curly hair and a dimply smile. "When they take a child from you, they take away a part of your soul. I want justice," his mother adds.





He fought so Nicaragua would be free for his children."



Danny Ezequiel López Morales

21 years – Merchant

† Murdered in León, July 5, 2018

Facts Doña Ileana del Socorro Morales León explains that starting on April 19, Danny Ezequiel López Morales felt very brave and wanted to support the protests. He was at the barricades and when they told him that "Operation Clean-Up" was coming, she asked him to stay at home. "I told him not to go but he said, 'Mom. I can't turn back now.'"

"One day before he was killed, he wrote on Facebook: There are causes that are worth dying for, but none that are worth killing for. Nicaragua united will never be defeated," recalls his sister, Dolores López. On July 5, his mother explains, Danny "went out on his bicycle and that's when he was shot. It's possible that he went a block or a block and a half before he passed out because of the pain," she recounts. "My other brother went out from the other side of the block to help him, but some paramilitaries were coming and they aimed at him, so he waited for them to leave before going out to Danny," says his sister.

They took him to the Sutiaba health center, but the place was surrounded by police and anti-riot forces, and the doctors had been ordered not to attend to the wounded. "My son, the one who took him there, said, 'You know mom? They kept turning to look at each other, like they felt bad. They wanted to help him, but they looked at me as if to say they were being threatened." Danny received no help and died.







Biography Ileana del Socorro Morales León says that her son,

Danny Ezequiel López Morales, dreamed of a future for his family. "He shared his pig butchering company with his sisters and brothers. When they killed him, he left behind a two-year-old son." His sister Jani says that Danny liked playing soccer and having fun, like any young person. Dolores, his other sister, recalls him as friendly kid, with lots of friends.



'There are causes that are worth dying for, but none that are worth killing for."



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Junior Alexander Rojas 21 years old – Student and worker

† Murdered on July 5, 2018, in León

Facts On that 5th day of July 2018, hundreds of anti-riot police and hooded paramilitaries burst into León. "It was like a war. They came in shooting, without mercy, and knocking down the barricades," recalls Aura Marina Rojas, mother of Junior Alexander Rojas. Junior hadn't been involved up until that date, but when he saw this attack, he decided to defend his friends. He grabbed a homemade mortar, but as he left his house a group of anti-riot police came into the patio shooting.

"We heard shots near the house, and went out and saw all of the kids at the 'El Alacrán' corner running away. We asked: 'Where is Pío? and they answered, 'They killed Pío.' My other son headed to the corner, but the anti-riot forces had already thrown the bodies into their trucks to take them to the morgue at the Oscar Danilo Rosales Hospital. That is where he found my oldest son, thrown down in a hallway, naked, without a shirt or shoes. A doctor said: 'There is that dog. Take him.' But since he was all dirty because he had been dragged, he cleaned him. They wrapped him in a small piece of cloth, that's how they delivered him, without any papers. The anti-riot forces killed my son with a bullet to the head. He was murdered together with another youngster, Alex Enrique Machado, the son of doña Luisa Sánchez, right there in the El Alacrán corner, next to a tigüilote tree," recalls doña Aura.







was 21 years old and his nickname was "Pío." He was youngest child of doña Aura Marina Rojas, who was both his mother and father. Born in León, he was proudly Sutiaba. His death had a huge impact on his 12-year-old niece, since he was like her father. He worked with his brother and always hung out with him, and they worked together. "I want his friends to remember him with love, to remember his happiness and how he worried about all of them," comments doña Aura.



📤 Mario Antonio Martínez Peralta

■ 18 years old – Worker

† Murdered in León, July 6, 2018

Facts Mario Antonio Martínez Peralta was a member of the Sandinista Youth for a while, "but on Mother's Day he comes and says, 'I'm not someone who can go around killing anyone and that's why they called me. I've reached the end of the line with them," shares his aunt, Fanny Mercedes Hernández.

"So, he started to participate in the marches, and after they dismantled the roadblock on the highway to Chinandega, he came to the roadblock at the Municipal Slaughterhouse in León. He was there until they 'cleaned up' all the roadblocks on July 5. He managed to get out alive and slept at home," adds doña Fanny. But the next day he went out with other young people who were fleeing. He went to look for medicine for an injured friend, and never came back.

"They killed him on July 6 in the La Pintora neighborhood at about eight at night. The same guy who was going around with him came to look for me really scared. He said, 'They killed Mario. They killed Mario. They ambushed us from a car. Two pickup trucks arrived, and they loaded his dead body into the police truck,'" recounts his aunt. "He was shot with 18 bullets. The police took him (to the hospital) at one in the morning, naked, and one of them said, 'Here's this dog, don't give his family any documents,'" says his aunt.

Biography Mario Antonio Martínez Peralta's aunt,
Fanny Mercedes Hernández, describes him
as a very intelligent boy, who at 18 years of age knew how
to solder, plaster, and do carpentry and electrical work.
"There was nothing he couldn't repair. He got as far as
sixth grade, but he was intelligent and could invent
anything. Toñito, as he was known in the neighborhood,
was a good person and a fighter.







His mother, Claudia María Peralta Hernández, says that when Toñito was at home he listened to music and danced, and he went out to the sidewalk to chat with his friends. "Apparently, the mothers are alone, but we are all united by the same pain," affirms doña Claudia.

"We are all united by the same pain."





Facts

Testimonial video



"I want his friends to remember him with love."

