

Country/entity	Nicaragua
Region	Americas
Agreement name	Acuerdo de Paz entre el Gobierno de Nicaragua y el Estado Mayor del Frente Norte 3-80 (Acuerdo de Managua)
Date	30 May 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict Nicaraguan Revolution (1978 - 1979) and Sandinista/Contra War (1981 - 1990)

The Nicaraguan Revolution was launched in 1978 by the left-leaning Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and aimed at overthrowing the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. Although initially successful at overthrowing the regime in 1979, the Sandinistas faced growing a back-lash from the U.S.-backed right-wing Contras. Resistance also came from ethnic minorities along the Mosquito Coast. The following civil war was marked by mass human rights atrocities on both sides, with mass disappearances of those placed in state-custody, and mass rape and murder by rebels to ensure local complacency. The war eventually came to an end in 1990 when the FSLN peacefully transferred power after losing the 1990 election.

Close

Nicaraguan Revolution (1978 - 1979) and Sandinista/Contra War (1981 - 1990)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Nicaragua contra process
Parties	For the Government of the Republic, Dr Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo – President of the Republic; For the Chiefs of Staff of Frente Norte 380; Luis Guadalupe Borges – Pablo Negro; Bernardo Martínez Rojas – Zapoyol; Mario José Herrera C.– Pajarillio; José Luis García Ríos – Corcel;

Third parties

-

Description

Immediate disarmament in the Jinotega, Matagalpa, Zelaya Central and RAAS zones Agreement after long negotiations to reintegrate into civil and productive life of the country, the government will provide food, clothes and medical care, at the same time the demobilised combatants are awaiting an integral development plan which will include land, credit, funding for the construction (by themselves) of housing, for education and technical assistance. The agreement also contemplates a list of people who could be the subject of amnesties, which will be put to discussion and vote in the National Assembly.

Agreement document

[NI_970530_Acuerdo de Paz entre el Gobierno y el estado mayor del Frente Norte 3-80 \(EN\).pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language)

[NI_970530_Acuerdo de Paz entre el Gobierno y el estado mayor del Frente Norte 3-80.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Groups**Children/youth**

No specific mention.

Disabled persons

No specific mention.

Elderly/age

No specific mention.

Migrant workers

No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

No specific mention.

Religious groups

No specific mention.

Indigenous people

No specific mention.

Other groups

No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons

No specific mention.

Social class

No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family

Page 2, 3. SOCIAL AGENDA

• Once the disarmament process has begun, the Government of Nicaragua, via the Ministry of Defence, will execute the initial phase of the reinsertion project or emergency plan to guarantee food, clothing and possible medical care to the members of Frente Norte 380 and their families in line with the lists presented and verified by the Ministry of Defence.

Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

... • Frente Norte 380 will propose to family members of the late Ciriaco Palacios Cruz (also known as “Charro”) the reporting of his death to the Attorney-General, as well as informing the Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association (Asociación Nicaragüense Pro Derechos Humanos, ANPDH) and other human rights organisations in the country.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	<p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Page 3, 4. DELEGATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fully aware of filling the historic vacuum of civil authorities in key rural areas of the country, the Government of Nicaragua undertakes to consider candidates from a list submitted by Frente Norte 380 for posts with the following state institutions in the municipalities covered by the Zones of Peace and Security: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence and local government. Central government will provide the necessary cooperation for the appointment of posts, taking into account local problems and the capacities and leadership ability of the proposed candidates.• Representatives of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior will be selected in consultation with the community and in the presence of the corresponding authorities for these ministries. The selection must be made during the process and their posts must be ratified by the mayor of the municipality and the respective ministers. <p>Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government of Nicaragua will continue to promote policies to strengthen the rule of law throughout the national territory, paying particular attention to the post-war situation in the territories and areas that form part of the reinsertion and development project. It will also strengthen the Peace Commissions and other civil society organisations in the areas of conflict. <p>Page 5, 7. FINAL PROVISIONS</p> <p>Finally, Frente Norte 380 authorises the President of the Republic, Dr Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo and his government a vote of confidence to allow, through the Ministry of Defence and in line with the single Chapter of Title V of the Political Constitution of the Republic, the effective subordination of the military power to civil authority in order to contribute to the professionalism and separation of the armed forces and help promote and preserve human rights throughout the national territory. In agreement, both parties sign this agreement in six copies of equal value.</p>
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.

Civil society

Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

... • As part of the integrated reinsertion plan, the Government of Nicaragua will provide human rights training to all members of Frente Norte 380, with the support of governmental, non-governmental and international organisations.

Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

... • Frente Norte 380 will propose to family members of the late Ciriaco Palacios Cruz (also known as “Charro”) the reporting of his death to the Attorney-General, as well as informing the Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association (Asociación Nicaragüense Pro Derechos Humanos, ANPDH) and other human rights organisations in the country.

