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Country Report - Nicaragua

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Capital: Managua **Notes**

Population:
5,800,000

GDP: 740

Scores:

Accountability and Public Voice: 4.49

Civil Liberties: 4.20

1. For details of the 2000 pact, see David R. Dye, Patchwork Democracy (Brookline, MA: Hemisphere Initiatives, November 2000), passim, <http://www.hemisphereinitiatives.org/>.
2. Informe Anual (Managua: Banco Central de Nicaragua, 2004), i, <http://www.bcn.gob.ni/>.
3. Propuesta de Plan Nacional de Desarrollo (Managua: Gobierno de Nicaragua, September 2003), 5-40.
4. "Elecciones Municipales 2004: Informe Final," Managua: Grupo Civico Etica y Transparencia [EYT], 2004), 3-5, <http://www.eyt.org.ni/novedades/INFOfinal04.pdf>.

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UN Democracy
Caucus

Rule of Law: 3.61

Anticorruption and
Transparency: 3.40

(Scores are based
on a scale of 0 to
7, with 0
representing
weakest and 7
representing
strongest
performance.)

5. "Tercer Informe de Observacion Electoral de las Elecciones 2006" (EYT, 25 August 2005), 6-8, <http://www.eyt.org.ni/novedades/3erinfo2006.pdf>.
6. Amparo Aguilera ("Quiero hacer el Conpes del pueblo," *La Prensa* [Managua], 9 November 2005, 7) treats the reorganization.
7. "Nicaragua," Report of the 61st General Assembly (Miami: InterAmerican Press Association [SIP/IAPA], 7-11 October 2005), 2, http://www.sipiapa.com/publications/informe_nicaragua2005o.cfm.
8. Ibid.
9. *2004 World Press Freedom Review* (Vienna: International Press Institute [IPI], 2004), 1-2, <http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Americas/nicaragu.htm>. For some, suspicion points to Daniel Ortega in the murder of Guadamuz, and to drug traffickers in that of Olivas.
10. The former government official was jailed for eight days, and eventually scored poorly in the voting. See Lizbeth Garcia, "Bola recia a Fiallos," *El Nuevo Diario* (Managua), 18 August 2004, <http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/>.
11. "Informe de Denuncias Interpuestas en la Direccion General de la Policia Nacional y Sus Dependencias" (Managua: Policia Nacional de Nicaragua, January-December 2004), 34.
12. Ibid., 7, for all figures on cases of mistreatment.
13. Informe Anual 2003 (Managua: Procuraduria para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, May 2004), 79.
14. Ibid.
15. "Informe estadistico de internos que se encuentran en el Sistema Penitenciario Nacional" (Managua): *Sistema Penitenciario Nacional*, 30 November 2004), n.p.
16. Ibid.
17. Personal communication, Bayardo Izaba, executive director, Centro Nicaraguense de Derechos Humanos (Cenidh), Managua, 18 November 2005.
18. Luis Serra Vazquez, Pedro Lopez Ruiz, Mitchell A. Seligson, *The Political Culture of Democracy in Nicaragua* (Nashville, TN: Latin American Public Opinion Project [LAPOP], 2004), 80, <http://www.lapopsurveys.org/>; Elizabeth Romero ("Hialeah vigila con tecnicas militares," *La Prensa*, 8 April 2005, 10-11) describes how one Managua barrio has organized itself in self-defense.
19. "Resultados del Trabajo de las Comisarias de la Mujer" (Policia Nacional, Comisarias de la Mujer, 2004), 1.
20. "Aplicacion delCodigo Procesal Penal y el Derecho de Acceso a la Justicia en la Region del Pacifico" (Managua: Cenidh, 2004), 3-4, <http://www.cenidh.org/files/Doc.CPP.Pacifico.pdf>.
21. Data from ministry of governance (Gobernacion), reported on TV Channel 2, 9 November 2005.
22. "Las Regiones Autonomas de la Costa Caribe" in Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano 2005 (New York: Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo [UNDP], 2005), 226-27, http://www.idhnicaribe.org/pef/7_capitulo_v.pdf.
23. The court's ruling (Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Caso Yatama vs.

