

**Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional
Unida Nicaragua Triunfa**



**INTERVENTION BY THE DELEGATION OF NICARAGUA
AT THE SESSION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ON MARCH 25, 2021**

Honorable Ambassador María del Carmen Roquebert
León, President of the Permanent Council, Permanent
Representative of Panama to the OAS,

Mr. Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS,

Commissioner Margarett May Macaulay, Rapporteur
on the Rights of People of African Descent and
against Racial Discrimination of the Inter-American
Commission on Human Rights,

Mrs. Maricarmen Plata, Secretary of Access
to Rights and Equity,

Honorable Representatives of the Member States,

On March 25, the world commemorates the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Trade of Enslaved Africans, a perverse industry fueled by the cruel ambitions of governments, companies and individuals, who for the most part, still refuse to make reparations for the terrible damage inflicted on the African Continent, on more than 20 million human beings who for more than 400 years were victims of this scourge, as well as on us, the more than 200 million Afrodescendant who currently live in the Americas.

I refer to this crime against humanity as an industry, given its motivation have been supply and demand, profit maximization and

cost efficiency. Slavery constitutes the most brutal version of capitalism, dehumanizing human beings, legally modifying the status of the slave, to categorize him or her as an "object."

It is estimated that one in three enslaved Africans perished at sea, others in the ports and auctions of North America, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The vast majority of slaves died even before reaching 30 years of age as a result of brutal conditions of forced labor, rape and merciless torture inflicted in the homes of their "masters", in huge sugar, banana and cotton plantations, in the mines and while working in different government projects.

Today slavery persists in many countries of the world with the same cruel practices, the same motivations and the same consequences.

On the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, the Afro-descendant Creole people achieved emancipation from slavery in 1787, before any other people in the American hemisphere, even though Great Britain did not formally abolish slavery until 1833.

On that date, 3,000 souls, including 573 British and free people and 1,677 enslaved Africans, left Caribbean Nicaragua and sailed to Belize, Jamaica, Great Britain, and the United States.

Thousands of Afro-descendants remained in Nicaragua and achieved freedom. The Afro-descendant Creoles managed to advance by dedicating themselves tirelessly to education, becoming accountants, doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers, musicians, choreographers, cooks, diplomats, high-ranking government officials, poets, and cultural managers.

The story of the Afro-descendant Garífuna people is just as poignant. 224 years ago, on 11 March 1797, the People of Joseph Chatoyer were expelled from their home on the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the coasts of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, where they found refuge, established settlements and began to prosper.

In Nicaragua, the Sandinista Popular Revolution of 1979 and the Political Constitution of 1987, recognized the multiethnic and pluricultural nature of the Nicaraguan nation, being the first Magna Carta in the entire hemisphere to establish full citizenship of Afrodescendant and Indigenous peoples.

Today, Nicaragua advances by celebrating the three tributaries of national identity: indigenous, European and African, assimilating different

perspectives and taking full advantage of the creativity that arises from a culturally diverse population.

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of the Republic of Nicaragua, led by Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Compañera Rosario Murillo, has promoted a Model of Christianity, Socialism and Solidarity, the spearhead of a Sandinista effort to guarantee the equitable participation of all the Nicaraguan population in the development of the nation, with a clear understanding that each and every Nicaraguan, without distinction, can contribute to our well-being.

Nicaragua recognizes the determined effort of the Caribbean countries that have promoted the Ten-Point Plan of Action of the Reparations Commission of the Caribbean Community

(CARICOM) and applauds the efforts of this commission to correct the injustices derived from the genocide of native indigenous peoples and the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans, reaffirming the urgent need to demand effective reparations, redress, compensation and other measures at the national, regional and international levels.

Nicaragua, today and always, extends its fraternal embrace and absolute solidarity with the victims of the transatlantic slave trade, as well as with the descendants of this terrible scourge who, today, continue to suffer the consequences.

Thank You.