

WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, May 26, 2023

(Josue Decavele/Getty Images)

Dear {{FirstName or 'WOLA Supporter'}},

As you may know, Guatemala will be holding general elections for president, legislators, and mayors on June 25. In an effort to assess pre-electoral conditions WOLA, alongside Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (RFKHR) and Human Rights Watch (HRW), visited Guatemala City from April 17 to April 21.

The purpose of this trip was to meet with civil society organizations, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, independent press, diplomatic corps, and both United Nations and European Union representatives in order to better understand the existing challenges with regards to the June elections. In these meetings, we discussed candidate exclusions, the crackdown on freedom of speech, increased cases of aggression and criminalization against civil society, among many other concerns. Learn more about our findings [here](#).

In other news this week, our Director for the Andes, Gimena Sánchez was [invited to speak](#) at the Embassy of Colombia in Washington about bilateral relations and the need for increased protection of Afro-Colombian communities, labor rights, police reform, the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter, and more. She also spoke on a new episode of *Colombia Acuerdo de Paz* about [corruption in Colombia's Prosecutor's office](#).

All this and more in this week's WOLA Weekly.

Best,



Ana María Méndez Dardón
Director for Central America



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- GT Guatemala will be holding its general presidential, legislators, and mayors election on June 25. In an effort to assess conditions in the months leading up to election day, WOLA, along with HRW and RFKHR, traveled to Guatemala city from April 17-21. Learn about our [findings](#).
- GT In a [joint letter](#) to the International Criminal Court, WOLA and other human rights organizations highlight the increased attacks on judicial independence in Guatemala.
- CO On May 25, 2023, Gimena Sánchez, Director for the Andes, [participated in a discussion](#) at the Colombian Embassy in Washington, D.C. where she highlighted the need for bilateral support in the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter, protection for Afro-Colombian communities, labor rights, police reform, and more.
- CO During this week's episode of *Colombia Acuerdo de Paz*, Gimena spoke about corruption in Colombia's Prosecutor's office. Watch the [episode](#).



In a press conference concluding WOLA's recent trip to Guatemala City, Carolina Jiménez Sandoval, [highlighted](#) how the judicial system is being used to clamp down on those who speak the truth.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



On April 28, 2023, WOLA partnered with the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy at the University of Essex (United Kingdom) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to host a panel on drug policy and human rights at the 2023 Cities Summit of the Americas. [Learn more here.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



EL ROL DE LA MUJER FRENTE A UN FUTURO VERDE Y SOSTENIBLE

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PANELISTAS



MARÍA CELINA CONTE
Directora
Secretaría de Cumbres de las Américas, OEA



NADIA RAMOS SERRANO
Portavoz, Somos Líderesas
Directora Ejecutiva
Centro de Liderazgo e Innovación para Mujeres de las Américas



LAURA AZUCENA ROSSI
Vocera Grupo de Trabajo Nuestro Futuro Verde
Cofundadora e integrante de ASOMUBUEN

MODERADORA



GIMENA SANCHEZ GARZOLI
Directora para los Andes, WOLA

6
JUNIO
5:30 P.M.
HOGAN WASHINGTON

LIVE
STREAMING



ORGANIZADORAS
MUJERES POR BUENAVENTURA
Organizadoras del movimiento



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ACUERDO DE PAZ
Con el apoyo de [cecolombiartendodepaz](#)

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U.S.-MEXICO WEEKLY BORDER UPDATE



WOLA Border Oversight

Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas | Monitoring Conduct and Accountability in U.S. Border Law Enforcement

In April 2022, WOLA launched its one-of-a-kind [Border Oversight Database](#), which documents hundreds of reports of human rights violations and abuses against migrants and asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border.

WOLA IN THE NEWS



Adam Isacson
Director for Defense Oversight



"So the northern part of the migrant route is emptied out a bit, but the southern and middle parts remain extremely full and filling up all the time, [...] Obviously, that's an equilibrium that can't hold for very long."

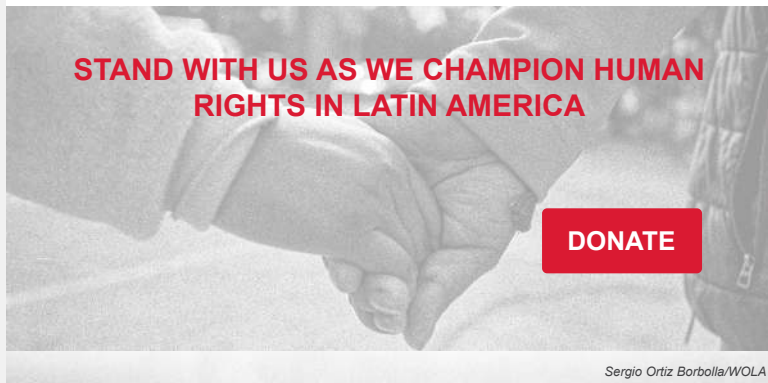
– *AP News*, [Mexico moving migrants away from borders to relieve pressure](#)

"Initially, most of the expulsions were through Mexico, but after the massive arrival of Haitians at the border, in September 2021, the US also expelled more than 20,000 people by air to Haiti" *This article is in Spanish.*

– *Deutsche Welle (DW)*, [Es fácil recibir a migrantes retornados, pero no siempre se garantiza su reinserción](#)



Maureen Meyer
Vice President for Programs



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