- Nicaragua, Sentencia de 23 de junio de 2005) is found at http://www.corteidh.org.cr/seriecpdf/seriec_127_esp.pdf. It enjoins the state of Nicaragua to reform the elections law to specify the procedures whereby the Supreme Electoral Council decides whether party registration requirements have been fulfilled, among other points.
24. Sabrina Quezada, "Discapacitados exigen cumplir sus derechos," *La Prensa* [Managua], 13 January 2005.
 25. "Nicaragua," International Religious Freedom Report (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 15 September 2004), 2, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35548.htm>.
 26. A notable example occurred in the Arnecom factory in the city of Leon. See "Auto Parts Workers in Nicaragua Denied their rights & Paid just 41 cents an hour" (New York: National Labor Committee [NLC]/Leon: Arnecom Nicaragua, July 2005), <http://www.nlcnet.org/countries/arnecomreportcomplete.pdf>.
 27. For an example, see Silvia Carrillo and Eloisa Ibarra, "Fiscalia no ve delitos en violencia callejera," *El Nuevo Diario* [Managua], 27 April 2005, 14, <http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/>.
 28. Idalia Gutierrez ("Legislar para castigar los delitos sexuales," *El Nuevo Diario* [Managua], 18 October 2005, 1) discusses the lacunae in the code at present.
 29. For judicial developments through 2004, see David R. Dye, *Democracy Adrift* (Managua: Prodeni, November 2004), 45-52, <http://www.hemisphereininitives.org/>.
 30. Booz Allen Hamilton, *Trade and Commercial Law Assessment-Nicaragua* (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Department of State, Agency for International Development [USAID], December 2004), IV-1, http://pdf.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADE088.pdf.
 31. See Dye, "Democracy Adrift," 50-52, for discussion of the Zamora vs. Montealegre and Agroinsa vs. Iniser cases.
 32. *Trade and Commercial Law Assessment*, (USAID), IV-6.
 33. Data supplied by USAID official, 15 November 2005.
 34. Author interviews.
 35. Luis Felipe Palacios, "Diputados sugieren restar facultades a Bolanos," *La Prensa* [Managua], 10 November 2005, 1.
 36. "Table 1A: Investment Climate Indicators" in *World Development Report* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2005), <http://www.worldbank.org/>.
 37. "Las Regiones Autonomas de la Costa Caribe" in *Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano 2005* (UNDP), 255-58.
 38. *Trade and Commercial Law Assessment* (USAID), II-1.
 39. *Ibid*, IV-3. Nicaragua's score was 79 versus a regional average of 70. The OECD average was 43.
 40. "Investment Climate Snapshot: Nicaragua" in *Enterprise Surveys* (World Bank, 2003), <http://rru.worldbank.org/InvestmentClimate?ExploreEconomies/Snapshot.aspx?economyid=>.
 41. For basic background on the 2002 Probity Law see Prodeca, *Perfil del Sistema Nacional de Integridad de Nicaragua* (Berlin: Transparency International [TI], 2003), 29-32, http://www.transparency.org/activities/nat_integ_systems/dnld/

[sni_nicaragua.pdf](#).

42. Eloisa Ibarra, "Secuencia del atraco que estremece a la CSJ," El Nuevo Diario [Managua], 31 October 2005, 8-9.
43. Personal communication, state criminal attorney Ivan Lara, Managua, 18 November 2005.
44. See Dye, *Democracy Adrift*, 45-46.
45. A leader in this regard is the weekly review *Confidencial*, which has recently published an in-depth investigation of the bidding process involved in a government highway project. See Oliver Bodan, "Guasaule: pruebas de irregularidades," *Confidencial*, 6-12 November 2005, <http://www.confidencial.com.ni/>.
46. "El presupuesto: una herramienta para construir ciudadanía, no solo un tema de economía," *Indice Latinoamericano de Transparencia Presupuestaria*, November 2003, 12-13. An update of this survey for 2005 can be found at <http://www.fundar.org.mx/indicetransparencia2005>.
47. *Ibid.*, 20 [Index for 2003]. But the depth and quality of the debate are judged to be low.
48. Corruption Perceptions Index (TI, 2005), http://www.transparency.org/policy_and_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2005.
49. Although TI's measurements have remained stable, they may well mask contrasting trends in different institutional arenas, with lower scores for judicial system performance offsetting higher scores for the executive branch.

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