Facts

León AMA: Constructing Memory

Bryan Yeraldín Murillo López 23 years old – Worker

† Murdered on July 17, 2019, in León

Facts Marina López Carrión, the mother of Bryan Yeraldín Murillo López, recalls that in the early morning hours of July 17, 2019, at approximately 4:30 a.m., she heard someone pounding on the door, and immediately went out to the living room. Her son Bryan was asleep on a mattress, since he was staying with her for a few days. When she asked who it was, they did not respond and pounded more insistently on the door. She cracked the door open, and agents from the Police Special Operations Unit (DOEP) abruptly and violently pushed open the door, without any warrant. They said they "were looking for delinquents." Bryan ran to the patio, a small alley with no exit, about two meters wide, and they shot him there. Bryan was the first shot. The bullets hit him in the thorax, and he died almost instantly. His brother, Kenner Jovany Murillo López, 26 years old, was seriously wounded by a bullet to his abdomen.

According to relatives, the attack was in retaliation for having been at the barricades in 2018. Human rights organizations indicate that these "selective executions" have been carried out in 2019 against those opposing the government.

Biography Bryan Yeraldín Murillo López was 23 years old when he was killed. He was the third of four children, and had a relationship with girlfriend Nahomi Téllez since he was young. They had a son together. He was always active, he liked to work. He started working as a bricklayer, painter and carpenter. "He did whatever work came to him. He never said, 'I can't do it.' He always took risks," recalls his mother.







Bryan was happy, had lots of friends in the barrio, and if he could help someone out, he did. "That's how I want him to be remembered, as a happy person, a fighter, a worker. I think that he would also like his friends to remember him as he was... He always kept going. Nothing got in his way," says doña Marina, Bryan's mother.

"I want him to be remembered as a happy person, a fighter."



acts



Sandor Dolmus when he was young, León, 2019. Credit: AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity, archive.

César Noé Castillo Castillo

Orlando Francisco Perez Corrales

FRANCO ALEXANDER VALAUVA MACHADO

EDWIN BISMARCK GÓMEZ

Cruz Alberto Obregion Lópes

Dodanim Jored Castilblanco Blandon.



Facebook



Instagram



Estelí AMA: Constructing Memory



Demanding justice. Estelí, 2018. Credit: Camaleoni

The department of Estelí has a population of 223,384 inhabitants and is divided into six municipalities: La Trinidad, Condega, Pueblo Nuevo, Limay, San Nicolás de Oriente and Estelí, which is also the departmental capital.

The main events of April 19 and 20, 2018, occurred in Estelí in the context of the protests organized by students against the social security (INSS) reforms. The police cordoned off the Municipal Government building and pro-government shock forces attacked the protesters, leading to the first fatalities. On May 30, shock forces and paramilitaries attacked the Mother's Day march in Estelí, leaving two young people dead.

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Estelí

Cesar Noé Castillo Castillo

41 years old – Factory worker

† Wounded on April 20, 2018. Died on May 12 in Estelí.

Facts On April 20, 2018, César Noé Castillo Castillo said he was going to march for his rights and went off to join the demonstration against the social security (INSS) reforms at the Central Park in Estelí. At about 9:00 at night he was shot in the back, damaging his lung and spinal cord. The shot came from the Estelí Municipal Government building. According to the report of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), Castillo Castillo was the first demonstrator shot in protests in this city.

"The family found out that César was wounded and was in the San Juan de Dios Hospital," says his sister, Loyda Isabel Castillo, "because his niece called and called his cell phone until finally a nurse answered and informed her he was wounded. The family was told he would never walk again, which had a very powerful impact on us."

César remained in the hospital until April 29, when the doctors released him. However, his condition was delicate since the bullet was lodged in his spinal cord. The family took him back to the hospital only two hours later, after he had a convulsion. On May 4 he was again sent home. "They took some X-rays and told us nothing was wrong. Everything was apparently normal, but then on May 12, he went into respiratory failure and died," recalls Loyda, insisting that her brother died because of the seriousness of his wound and the inadequate medical attention he received.







barrio of Estelí and worked at a cigar factory. He was 42 years old and liked to play soccer. His sister, Loyda Isabel Castillo, remembers him as a good and friendly person. "He had friends who cared a lot about him. They had a hard time believing he had been wounded." His family insists they will continue demanding justice.



"I am going to march for my rights."



Testimonial video

📤 Orlando Francisco Pérez Corrales

23 years old – University studentt

† Murdered in Estelí, April 20, 2018

Facts On April 20, the march in Estelí was attacked by police and pro-government shock forces. Orlando Francisco Pérez Corrales, who together with others had managed to get to the Central Park, was taking water to students affected by tear gas when he was shot in the thorax. His friends took him to the San Juan de Dios Hospital, but he died on the way.

Following his murder, his mother went out to protest carrying a sign with a photo of Orlando in one hand and flowers in the other. Witnesses and relatives agree that the shots came from the Estelí Municipal Government building. This allegation was presented to the police the night of the murder, but authorities refused to open an investigation and Orlando was buried without one. Ten days later, due to pressure from the family, the General Prosecutor's Office agreed to exhume the body to perform an autopsy. It was one more trauma for Orlando's mother, who believes that the investigation was only done for show. "They came to investigate a crime scene where no traces of blood were left."

The autopsy done on May 30, supervised by a coroner hired by the family, concluded that the two shots were well-aimed and that the bullets came from a "high-caliber" weapon aimed from a "high position" (above from a building).

Biography Orlando Pérez Corrales was in his final year of university studies in renewable energy engineering. His sister, Aracely Pérez, says he already had a job lined up at the Montelimar Sugar Refinery and was thinking of buying a house in El Crucero.