**Traditional/
religious leaders**

No specific mention.

**Public
administration**

No specific mention.

Constitution

No specific mention.

Power sharing

**Political power
sharing**

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General
Sub-state level
Pages 3-4,
4. DELEGATES

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• Representatives of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior will be selected in consultation with the community and in the presence of the corresponding authorities for these ministries. The selection must be made during the process and their posts must be ratified by the mayor of the municipality and the respective ministers.

**Territorial power
sharing**

No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380
... It should be recalled that when President Alemán set out the policies and actions for the 1997–1998 agricultural cycle, he stressed that one of his government’s priorities was to resolve the physical security problems affecting producers to strengthen the rule of law. Speaking on the occasion, he pledged: “we shall permanently eradicate the plague of violence and destruction to promote the production of the plough...”

Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- The Government of Nicaragua will continue to promote policies to strengthen the rule of law throughout the national territory, paying particular attention to the post-war situation in the territories and areas that form part of the reinsertion and development project. It will also strengthen the Peace Commissions and other civil society organisations in the areas of conflict.
- Similarly, the central government will also undertake measures before the Supreme Court of Justice to strengthen its presence throughout the national territory through the judicial authorities with jurisdiction in certain municipalities in areas of conflict.
- As part of the integrated reinsertion plan, the Government of Nicaragua will provide human rights training to all members of Frente Norte 380, with the support of governmental, non-governmental and international organisations.
- Frente Norte 380 will propose to family members of the late Ciriaco Palacios Cruz (also known as “Charro”) the reporting of his death to the Attorney-General, as well as informing the Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association (Asociación Nicaragüense Pro Derechos Humanos, ANPDH) and other human rights organisations in the country.
- ... • Regarding activities that violate human rights, the Government of Nicaragua will assist insofar as possible the facilitation of processes through the corresponding instances and in line with the national legal system.

Page 5, 7. FINAL PROVISIONS

Finally, Frente Norte 380 authorises the President of the Republic, Dr Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo and his government a vote of confidence to allow, through the Ministry of Defence and in line with the single Chapter of Title V of the Political Constitution of the Republic, the effective subordination of the military power to civil authority in order to contribute to the professionalism and separation of the armed forces and help promote and preserve human rights throughout the national territory. In agreement, both parties sign this agreement in six copies of equal value.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI Rights institutions→NHRI→Mentions of NHRI
Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS
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Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts	Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS ... • Similarly, the central government will also undertake measures before the Supreme Court of Justice to strengthen its presence throughout the national territory through the judicial authorities with jurisdiction in certain municipalities in areas of conflict.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 2, 3. SOCIAL AGENDA ... • The government of the republic will begin an integrated development programme in July this year to allow it to create the social, political and economic conditions for reinsertion and self-sustainability by promoting programmes that will deliver an integrated response to those who live in the affected zones. • The project will comprise programmes for training and technical assistance, social and productive infrastructure, land provision based on the National Development Bank property register, funding for agriculture and livestock farming, self-building of houses, and the creation and development of micro businesses.
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	Page 2, 3. SOCIAL AGENDA ... • The project will comprise programmes for training and technical assistance, social and productive infrastructure, land provision based on the National Development Bank property register, funding for agriculture and livestock farming, self-building of houses, and the creation and development of micro businesses.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380
... It should be recalled that when President Alemán set out the policies and actions for the 1997–1998 agricultural cycle, he stressed that one of his government’s priorities was to resolve the physical security problems affecting producers to strengthen the rule of law. Speaking on the occasion, he pledged: “we shall permanently eradicate the plague of violence and destruction to promote the production of the plough...”

Page 2, 1. ZONES OF PEACE AND SECURITY

The Government of Nicaragua, via the Ministry of Defence, and in agreement with the Chiefs of Staff of Frente Norte 380, have defined the following Zones of Peace and Security:

- Ayapal: Municipality of Cuá-Bocay, Department of Jinotega
- San Pedro del Norte: RAAS
- Kuaskawas: Municipality of Rancho Grande, Department of Matagalpa
- La Uló: Municipality of Río Blanco, Department of Matagalpa
- Kubalí: Municipality of Waslala, Autonomous North Atlantic Region (Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte, RAAN)
- El Manzer: Comarca of Naranjo, Municipality of Waslala, RAAN
- La Piñuela: Zelaya Central, Department of Chontales
- La Mantequilla: Zelaya Central, Department of Chontales

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380

... The agreement establishes the date of and procedures for the immediate disarmament of Frente Norte 380, which operates in the zones of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Zelaya Central and the Autonomous South Atlantic Region (Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur, RAAS).

Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380

... The Deputy Defence Minister, José Adán Guerra, reported that following specific guidelines from President Alemán and after difficult negotiations, the government reached an agreement whereby the seven commanders of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, led by “Pablo Negro,” have accepted the call to reintegrate into the country’s civil and productive life.

Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380

... Under this agreement, signed in the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, Frente Norte 380 will be integrated into civil life under a Government Emergency Plan, covering food, clothing and medical care. There is also an Integrated Development Plan for persons who are demobilised, under which the government will provide land, loans, funding for the self-building of houses, training and technical assistance.

Page 2, 2. DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILISATION

The demobilisation of the members of Frente Norte 380 will take place in two phases: Frente Norte 380 commits to begin demobilisation and reinsertion into civil life from 6 June this year. By this date it commits to disarm 50% of the total number of troops stationed in the various Zones of Peace and Security throughout the country. The remaining troops must be fully demobilised in June this year.

Page 3, 2. DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILISATION

Disarmament will proceed in line with the mechanism and procedures agreed by the Ministry of Defence and the Frente Norte 380 Chiefs of Staff, in line with the lists submitted and with the immediate and effective surrender of arms. Arms will be destroyed and burnt as soon as they are surrendered to the government authorities. This will take place under the direction and supervision of officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Defence Brigades.

Page 2, 3. SOCIAL AGENDA

- Once the disarmament process has begun, the Government of Nicaragua, via the Ministry of Defence, will execute the initial phase of the reinsertion project or emergency plan to guarantee food, clothing and possible medical care to the members of Frente Norte 380 and their families in line with the lists presented and verified by the Ministry of Defence.
- The government of the republic will begin an integrated development programme in July this year to allow it to create the social, political and economic conditions for reinsertion and self-sustainability by promoting programmes that will deliver an integrated response to those who live in the affected zones.
- The project will comprise programmes for training and technical assistance, social and productive infrastructure, land provision based on the National Development Bank property register, funding for agriculture and livestock farming, self-building of houses, and the creation and development of micro businesses.
- The government will also facilitate legal advice services for drafting a bill for a Frente Norte 380 Veterans Association to be duly approved by the National Assembly.

Intelligence services	<p>Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380</p> <p>... The talks involved the active participation of the Minister of Defence, Jaime Cuadra, and his deputy, José Adán Guerra, in addition to Monsignor Abelardo Mata, Bishop of Estelí, and Sergio Caramagna, representing the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Organization of American States (OAS).</p>
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380</p> <p>... The agreement establishes the date of and procedures for the immediate disarmament of Frente Norte 380, which operates in the zones of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Zelaya Central and the Autonomous South Atlantic Region (Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur, RAAS).</p> <p>Page 2, 3. SOCIAL AGENDA</p> <p>... • The government will also facilitate legal advice services for drafting a bill for a Frente Norte 380 Veterans Association to be duly approved by the National Assembly.</p> <p>Page 2, 3. SOCIAL AGENDA</p> <p>... • Frente Norte 380 will appoint at least two members of its organisation to form part of this peace agreement monitoring office.</p> <p>Page 5, 6. SECURITY</p> <p>... • The Government of Nicaragua, via the Ministry of Defence, will continue to disarm any remaining groups of irregular fighters and other armed organisations acting on the fringes of the law.</p>
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 1, SIGNING OF A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENTE NORTE 380
... The peace agreement also includes the creation of a list of people to be covered by an amnesty. The list will be sent by the Executive to the National Assembly for due debate and approval.

Page 4, 6. SECURITY

- The Government of Nicaragua, in line with the list of Frente Norte 380 members submitted today to Dr Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo, President of the Republic, will immediately submit a Partial and Selective Amnesty Bill to the National Assembly to allow it to be heard and approved by its members.
- During the disarmament and demobilisation process, until publication of the amnesty bill, the government will guarantee the security of all Frente Norte 380 members by implementing mechanisms to keep peace and order among persons who have demobilised. These persons will be provided with the respective ID card for this purpose during demobilisation.

Courts Transitional justice→Courts→National courts
Page 4, 5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS
... • Given that, on 4 April this year, the Attorney-General reopened the court file for the case of the murder of Frente Norte 380 Commander Enrique Bermúdez Varela with the Second Court of the Criminal District of Managua, the Chiefs of Staff representing Frente Norte 380, support the measures of the Attorney-General before the country's courts of justice to clarify and discover the real perpetrators, accomplices and accessories of this act.

- Regarding activities that violate human rights, the Government of Nicaragua will assist insofar as possible the facilitation of processes through the corresponding instances and in line with the national legal system.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 2, 3. SOCIAL AGENDA
... • On signing this peace agreement, the government will set up a peace agreement monitoring office headquartered in the City of Managua and with an office in the City of Matagalpa.
• Frente Norte 380 will appoint at least two members of its organisation to form part of this peace agreement monitoring office.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Centro de Documentacion, Derechos Humanos, http://www.policia.gob.ni/cedoc/_private/lev2/sector/d_humanos/ficha.html. Note that the only source document available online has several versions and what has been chosen for translation is the likely signed final version.
