



*economic hardship driven in part by international sanctions. According to Kurtenbach, this means that Ortega had fewer resources to “buy” political support through public policies and instead resorted to repressive methods, thereby alienating former supporters.*

“We are now at a point now where his former allies and broader civil society actors can see that this leads not just to the dismantlement of some political freedoms but that this is a full backslide towards authoritarianism,” Kurtenbach said.