



LETTER OF PROTEST AGAINST SACKING OF DOCTORS IN LEÓN, NICARAGUA

The long-lasting and fruitful collaboration between the *University of León (UNAN León)* the *Hospital Escuela Oscar Danilo Rosales Argüello (HEODRA)* in León and the *University of Basel (Switzerland)* and the *Goethe-University of Frankfurt (Germany)* are gravely in danger due to the latest developments in Nicaragua and especially in León where many doctors including our partner and friend, chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of the HEODRA and medical director of the Nicaplast group Dr. Gustavo Herdócia Baus has been suspended from the hospital HEODRA on the 27th of July 2018.

Our collaboration started 25 years ago in the field of cranio-maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, speech- and nutritional therapy. Hand surgery and hand therapy where the most recently established fields of collaboration. Several members of the Swiss-German-Group of Nicaplast became honorary professors of the UNAN León during the last years, being honoured for their long-lasting and sustainable activities for the people of Nicaragua.

The Nicaplast group trained 9 Nicaraguan surgeons in the field of Cranio-Maxillofacial-, Plastic and Reconstructive- as well as in the field of Hand Surgery throughout the last 25 years. One main pillar is the hard work of Dr. Gustavo Herdócia as chief of the Plastic- and Reconstructive Surgery unit of the HEODRA being a training centre as an associated hospital to the UNAN León. Without him there would be no interdisciplinary treatment of many patients in Nicaragua. As medical director of the group Nicaplast, he made it possible to treat about 15'000 patients since the founding of Nicaplast in 1993 together with various NGO-groups, especially the Grupo Suizo y Alemán de Nicaplast.

Since the political crisis started in April 2018 the people of Nicaragua fight for their human rights of freedom, peace and democracy with more than 400 deaths and thousands of injured people. It is a human right to be attended in hospitals independently of political, religious attitude or ethnic descent! Many doctors of the hospitals in Nicaragua attended all people of this country as well as the NGOs like Nicaplast Nicaragua their associated groups worldwide as well as the Grupo Suizo y Alemán de Nicaplast as a sign of humanity and professional honour.

The sacking of Dr. Gustavo Herdócia Baus as an expert in the field of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as well as being a teacher and professor of the UNAN León will strongly harm the treatment of many patients of the people of Nicaragua as well as the international training of many surgeons and international collaboration.

The signing representatives of this letter of the Swiss and German Nicaplast group deeply regret this political decision against the people of León and Nicaragua and appeal to humanity and responsibility of the people in power to independently review and withdraw their decision.

“A la Libertad por la Universidad - por la gente de Nicaragua!”

		
Silvia Honigmann Presidente de Grupo Suizo de Nicaplast	Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. Robert Sader Presidente de Grupo Aleman de Nicaplast	Dr. Philipp Honigmann Director de la sección de cirugía de mano de Nicaplast