

## **Dora María Téllez and Lesther Alemán are found guilty, but remain firm and demand justice, freedom and democracy**

In the case of the leader of Unamos, Dora María Téllez, the Prosecutor's Office requested a 15-year prison sentence, in addition to disqualification from holding public office.

By La Prensa

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On the third day of scheduled trials against the group of political prisoners who remain detained in the Dirección de Auxilio Judicial (Directorate of Judicial Assistance, DAJ), known as the new Chipote, student leader Lesther Alemán and former guerrilla commander and leader of Unión Democrática Renovadora (Sandinista Renovation Movement, Unamos), Dora María Téllez, were declared "guilty" in trials that began at 10:30 and ended shortly before five in the afternoon.

Nadia Camila Tardencilla Rodríguez, the judge who found Lesther Alemán guilty, is in charge of the second criminal district trial court and is expected to be in charge of another university leader, Max Jeréz.

In spite of the circumstances, Alemán stood tall and demanded freedom, justice and democracy for Nicaragua.

The trial of Alexis Peralta Espinoza, an opponent accused under the Cybercrime Law, is also scheduled to take place outside this precinct.

The pattern of violations of the legal norms in force continues. Since the trials continue to be held in a venue outside the corresponding court; also because the defendants are denied their right to face oral and public trials as established in the Code of Criminal Procedure. According to the law, the trial must last ten days, but in less than eight hours Téllez and Alemán were found guilty.

Through its social networks, the Legal Defense Unit confirmed that the Fourth Criminal District Trial Judge Angel Jancarlos Fernandez Gonzalez issued a guilty verdict against the 66 year old ex-guerrilla, for the crime of undermining national integrity. The Prosecutor's Office is requesting 15 years in prison and that she be disqualified from holding public office.

## **AUN says that the Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office are a firing squad**

The student leader was found guilty by Judge Nadia Camila Tardencilla Rodríguez of the Second Criminal District Court. Subsequently, the Nicaraguan University Alliance (AUN) issued a communiqué in which it assures that the only crime of the student leader was to face Daniel Ortega during the session of the national dialogue on May 16, 2018.

On that occasion, on national radio and television, Alemán shouted to Ortega: "We have put the dead, the disappeared, those who are kidnapped! Order the immediate cessation of the attacks, the repression, the murders! In one month you have disrupted the country, it took Somoza many years! We know the history!".

From that day on he faced harassment, persecution, exile and 213 days of arbitrary imprisonment. "Despite so much viciousness against him, Lester continues with his head held high demanding freedom, justice and democracy for Nicaragua. His strength and commitment inspires us and commits us to continue fighting. We have no doubt that the Nicaraguan people will defeat this dictatorship as they have always done with all the dictatorships in our history," reads the AUN communiqué.

#### AUN COMMUNIQUÉ

Today, Lester Alemán, leader and founder of Alianza Universitaria Nicaraguense was declared guilty by the Ortega and Murillo dictatorship. His crime: Saying to the dictatorship head-on and firmly that May 16, 2018: "We have put the dead, the disappeared, those who are kidnapped! Order the immediate cessation of the attacks, the repression, the murders! In one month you have disrupted the country, it took Somoza many years! We know the history!"

Since April 18, 2018 when Lester went out to protest outside the UCA and then on Camino de Oriente, the persecution of the dictatorship against him has not ceased. In almost 4 years, Lester has been physically assaulted, forced into exile, watched, persecuted and threatened by mobs, paramilitaries, police and dictatorship officials.

Today as Lester is sentenced, he has served 213 days of arbitrary imprisonment. Due process has been non-existent and all of his human rights have been violated. Lester has not been able to speak with his lawyer or receive a visit from his family as required by law. He has been subjected to grueling interrogations as a mechanism of torture, poor food and sanitary conditions that have affected his health. Despite so much viciousness against him, Lester continues with his head held high demanding freedom, justice and democracy for Nicaragua. His strength and commitment inspires and commits us to continue fighting. We have no doubt that the Nicaraguan people will defeat this dictatorship as they have always done with all the dictatorships in our history.

The Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary are nothing more than a firing squad of the dictatorship. The trial against Lester Alemán has been legal and legitimate: a judicial farce typical of a dictatorship whose power emanates from electoral farces and the systematic violation of the human rights of Nicaraguans.

On May 17, 2018, Lester Alemán demanded from Ortega the "liberation of our political prisoners." Today the people continue to demand freedom for all political prisoners. There is STILL Hope! We are STILL in the struggle!

### **Oral and public trial denied, but family members allowed in**

During the beginning of the trial it was learned that at the insistence of the family members, Lesbia Alfaro, mother of student leader Lésther Alemán, was allowed to enter the courtroom. It is assumed that Téllez's brother was also admitted. Given that the use of cell phones is prohibited in said precinct, it has not been possible to confirm whether he is inside or in the vicinity of the place, awaiting news about the process.

Alemán was arrested on July 5, 2021 and charged in early September for allegedly committing the crime of conspiracy to undermine national integrity.

The former guerrilla commander, famous for her participation in the takeover of the National Palace in 1978, was arrested on June 13; the Public Prosecutor's Office accuses her of "conspiracy to undermine national integrity". Since her admission to the new Chipote she has been kept in an isolation cell, which has deteriorated her physical condition.

### **Miguel Mora will be tried on Friday**

This is the third day of trials against the 41 political prisoners who remain in the facilities of the Evaristo Vásquez Sánchez Complex, known as the new Chipote, and against four more who remain under house arrest. In the previous days, on Tuesday, February 1, Yader Parajón and Yaser Muhanmar Vado González were tried and found guilty; and on Wednesday, February 2, the feminist and leader of Unamos, Ana Margarita Vijil Gurdían, was tried.

The trial of Alexis Peralta Espinoza, 48 year old opposition leader from Condega, is also scheduled for February 3. Under the Cybercrime Law, the Public Prosecutor's Office accuses him of "propagation of false news through Information and Communication Technology". His case is being heard in the Criminal District Court of Estelí.

The trial against journalist and presidential candidate Miguel Mora, who has been detained since June 5, 2021, and this is his second imprisonment, is scheduled for Friday, February 4. He was captured for the first time in December 2018 and his channel 100% Noticias was confiscated, and he was released in June 2019. Now the Public Prosecutor's Office accuses him of "conspiracy to undermine national integrity".