

concluded that the actions by Nicaragua's security forces could be considered crimes against humanity. They called for an investigation of Ortega, noting that the coordinated, sustained campaign by the national police " could only be explained by a decision taken by the maximum authorities " of the country. They also urged an investigation of the police leadership and judiciary. # Authorities kicked the investigators out of the country shortly before the report was issued. The government responded to its conclusions by accusing the investigators of ignoring deadly violence by protesters. It also alleged that they were " echoing the policies of the Government of the United States of America against Nicaragua. " # For months, the government has pursued those directly involved in the demonstrations, arresting more than 400 and prompting thousands to flee the country. Now it is intensifying its campaign against news organizations and nonprofit groups it views as sympathetic to the protests. # Jaime Chamorro, publisher of the country's most influential daily, La Prensa, said in an interview that the attacks on the media were worse than the censorship that occurred in the 1980s, when the leftist Sandinista government was fighting the U.S.-backed contra rebels. # Then, he noted, a war was underway. " But how do you justify the shutdown of media today, when we are living in peace? " he asked. # A' search for freedom' # Ortega, now 73, was a top figure in the Sandinista rebel movement that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle in 1979. The onetime Marxist fighter went on to lead the government until 1990, when he lost the presidential election. # Over the next several years, as international donors sought to strengthen Nicaragua's democracy, more than