He was a member of the Catholic Church's Youth Pastoral and participated in activities such as an ecological campaign to reforest the Tisey Reserve. Orlando was a fan of the FC Barcelona soccer club, and always wore their shirt. "Even when it was still damp on the line, he would put it on," his mother remembers, who dressed him in it on the day he was buried.

"He can never again shout 'goal'. His death remains unpunished."





Testimonial vid

Estelí AMA: Constructing Memory

Franco Alexander Valdivia Machado

24 years old – University student and artist

† Murdered in Estelí, April 20, 2018

Facts On April 20, Franco Valdivia Machado joined the march that was going to leave from the Francisco Espinoza National Institute in Estelí. When attackers began shooting. Franco made a video showing a homemade mortar in his hands and narrated his feelings about the violent repression.

Amid the chaos, he was helping the wounded, including César Castillo and Orlando Pérez.

Minutes after transmitting his video, at approximately 9:00 at night, Franco was murdered in front of the Estelí Municipal Government building. A shot to the head killed him instantly. His lifeless body was then desecrated and dragged by paramilitaries, who dumped him in front of the San Juan de Dios Hospital at 10:30 p.m. The following day, the killers cleaned up the scene of the crime, erasing fundamental evidence for any investigation of the case.

On May 3, thirteen days after his murder, his remains were exhumed and transferred to Managua to conduct an autopsy, which took all day. As Francis Valdivia, his sister, says: "The preliminary results reveal that the person who shot my brother was shooting from a higher position. It came from above. In the Municipal Government office in Estelí, there are some steps and a terrace. The videos show shots coming from that office."

Biography His artistic name was "Renfan," and while his true passion was rap, Franco Valdivia Machado was a multifaceted young man who worked Monday to Friday in a carpentry shop, studied law at night, and was a baseball and softball umpire on weekends. He was 24 years old, married, and the father of a 4-year-old daughter.







"His dream was to finish his studies and compose songs," comments his mother, Francisca Machado. On April 19, Franco wrote on his Facebook page: "And though I lose days of my life, I will keep saying the truth, whatever the cost. Sandino had a dream and I assure you this wasn't it."

"And though I lose days of my life, I will keep saying the truth, whatever the cost."





Edwin Bismarck Gómez Gómez

⇒ 33 years old – Worker

† Wounded in Managua, April 22, 2018. Died on April 25.

Facts On April 22, 2018, at approximately 7:30 in the evening, there was violence near the UPOLI in Managua. Students holed up in the university were caught off guard by anti-riot forces that entered through the Las Américas mall and the Villa Progreso barrio. Edwin Bismarck Gómez was with the demonstrators when he was hit by two bullets in the thorax. He was found at the west side of the UPOLI's main gatet.

After Edwin was wounded, he was treated at an improvised medical post inside the university, and was then transported to the nearby Alemán Hospital, where he underwent surgery due to bullet wounds in his kidney, liver, and pancreas. He died at 9:00 p.m. three days later, on April 25. His wake and funeral were held in Condega, Estelí.

"That Sunday, as if he sensed it, he told me: 'I'm not going out, don't worry. I'm not going to go," says Rosaura, his widow. However, when he found out about the attack by anti-riot police on the UPOLI buildings, he left again and went to the university. "God willing, he's now resting in peace, because he did it like a hero. He didn't give up, right to the very end," she adds.

Biography Edwin Bismarck Gómez Gómez was 33 years old and was born in the municipality of Condega, in the Estelí department. Raised by his mother and grandmother in the community of Laguna de Santa Rosa, Condega, he was part way through primary school there when, together with his mother and stepfather, he moved to Managua, where he

continued his studies until his third year of high school.







His widow, Rosaura Chavarría, describes him as "easygoing, loving, respectful and dedicated to work. He liked to take his children out. He spoke often with his mom," she recalls. Edwin and Rosaura had two daughters and one son and were expecting their fourth child, who was born just months after his murder.

"He struggled until the very end."





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Estelí AMA: Constructing Memory

🚔 Cruz Alberto Obregón López

≥ 23 years old – Student

† Murdered in Estelí, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30, 2018, the Mother's Day March in
Estelí was attacked by police and paramilitaries.
Half a block from the Domingo Gadea Plaza, Cruz Alberto
Obregón López was hit by bullet from a firearm.
His friends took him by motorcycle to a Red Cross post
and from there to the Adventist Hospital, where he
died at 8:20 in the evening. According to findings of the
Forensic Examiner's Office, Obregón was wounded in
the thorax by multiple shotgun blasts.

"He was conscious and told the boys with him to not leave him alone, not to let him die. *The blood was suffocating him and he said he couldn't breathe,*" says his mother, Sara Amelia López. In the hospital the doctor who received him treated him quickly. Cruz told her his name and asked that his mother be notified. When they intubated him, the blood clots came out and he was finally able to breathe, but only for a few minutes before he died.

Biography Cruz Alberto Obregón López was born in the community of El Regadío and was 23 years old. He was an ambitious student who was only one semester short of graduating in two majors at two separate universities: civil engineering at the National Engineering University and renewable energy engineering in the Regional Multidisciplinary Department of the National Autonomous University (UNAN-FAREM) in Estelí. Cruz Alberto grew up in the house of his maternal grandmother, Manuela del Carmen Pérez, who remembers him as humble and easygoing. For his aunt, Gabriela López Pérez, he was a dreamer and a dedicated student. His mother, Sara Amelia López, remarks that Cruz "was educated, caring and very popular."







