



# WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, April 21, 2023

*Photo by Ovidio Gonzalez/Getty Images*

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

This week, Colombia's President Gustavo Petro and U.S. President Joe Biden met at the White House to discuss Venezuela, climate change and regional migration, among other topics. Ahead of this meeting, we published a [statement urging Biden](#) to discuss the implementation of the 2016 Peace Accord, including developing a clear strategy for implementing the Ethnic Chapter, protecting social leaders and promoting justice for human rights abuses, as well as advancing Total Peace and alleviating the various humanitarian crises. The security situation in Colombia remains of grave concern in a number of regions, as highlighted by a [statement](#) we co-signed in response to the recent violence in the Pacific municipality of Buenaventura.

Petro's U.S. trip independently coincided with the visit of a delegation composed of three human rights defenders who were awarded Colombia's National Human Rights Prize in 2022. WOLA accompanied them to meet with State Department officials and Hill staffers and hosted [a panel](#) focusing on the need for a gendered, rural and environmental approach to peace.

As part of our efforts to promote democracy, the rule of law, and respect for civil and political rights during the 2023 Guatemalan electoral process, WOLA President Carolina Jiménez Sandoval is currently taking part in a [delegation to Guatemala](#) with members of Human Rights Watch ([HRW](#)), and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights ([RFKHR](#)). The organizations have met with civil society, public officials, independent press, diplomatic corps and the United Nations in order to understand the current challenges ahead of the presidential elections in June.

Additionally, next week, we will be [hosting a webinar](#) on Tuesday, April 25, at 2:00pm EDT with Mexican civil society organizations that accompany survivors and family members of the recent immigration detention center fire in Ciudad Juárez. And on Wednesday, April 26, we will be hosting an [event with Veterans for Colombia](#) at 2:00pm EDT. Please join us either virtually or in person.

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

Best,

**Gimena Sánchez**

Director for the Andes

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **co** This week, Colombia's President Gustavo Petro met with U.S. President Joe Biden to discuss climate change, counter narcotics trafficking, the regional migration challenge, and the promotion of human and labor rights in the region. Read more about [four key issues](#) that should be discussed during this meeting.
- **co** WOLA alongside several international civil society organizations signed a [joint statement](#) urging the Colombian State to protect the lives of the civilian population in the midst of armed confrontations in various parts of Buenaventura.
- **nr** Reflecting back on five years since *la Rebelión de Abril* in Nicaragua, WOLA President, Carolina Jiménez Sandoval, [speaks at length with Despacho 505](#) on the ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in Nicaragua. *Note that the interview is in Spanish.*



This week, WOLA hosted an event with three human rights defenders who were awarded the 2022 National Human Rights Prize in Colombia, Angélica Romero Villalba, Jani Rita Silva De Rengifo, and Diana María Salcedo López. During the event, they highlighted their efforts in advancing peace, women's rights and environmental protection in Colombia.

## JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT

**CIUDAD JUÁREZ FIRE**  
**WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT DOES IT TELL US ABOUT IMMIGRATION POLICY?**

The fire that killed 40 people in a Mexican migrant detention facility shows structural flaws in U.S. and Mexican policy at the border.

**Tuesday, April 25**  
**2pm ET/12pm CDMX**  
**Virtual Event**

Join us in this webinar to discuss the case with members of Mexican civil society organizations that accompany survivors and family members. They will present their recommendations for Mexican authorities in this case and for improving national migration policy.

**Panelists:**

**Blanca Navarrete**  
Integral Human Rights in Action (Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción, DHIA), Ciudad Juárez

**Gretchen Kuhner**  
Institute for Women in Migration (Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, IMUMI)

**Ana Lorena Delgadillo**  
Foundation for Justice and the Democratic Rule of Law (Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho, FJEDD)

**Moderator:**  
Maureen Meyer  
Vice President for Programs, Washington Office on Latin America, WOLA

**REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR BELOW**

\* Simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish will be provided by Zoom only.

**WOLA**  
Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

[REGISTER TO JOIN](#)



## JOIN US | WOLA EVENT

Wed. April 26, 2023 | 2:00pm-3:00pm EDT

### Peace, Reconciliation and Victims' Rights in Colombia: a Female and Afro-Colombian Veterans' Perspective

Join us to hear from Veteranos por Colombia about their efforts to advance peace, human rights, reconciliation and reform the public forces. Our speakers will discuss challenges faced by females in the security forces, advancing gender and Afrodescendant rights, addressing gender violence, and more.

Featuring:

**Yuly Cepeda Bernal**  
Director, Corporación Veteranos por Colombia

**Daniis Antonio Renteria**  
Director for Pacific Region, Corporación Veteranos por Colombia

**Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli**  
Director for the Andes, WOLA

Moderated by:  
**Raudemar Ofunshi Hernández**  
Colombia Acuerdo de Paz

JOIN US:

RSVP for **in-person** attendance to:  
Kelsey Kotts at  
kkotts@wola.org

OR,

Register **here** to attend **virtually**.

LEARN MORE

## 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

“The speed with which he has co-opted all levels of power, in just one presidential period, is astonishing.”

– *The Guardian*, [El Salvador news outlet relocates to Costa Rica to avoid Bukele's crackdown](#)



**Carolina Jiménez Sandoval**  
WOLA President





**Gimena Sánchez**  
Director for the Andes

"Both countries should discuss how they can redouble their efforts in order to consolidate [the Peace agreement]."

– *CNN Español*, [Petro llega a su encuentro con Biden en Washington con una agenda ambiciosa y la mira puesta en Venezuela](#)

*This article is in Spanish.*

*El Tiempo*, one of Colombia's leading news outlets published an article based on WOLA's statement on "[Four Key Issues Ahead of the Biden-Petro Meeting](#)".

– *El Tiempo*, [Los cuatro puntos clave de reunión Biden-Petro, según ONGs de derechos humanos](#)

*This article is in Spanish.*



## Support the Sally Yudelman Internship Program

At WOLA, internships are critical to arming future generations of advocates with the necessary skills to champion human rights and social justice work in their careers. Please consider contributing to WOLA's internship program today!



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