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## **Nicaragua's National Assembly President: Free Elections & Economic Growth Alone Insufficient For Stable Democracies**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On June 6 in a speech to the 20th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Asuncion, Paraguay, Nicaragua's National Assembly president Miriam Arguello proposed demilitarizing all of Central America, following the "example of Costa Rica." She continued by asserting that "the absence of war is insufficient" evidence for the absence of structural violence. According to Arguello, structural violence is a death sentence for thousands of Central Americans who are destroyed by extreme poverty. "Central America is living its hour for democracy..., result of the profound dream of our peoples...to erase once and for all the history of authoritarian and autocratic regimes, military dictatorships and fratricidal war." Arguello said, "electoral processes are not sufficient to guarantee democracy," since other "fundamental rights" must also be recognized, including those pertaining to minimum social and economic survival and well-being. The Nicaraguan politician continued by asserting that "economic growth alone is not enough to create stable societies." Development must also be equitable, she said, and the wealth a society produces "distributed with justice." (Basic data from AFP, 06/06/90)

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