"For him, the last straw was when they killed Orlando Pérez, his friend and university classmate in renewable energy studies. Orlando's death had a tremendous impact on him," affirm his aunts Gabriela and Carmen Oneyda. "They destroyed his plans, but he is a hero. Because of the blood that has been shed, we are going to build a new Nicaragua with peace and justice," declares his mother.

"We are going to build a new Nicaragua with peace and justice."





Testimonial video

📤 Dodanim Jared Castilblanco Blandón

26 years old − Student

† Murdered in Estelí, May 30, 2018

Facts On May 30, 2018, Dodanim Jared Castilblanco took part in an anti-government march.

When the demonstrators were passing in front of the General Tax Offices (DGI), they were intercepted by armed shock forces coming out of that building and by other pro-government activists who came from the Municipal Government office.

At about 5:00 in the afternoon, Dodanim was shot in the chest by a .22 rifle. Gravely wounded, Dodanim was taken by his friends to the Red Cross and from there to the Adventist Hospital, where he was not admitted. He was then taken to the San Juan de Dios Hospital, where he died during surgery.

Biography Luis Amado Castilblanco Rodríguez, the father of Dodanim Yared Castilblanco

Blandón, says his son "was very creative. He was studying agro-industrial engineering and had put his knowledge into practice when he built a pasture grass shredder and ovens to dry seeds, smoke cheese and make bread. He was very smart and learned all by himself, inventing things and being very creative. He wanted to continue studying and learn more," he says. Dodanim was 26 years old and had two children, a 10-month-old girl and a 6-year-old boy. His dream was to raise his children and teach them. His mother, Aura Blandón, recalls that Dodanim "liked to be fair and liked to help others without expecting anything in exchange."

His wife, Jackeline Judith Mairena, agrees that "he was very sociable and talked to everyone. He was friends with everyone and was very happy." And Magali, his sister, describes Dodanim as multifaceted. He was into sports, and gave taekwondo classes to children.







"He was also very creative. He was working on a project to create small businesses. He was a doer; he wasn't very expressive but he acted. He won prizes and wherever he went he changed things. He was a leader. He opened a new road and joined together with the other young people against injustice," she emphasizes.

"He opened a road to change."





Testimonial video

habran Antonio Castro Jarquin Bryan Picado B.

Leyting Ezequiel Chavarria Pérez OSCAR NOEL HERRERA BLANDON.

Oliver José Montenegro Conteno

Edgard Montenegro Centena

Yalmer Zeledon Olives.

Jose Francisco Garcio Soboto



Facebook



Instagram



Jinotega AMA: Constructing Memory

The department of Jinotega has an estimated population of 452,973 inhabitants and is organized into the following municipalities: Jinotega, El Cuá, San José de Bocay, La Concordia, San Rafael del Norte, San Sebastián de Yalí, Santa María de Pantasma and Wiwilí.

The protests of April 2018 took place in the departmental capital of Jinotega, where demonstrations against the social security (INSS) reforms took place on April 19, 20 and 21. On June 5, part of the Municipal Government building in El Cuá was intentionally set fire by hooded and armed subjects who also looted the offices. The population erected barricades.

June 7 and 8

Paramilitaries armed with weapons of war took control of the municipality and attacked the Sandino barrio.

June 10

The population erected 25 barricades in the city's urban center.

June 24

Hooded subjects shot a citizen, murdering him..

July 16

An agreement was reached between mayors and the Army to take down the barricades.

July 23-24

The so-called "Operation Clean-up" was launched in the Sandino barrio; 3 deaths were reported.

October 7

A citizen was intercepted by paramilitaries and shot multiple times.

In the first half of 2019 the violence intensified in rural areas, and in the municipality of El Cuá, a coffee grower was ambushed by paramilitaries with firearms. In the border zone with Honduras, ambushes against those opposing the government take place.



View of the Sandino barrio. Credit: Carlos Herrera, Confidencial

Jinotega

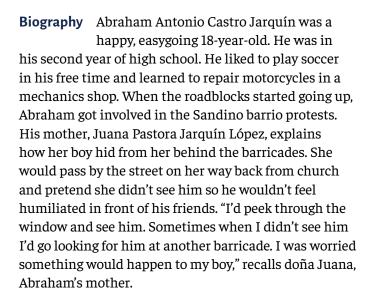
📤 Abraham Antonio Castro Jarquín

i 18 years old − Student

† Murdered in Jinotega, June 8, 2018

Facts Abraham Antonio Castro Jarquín supported the anti-government protests at the Sandino barrio barricades, in Jinotega. After midnight on Friday, June 8, 2018, pro-government shock forces, paramilitaries and police attacked and fired at the protesters behind the roadblock at the city's northern exit.

The bullet that hit Abraham Antonio perforated a lung. The local priest transported his lifeless body in the back of his pickup truck, navigating around barricades and under constant siege by government forces.









"I'm staying put. It's not fair that they're robbing money from the old people."







📤 Bryan Odoniel Picado Blandón

22 years old – Baker

† Murdered in Jinotega, July 24, 2018

Facts At about six in the evening, the Sandino barrio of Jinotega started filling up with police and doña Mayra Felícita Blandón Palacios went to the bakery to tell her son, Bryan Odoniel Picado Blandón, not to come home yet as a precaution. One hour later there was a clash between anti-government protesters and the police, the former armed with stones and the latter with guns, which lasted until the night. Early the next morning, a neighbor told her there were three dead people in their barrio. "Be strong, doña Mayra," she said, "because your son's there." Mayra did not believe it but went to look for him and saw him on the ground.

"I went," she recalls. "I don't know who gave me a blue and white flag. I passed from police to police, saying, 'Thank you for killing my son.' I did it to vent my rage, to express my pain..." adds doña Mayra. "When I saw he was dead, I lay down with him on the ground. I told myself he was sleeping because I never expected my boy to be dead."

