



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Nicaragua

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session (Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*



© Wikimedia - Brooklyn Rivera Bryan

NIC-32 – Brooklyn Rivera Bryan  
NIC-33 – Nancy Elizabeth Henríquez James

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Enforced disappearance
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity

### A. Summary of the case

In April 2023, Mr. Brooklyn Rivera Bryan, a Miskitu indigenous leader, prominent member of the YATAMA organization (*Yapti Tasba Masraka Nanih Aslatakanka*, “Children of Mother Earth United”) and elected member of Nicaragua’s National Assembly, participated in the 22nd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. According to the complainant, during this event Mr. Rivera Bryan denounced the treatment of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Nicaragua. Upon attempting to return to his country on 24 April 2023, the Nicaraguan Government allegedly blocked his entry. After a few days abroad, Mr. Rivera Bryan returned to Nicaragua, where he was reportedly persecuted by the national police. According to the information received, on 29 September 2023, State agents forcibly entered his home, assaulted him and arrested him without

### Case NIC-COLL-02

**Nicaragua:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** Two opposition Members of Parliament (male and female)

**Qualified complainant(s):** Section I.(1)(b) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** April 2024

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2024

**Recent IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** - - -

### Recent follow-up:

- Communication(s) from the authorities: Letter from the Speaker of Parliament (October 2024)
- Communication from the complainant: March 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly (March 2026)
- Communication to the complainant: March 2026

a warrant. His whereabouts have remained unknown since then. According to the complainant, his family has been denied any information, leading to growing concerns about his health and safety, especially given his pre-existing health conditions, which require specialized medical attention. The complainant also states that Mr. Rivera Bryan's family faces continued threats and intimidation, and that some family members have been forced into exile.

Ms. Nancy Elizabeth Henríquez James, also a Miskitu indigenous leader and member of the YATAMA organization, took over Mr. Rivera Bryan's parliamentary seat in April 2023 as his alternate. The complainant alleges that she was arrested by undercover police officers on 1 October 2023. Her whereabouts remained unknown for approximately two months. On 13 December 2023, Ms. Henríquez James was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment during a trial held at the women's prison "La Esperanza", where she was allegedly denied legal representation, an interpreter and due process. It appears that the conviction was in response to charges brought against Ms. Henríquez James for "undermining national integrity" and "spreading false information to the detriment of the Nicaraguan State and society". Her family has expressed concern for Ms. Henríquez James' health, considering that she suffers from several chronic health conditions requiring specialized medical attention, which she was reportedly unable to receive while in detention. In March 2026, the complainant reported that Ms. Henríquez James was released on 21 March 2026.

The complainant claims that what happened to both parliamentarians is a direct consequence of their actions as indigenous leaders in opposition to the current Government and of their parliamentary activities in opposition, and that there is no basis for any criminal charges against them. The complainant also reported that, to date, Mr. Rivera Bryan and Ms. Henríquez James have not been subject to any procedure for the termination of their parliamentary mandate. However, both have been removed from the list of members of the National Assembly.

The IPU has formally requested information and official comments from the National Assembly regarding this case on several occasions since receipt of the complaint. To date, Parliament has not submitted any information, and repeated requests for support in facilitating an IPU delegation's visit to Nicaragua have gone unanswered.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Welcomes* the release of Ms. Henríquez James and *commends* all efforts undertaken by the relevant authorities and stakeholders that contributed to this outcome; *remains concerned*, however, at the allegations of serious violations of the right to a fair trial in the legal proceedings against Ms. Henríquez James; and *calls on* the competent authorities to provide official and detailed information on the facts justifying each of the charges brought against Ms. Henríquez James and on the current status of her case;
2. *Regrets* the lack of response from the Nicaraguan parliamentary authorities to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians' repeated requests for information and official observations regarding the situation of Mr. Rivera Bryan and Ms. Henríquez James; *recalls*, in this regard that, in accordance with its Rules and Practices, the Committee does everything possible to promote dialogue with national authorities, and primarily with parliaments, with a view to reaching a satisfactory settlement in the cases before it; and *reiterates its call* to the National Assembly of Nicaragua to engage in constructive and continuous dialogue with the Committee in order to ensure a satisfactory resolution of this case;
3. *Remains gravely alarmed* that Mr. Rivera Bryan's whereabouts have remained unknown since 29 September 2023 and that the Nicaraguan authorities have not provided any official information on the place and conditions of his detention; *solemnly recalls* that the national authorities have an obligation to spare no effort to shed light on the fate of Mr. Rivera Bryan through a thorough investigation, that they should initiate the search immediately and expeditiously and that the search should continue until his whereabouts have been established with certainty; *stresses*, furthermore, the legitimate right of Mr. Rivera Bryan's relatives to be informed of his fate; and *remains deeply concerned* that Mr. Rivera Bryan's arrest appears to be linked to his parliamentary activities as an opposition Member of Parliament and indigenous leader, and that it took place after he had raised the issue of the

situation of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Nicaragua at the 22nd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York;

4. *Strongly reaffirms* that attacks and threats against the life and security of parliamentarians, as well as any reprisals for carrying out their work, if left unpunished, violate, *inter alia*, their rights to life, security and freedom of expression, and undermine their ability to exercise their parliamentary mandate, thereby affecting the ability of Parliament as an institution to fulfil its role; *considers* that the National Assembly of Nicaragua has a direct responsibility to ensure that every effort is made by all relevant authorities to investigate thoroughly and diligently the many concerns that have emerged in this case and to identify and punish those responsible for the human rights violations allegedly perpetrated against two of its members; and *wishes* to be kept informed of action taken by Parliament in this respect;
5. *Is concerned* about the allegation that both Mr. Rivera Bryan and Ms. Henríquez James have been removed from the list of members of the National Assembly without being subject to any procedure; and *wishes* to receive official information on the steps taken by Parliament, if any, to terminate the parliamentary mandates of the two parliamentarians and the legal basis for doing so;
6. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee to dispatch a delegation to Nicaragua as soon as possible so as to meet with all relevant authorities and any other institution, civil society organization or individual in a position to provide relevant information in the present case; and *sincerely hopes* that the competent national authorities will cooperate fully and that the mission will help to find satisfactory solutions to this case in accordance with applicable national and international human rights standards;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the National Assembly of Nicaragua, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information or contribute to the settlement of the case;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining the case and to report back to it in due course.