

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- Reporters for an online news site are writing their stories in secret locations. Editors of the country's only 24-hour news network have been jailed. And employees of a major human rights organization have escaped into the mountains. # Except one. # " I am 80 years old, and I am in no condition to go up into the mountains, not even to save my life, " said Vilma N?? ez, a well-known lawyer who founded the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights. # In the past few weeks, President Daniel Ortega's forces have launched a wave of repression against civil society groups and journalism outlets that is choking off what little remains of democracy in this Central American country. # The government recently stripped nine civil society groups of their legal standing and seized their assets. News organizations critical of the Ortega administration have been closed, and some editors have been charged with crimes