Bryan Picado Blandón was a baker, and Biography he had a very close relationship with his brother. His mother, Mayra Felícita Blandón Palacios, recalls that when he was born her eldest son looked after Bryan, and I was like both a mother and father to them." Bryan liked soccer and was on a team and he also sometimes went to play Nintendo. "What I'm going through seems like a dream to me.... it feels like I'm going to wake up and I'll have him here," says his mother.







And she adds: "They say the dead really die when you forget them, but for me, my son is still alive. I'd send out the message not to forget our kids, to keep them in our hearts."

"I think I will wake up and have him here."





142 **1**43 Jinotega

Leyting Ezequiel Chavarría Pérez

i 15 years old − Student

† Murdered in Jinotega, July 24, 2018

Facts On July 23, 2018, Leyting Ezequiel Chavarría Pérez helped put up barricades in the Camilo Ortega barrio of Jinotega. They were the last ones up in the country. At 4:30 in the morning of the 24th, police and paramilitaries surrounded the area, shouting "surrender, sons of bitches, because we're here!" Witnesses told the family that a policeman first murdered Bryan Picado and then turned to Leyting. He held up his arms surrendering, but it made no difference to the cop. "You, too," he screamed, and shot him at point-blank range.

Leyting was hit by a bullet from a firearm, which entered the left side of his thorax. "I felt like I'd been drugged, as if someone had anesthetized me or something... I was there, but I couldn't believe it," says Mirta Ibelis Pérez, Leyting's mother. She collected her boy from the street and his wake was held at the home of his uncles, with intense police surveillance and harassment.

Biography Leyting Ezequiel Chavarría Pérez was 15 years old and a high school student. He had a good relationship with his siblings and his mother, Mirtha Ibelis Pérez. She describes her son as very loyal to his friends. He had a lot of friends and he liked soccer, videogames and spending time with the kids in the neighborhood. "He wanted to be a doctor or a lawyer," comments his mother, who told him off for going to the marches. But he always replied that he wanted to see Nicaragua be free.







His mother feels that the example Leyting left behind was that of a very decided kid, because he said he was not afraid of death and even left some sound recordings saying, "I'm blue and white! Long live free Nicaragua!" His family wants him to be forever remembered as a brave boy.

"I am blue and white... Long live Free Nicaragua!"





Testimonial vide

📤 Oscar Noel Herrera Blandón

42 years old – Lawyer

† Murdered in Jinotega, October 7, 2018

Facts Oscar Noel Herrera Blandón was a well-known government opponent and participated in the protests of 2018 at the La Marañosa roadblock. On October 7, 2018, at around 9:30 at night, Oscar Noel was shot dead by a masked man in El Hoyo, a bar in the town of Wiwilí in the department of Jinotega. Hours earlier, Herrera had been drinking in the same bar and an argument broke out with a presumed paramilitary.

Biography Oscar Noel Herrera Blandón was 42 years old when he was murdered. He had seven children, one of whom, Russel Jacob Herrera Osorio, describes his father as a very hardworking man.

When he finished his law studies, he began to work as a lawyer. He also worked on a farm he owned. Russel says that his father "was a simple man and at the same time elegant, intelligent and full of character. He had good principles and a good heart, and if he could help someone, he always lent a hand to those who needed it."

In relation to his father's dreams, he explains that "He wanted us to live peacefully, to remove the Ortega regime from power and live in a free country, without hypocrisy, without spilled blood of innocent people. He treasured his family and he wanted his children to be well. I think he achieved that, because he was always with us." "My father's loss left such a big hole inside me, that I didn't even believe it until I saw him in the coffin. I want justice, for the criminal to pay for the physical and emotional damage he caused, for this crime to not go unpunished and be forgotten," says his son.







"To live in a free country, without hypocrisy, without spilled blood."





Testimonial v

Jinotega

AMA: Constructing Memory

aliver José Montenegro Centeno

¥4 years old – Farmer

† Murdered in Jinotega, January 23, 2019

Facts A 3:00 p.m. on January 23, 2019, Oliver was ambushed and riddled with bullets by around 20 people who shot him from various positions. Witnesses said that some men were wearing police uniforms and others black clothes, while yet others were armed civilians.

His relatives claimed that the attackers disfigured his face and wounded his abdomen with a blade after he died. His body also had multiple bullet wounds to his arms, thorax, abdomen and lower extremities.

At when he was murdered. He was a farmer who had eight children (three sons and five daughters). He was an affectionate and dedicated father, recalls his mother, Ángela Centeno. She says he was also always attentive and loving to her; he was cheerful, helpful and above all a good friend. He got up at 4:00 a.m., fed the pigs and then woke up his children. He did not know the meaning of the word lazy. Thelma del Rosario Montenegro, his sister, explains that they had a very strong bond. He was her confidant and friend.

She remembers him as a happy child and an honest and hard-working young man.

He was active at the La Marañosa roadblock, but hid out in the mountains following the state's repression. The head of police of the municipality of Wiwilí, Fausto Herrera, visited his mother, Ángela Centeno, in November 2018, saying, "Doña Ángela, tell your sons that nobody is following them anymore." So, Oliver returned to work on his coffee farm, where he was murdered.







Doña Ángela hopes to see justice for her son's cruel murder and says that what gives her greatest strength is remembering Oliver Montenegro as a hardworking man. "My sons haven't died because they were criminals or murderers, but because they wanted to see a free and just Nicaragua," she affirms.

