

**Juan Sebastián Chamorro** is a Nicaraguan economist, political leader, and human rights defender. In 2005, Chamorro served as the Technical Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua – the Ministry in charge of strategic national planning – before serving as the Vice Minister of Finance the following year. From 2006 to 2011, Chamorro helped execute the grant program by heading the Millennium Challenge Account in Nicaragua, and from 2011 to 2014, he was the CEO of the export company MACESA. He later served as Executive Director of FUNIDES, a leading Nicaraguan economic think tank. Until early 2021, Chamorro was also a leading figure in the Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy (ACJD), serving as the Executive Director from 2019 to January 2021. Through his work with ACJD especially, he became one of the most prominent opposition voices in Nicaragua, pushing for government accountability, democratic reforms, and justice for victims of human rights abuses. He was a vocal supporter of peaceful civil resistance during the 2018 mass protests in Nicaragua and strongly condemned the consequent violent crackdown orchestrated by the Ortega regime. In January 2021, Chamorro stepped down from his role in ACJD to focus on his political career, and on February 27, 2021, he officially announced his presidential campaign, running on a platform of economic reform, improved social infrastructure, and enhanced justice mechanisms for victims of human rights violations. In June 2021 Chamorro was detained by Ortega regime and later banished to the United States in February 2023.