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Prof. Dr. Cristian Ernesto Medina Sandino

Prof. Dr. Cristian Ernesto Medina Sandino earned his bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in León in 1974. From 1974 to 1980, he continued his studies and doctoral research at the University of Göttingen, Germany, where he earned his doctorate in Natural Sciences in 1980. In 1991, he conducted postdoctoral research in Immunochemistry at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. In 1992, he conducted research in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of León, Spain. In 1997 and 2000, he participated in the Seminar for Latin American University Leaders at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Medina Sandino served as President of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in León from 1994 to 2006. He was President of the National Council of Universities (CNU) from 1995 to 1996 and President of the Central American University Council (CSUCA) from 2003 to 2004. From June 2007 to December 2018, he served as President of the American University (UAM) in Managua, Nicaragua.

He has served on the boards of directors and boards of trustees of several international organizations, including the Ibero-American Postgraduate University Association (AUIP), the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), the International Foundation for Science (IFS), the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI), and the Health Research Advisory Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). He was a founder and, until his expulsion from the country by the Ortega-Murillo government in 2024, a full member of the Nicaraguan Academy of Sciences.

In May 2018, Medina Sandino participated in the National Dialogue convened in Nicaragua. After the Nicaraguan government subsequently barred him from participating, the Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy (ACJD) included him in its delegation as an advisor. He has received threats against his life and that of his family in connection with his defense of students who participated in the 2018 protests, particularly students who were expelled from public universities for political reasons. In July 2021, following new threats, he was forced to leave Nicaragua. He lives in Spain, which granted him asylum in 2024 and subsequently awarded him citizenship.

Dr. Medina Sandino has received several honors, including the Federal Cross of Merit, awarded by the Federal Republic of Germany in 2010.