"An honest and hardworking man."





Testimonial vide

🚔 Edgard Aristo Montenegro Centeno

53 years old – Farmer

† Murdered in Honduras, June 27, 2019

Facts Edgard Montenegro's family states that he was the victim of political persecution because he was a known anti-Sandinista. In the 1980s he was part of the Nicaraguan Resistance (the "Contras"), where his alias was "Cabezón." During the protests of 2018 he led the La Marañosa roadblock and in July, when the government announced and implemented the so-called "Operation Clean-Up," he fled to the mountains. He stayed there until his brother Oliver was murdered in January 2019, when his whole family became the target of harassment. He left the country with his brothers and nephews to work in the municipality of Trojes, in the Honduran department of El Paraíso. On June 27, he was ambushed and murdered together with a man he had raised as his own son, Yalmer Antonio Zeledón, as they were traveling on a motorcycle.

Biography Edgard Aristo Montenegro Centeno was very loving to his children. He raised three children with his current wife, and two with the previous one. His mother, Ángela Centeno Herrera, says he farmed basic grains and was very good at repairing chainsaws and all kinds of tools. He was 51 when he died. The people of Wiwilí in the department of Jinotega were very fond of Edgard, because he was honest, helpful and generous.

Doña Ángela feels that the legacy Edgard left was leadership, the will to change the country, and a true love for his country. "And maybe his example of fighting will inspire another leader, another 'Cabezón,' as he was known during the war," she says.

His mother thinks that Edgard sensed that his end was near, because when she asked him not to continue in the struggle, he replied, "No, mom, don't worry. For others to live, many of us have to die."







His mother is calling for justice and for those responsible for her son's murder to be punished. She hopes her son will be remembered as a man with the spirit of freedom.

"For others to live, many of us have to die."





Testimonial vi

Jinotega

AMA: Constructing Memory

Yalmar Antonio Zeledón Olivas

■ 31 years old – Driver and merchant

† Murdered in Honduras, June 27, 2019

Facts Yalmar Antonio Zeledón Olivas and Edgard Aristo Montenegro Centeno regularly traveled by motorcycle to a telephone box to call Nicaragua and get news about the family. At approximately 6:00 in the evening, they were ambushed on the stretch of road that leads to the telephone, by men on a motorcycle carrying long range weapons. They were shot in the back and killed, their bodies left strewn on the road. Police authorities from Trojes picked up their bodies and took them to the morgue, and they were transported to Tegucigalpa for the necessary formalities.

Biography Yalmar Antonio Zeledón was born in Yalí, Jinotega. He was married to Mayra Villagra, from El Cuá. They lived together with their four children until January 2019, when he left to seek refuge in Honduras. He worked as a driver and merchant, drove the family truck, managed the retail distribution of his mother's products and helped his father working on the farm.

Although he had the last name Zeledón, from his biological father, his true father, the one who raised him from the time he was two years old and loved him as his own son, was Edgard Montenegro Centeno, who married his mother Cándida Olivas Rivera.

His mother notes that from the time he met her son Yalmar, Edgard took care of him, loved him, and a great love grew between son and father. This became even stronger over time.





"He gave his life to his father, he followed him everywhere."



Facts



i 53 years old − Producer

† Murdered on August 27, 2019

Facts Early on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, Francisco
Luis Blandón Herrera called his wife, Thelma
Montenegro Centeno, to tell her he had sent her the
cheese to be sold that day on the bus. His last call was
around 2:00 in the afternoon, to tell her that he was
going to buy supplies and food for the pigs he was
raising. Everything indicated that on his way home,
he was detained at the baseball field. Witnesses stated
that there was a guy on a motorcycle at the corner,
observing him.

At 4:00 in the afternoon, Francisco got on his motorcycle to return to the farm, and as he pulled away, the motorcycle started following him. After about one kilometer, *Francisco was hit by the bullets from a firearm, shot by the person on the motorcycle.* The first three shots hit him in the hip, at the lower part of his back, and he fell, still alive. As he lay dying, the person on the motorcycle stopped and shot him again in the upper part of his back. Witnesses indicated that the shooter was wearing a black helmet, which prevented them from seeing his face. People nearby called the police, whose command post was just a few kilometers away, but they said they couldn't get there anytime soon.

Biography Francisco Luis Blandón Herrera was a well-known producer in San José del Kilambé, and the respected manager of Wiwilí's baseball and softball leagues. He had been married to Thelma Montenegro Centeno for 20 years, and together they had built company that processed milk and made fresh "cuajada" cheese, famous in Jinotega and known as "the cuajada of the Blandóns."





Thelma hopes Francisco will be remembered as "a farmer, who loved to work, produce and get ahead.".

"A farmer, who loved to work, produce and get ahead."



Fact

*148

Jinotega

AMA: Constructing Memory

José Francisco García Sobalvarro 56 años – Agricultor

† Asesinado en Honduras el 13 de julio de 2019

Facts José Francisco García Sobalvarro had been a "contra" in the 1980s and supported the anti-government protests in 2018. Harassment by the police and paramilitaries forced him to take refuge in the municipality of Trojes, in the Honduran department of El Paraíso.

He was murdered on July 13, 2019, in the same circumstances as his friend Edgard Montenegro.

José Francisco was returning from farming that day, when two people turned up at his house and shot him. His body was taken to Tegucigalpa, and the authorities notified his family.

Biography José Francisco García Sobalvarro was 56 years old. He was a farmer and livestock producer, and had been part of the Nicaraguan Resistance, or "Contras." His son, Adonis García Rivera, affirms that don José's "dream had always been to see a free Nicaragua."

