

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002747/26

to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Leire Pajín (S&D), Hana Jalloul Muro (S&D), Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D), Alicia Homs Ginel (S&D), José Cepeda (S&D), Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D), Rosa Serrano Sierra (S&D)
(2 July 2026)

Subject: Sale of assets confiscated from opponents by the Ortega and Murillo regime in Nicaragua

Since 2018, and particularly since 2023, the Ortega and Murillo regime has been pursuing a systematic policy of confiscating assets from opponents, journalists, human rights defenders, civil society organisations and persons stripped of their nationality and forced into exile. The United Nations Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua (GHREN) has confirmed that these confiscations form part of a deliberate strategy of transnational repression.

According to press investigations, the confiscated goods are currently being sold, let or transferred to private individuals, regime sympathisers and public institutions, thereby compounding their plundering and use for the purposes of personal and political enrichment. This is in breach of the right to property and effective redress, whilst also creating legal uncertainty for third-party purchasers.

Given this situation:

1. What measures does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union propose to put an end to transnational repression and confiscations, and to return this property to its rightful owners?
2. Does the VP/HR intend to propose extending the Union's sanctions to encompass people who order, carry out or personally benefit from these confiscations?
3. Does the Commission plan to issue guidance to European companies and investors on the legal risks of acquiring or exploiting assets arbitrarily confiscated in Nicaragua?

Submitted: 2.7.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission

(7 August 2026)

The EU remains very concerned about the situation of political rights and fundamental freedoms in Nicaragua and has publicly condemned the practices of the Nicaraguan authorities in relation to deportations, stripping of nationality, and the confiscation of properties and assets, as well as the pressures exerted on civil society and the repression of dissenting voices and political opposition, including beyond Nicaragua's national borders.

The EU continues to strongly promote democratic values and fundamental rights in Nicaragua. On every pertinent occasion, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) reiterates deep concern to the Nicaraguan authorities, including on potential consequences for investments.

Furthermore, the HR/VP keeps calling for inclusive and serious intra-Nicaraguan dialogue towards a democratic and peaceful solution to the current political stalemate.

In parallel, the EU imposes restrictive measures ('sanctions') in view of the situation in Nicaragua, with 21 individuals and 3 entities current subject to the asset freeze measures and the prohibition to make funds or economic resources available to them.

In addition, the listed individuals are subject to a travel ban into the EU. The listings include Ortega family members (including Co-President Murillo) as well as members of the National Police.

The measures are reviewed at regular intervals, and at least every 12 months. The last review of the sanctions adopted in view of the situation in Nicaragua was concluded in September 2025, when they were extended until 15 October 2026. The implementation and enforcement of sanctions are the primary responsibility of Member States.

Furthermore, any decision on sanctions, including on potential changes, remains with the Council and requires the unanimity of the 27 Member States.
