



EDITORIAL

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Crisis threatens science progress

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Years of sociopolitical unrest in Nicaragua and Venezuela have given rise to a human rights and humanitarian crisis in Latin America. Last week, the situation in both countries took a serious turn. In Nicaragua, the government began negotiations with the opposition to end the political crisis, while continuing to repress and harass university students and independent media. In Venezuela, the escalating crisis resulted in the blocking and burning of humanitarian aid at the border—a development that was widely condemned by the rest of the world. Political instability and insecurity in both countries have had a disastrous economic impact on many sectors. The human resource base critical for meeting urgent and long-term needs in these societies is being devastated. As scientists who are members of academies that belong to the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences, we are deeply troubled by these situations and call on the global scientific community to show solidarity with the academic communities in Nicaragua and Venezuela.

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"It is also important to point out the grave, long-term impact... on science and education..."

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