Adonis, who is one of José Francisco's six children, says that they had a good relationship. "He loved me a lot and I loved him the same way. He gave me advice, so I'd describe him as a sociable person, someone who had many friends as he knew how to make himself loved. He never had any enemies, and his favorite pastime was working in the fields," he says.

"My father wanted to see a generation that was free from dictatorship. He had gone into exile because he was being hounded by the police and the army due to his past as a member of the Resistance.







He was a hero for me and, like the students, he dreamed of seeing a free Nicaragua," adds Adonis.

In relation to his death, Adonis says that don José was murdered on the night of July 13, 2019, in Trojes, Honduras, by three people "who turned up and riddled the house with bullets. My father was not a criminal, he was known as a sociable person and so his death should not go unpunished. I want justice," he affirms

"He wanted to see a generation free from dictatorship."



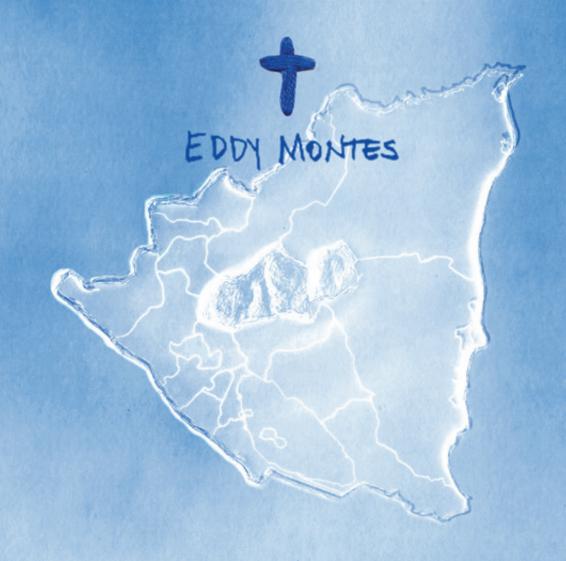


Testimonial vide



Honoring Leyting Chavarría Pérez, Camilo Ortega barrio, Jinotega, 2019. Credit: Archive of AMA Y NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity.

MATAGALPA





▼ 57 years old – Lawyer and real estate agent

† Murdered in Managua, May 16, 2019

Facts On Thursday, May 16, 2019, prisoners in pavilion 61 of La Modelo Prison were attacked with firearms by prison guards. Political prisoner Eddy Montes Praslin was hit in the groin by a shot that other prisoners say was fired from one of the prison towers.

Paola Montenegro López, Eddy's former sister-in-law, insists that Montes bled to death in the prison. "The Forensic Examiner's Office said they were going to give us his body on Friday, May 17, but we requested an independent autopsy, which was finally done on Sunday after overcoming many hurdles," she explains.







Biography Eddy Montes Praslin was 57 years old, a lawyer, and worked in real estate and as a human rights activist. He was the father of three children from his first marriage—two daughters and one son—and had another son with his second wife. His former sister-in-law, Paola Montenegro López, says his relationship with his children was very close despite their distance. "He was a good person; he had more virtues than defects. He spent his free time reading his law books and tried to be an excellent lawyer and a good defender," she said.

In La Modelo prison, where he remained nearly seven months, until his murder, don Eddy made bracelets and preached the word of God. Many young prisoners were drawn to him and loved him like a father. Many called him "the Pastor."

For her part, his daughter Eddy
Jafet Montes, holds Daniel Ortega's
government responsible for her father's
murder. "I blame the government,
I blame the President because he controls
everything that happens in that country
and anything that happens is because
he permits it," she declared to local media
from the United States.

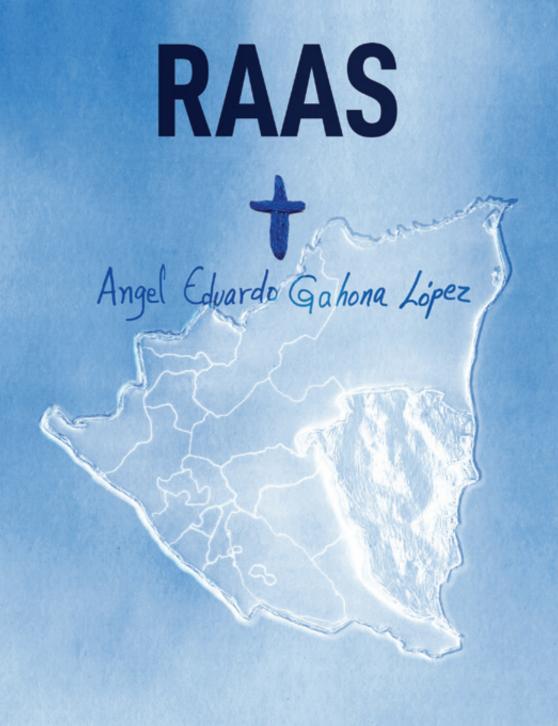
"The pastor of the political prisoners."





Facts

estimonial video





† Murdered in Bluefields, April 21, 2018

Facts On Saturday, April 21, 2018, Ángel Ernesto Gahona was reporting live on events taking place in Bluefields, where the police had violently attacked a demonstration. He was shot twice, once in the head and once in the thorax, after the bullet first passed through his arm.

Gahona fell in front of the Banpro bank window at the Municipal Government building. He was taken to the Ernesto Sequeira Hospital, where he was admitted in a state of shock from severe and irreversible encephalic trauma. He died at 7:00 that night, according to the Forensic Examiner's Office.

Brandon Lovo and Glenn Slate were arrested, indicted and sentenced for the murder of the journalist even though Gahona's relatives and witnesses at the scene insisted they were innocent and that the true criminal was still at large. On June 11, 2019, Lovo and Slate were released from prison together with other political prisoners. Following the murder, the Gahona family received death threats that forced them to flee the country.

Biography Ángel Ernesto Gahona López was a journalist, and directed the news program El Meridiano, founded nearly a decade ago. Ángel was 42 years old, father of a 4-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy. He had studied law at the university on Sundays, explains his mother, Amanda López, because "he wanted to support his journalistic work with knowledge of the law." His spent his free time on the weekends with his family.







His father, Ángel Augusto Gahona, points to his son's work ethic as one of his strongest qualities. "Even as a boy he was a hard worker," he says. His father adds that Ángel's dream "was to complete his law studies and have his own house. He also dreamed of seeing his kids grow up, study and find their vocations in life." For him, the legacy of Ángel Gahona López "was being objective, upstanding and exposing things that needed to be condemned."

"His legacy: denouncing what needed to be condemned."





Facts

estimonial video

CHONTALES





† Murdered in Jinotepe, July 8, 2018

Facts According to the National Police, officer Faber Antonio López Vivas died on July 8, 2018, due to gunshots by "armed terrorists." According to a Nicaraguan government report, this day the Anti-Riot Elite Unit, of which Faber was a member, arrived in Jinotepe to jointly take down a large number of roadblocks erected by the opposition in different municipalities of Carazo, together with local police. The unit was attacked by a sharpshooter, and Faber was hit by nine bullets.

Fátima Vivas, Faber's mother, blames the police for her son's murder. "My son was tortured, according to the coroner consulted. He had wounds from a knife, his fingers were broken, his fingernails had been pulled out, and his eyeballs had been removed. He had innumerable wounds in his arms." The motive for the crime, according to Vivas, was because her son had requested his discharge from the police ranks, but apparently they did not accept his request. Another police officer told me that her son had thought about deserting with her, but he wasn't successful.

Faber López had called his family one day earlier, saying he was going to resign from the police. When he didn't contact them the next day, it was because he had been murdered by the police. Faber López never called them again.





Biography Faber Antonio López Vivas, the son of Fátima Belarmina Vivas Torres, had joined the police force in 2014. He was assigned to a delegation in El Rama, but was reassigned to the Special Police Operations Division (DOEP) to receive a course on canine techniques in Managua. He had been taking the course for six months but was placed on street duty to repress the population following the protests on April 18. He did not agree with the police actions. "If the police didn't kill my son, then why are they hounding me?" asks doña Fátima. After reporting the death of her son, she was harassed, threatened, and forced to flee the country.

"If the police didn't kill my son, why are they hounding me?"





Those who we cannot forget from the massacre, 2018. Credit: Camaleoni

We asked ourselves, what can we do with all this pain?

And our answer was: we must share the pain,the love, the hope, the memories, and the fight for justice.

– Emilia Yang Rappaccioli

Director – AMAY NO OLVIDA - Museum of Memory against Impunity

Credits

AMA: Constructing Memory



Long live a Free Nicaragua. Credit: Camaleoni

Credits

AMA: Constructing Memory. An Interactive Art Book

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Blandón

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Camaleoni Confidencial

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Credits and special thanks AMA: Constructing Memory

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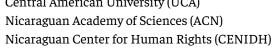
Mapache Jambado

Production: Barricades of Memory Podcast

Nani

Special thanks

Central American University (UCA) Nicaraguan Academy of Sciences (ACN)





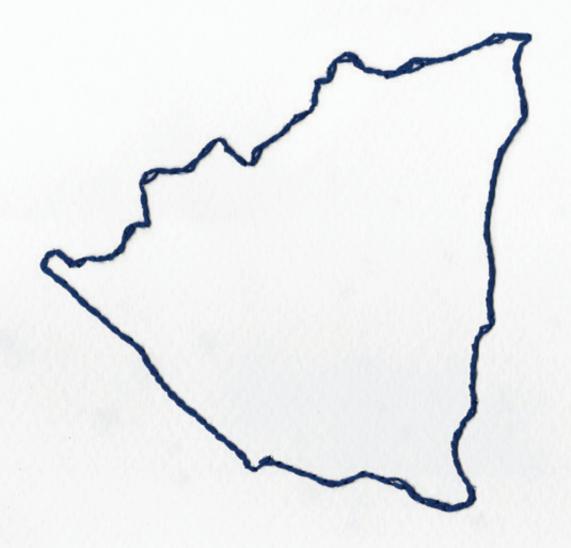


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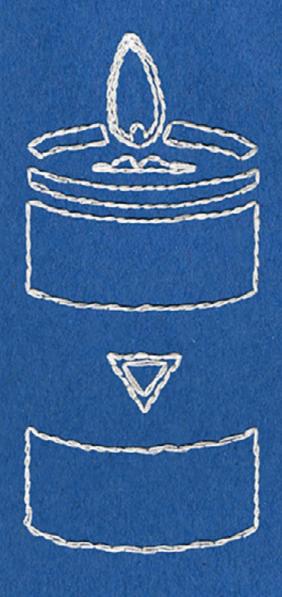


Mothers of April seek justice one year after the Mother's Day Massacre. Credit: Camaleoni

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THEY WERE STUDENTS,
PROFESSIONALS, WORKERS,
ARTISANS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE,
FARMERS, PRODUCERS, WOMEN,
AND POLITICAL PRISONERS.









AMAYNO MUSEUM OF MEMORY OLVIDA AGAINST IMPUNITY