



WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, August 12, 2022

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

President Gustavo Petro took office in Colombia on Sunday August 7, as the country faces a human rights and humanitarian crises of epic proportions. While deep rooted problems will require well thought out and long-term solutions, the country already has identified some of the urgent steps it needs to take. As I analyzed in a recent paper, the ethnic chapter of the 2016 Peace Accords sets out a roadmap to start tackling obstacles faced by Afro-descendant and Indigenous persons, who have been particularly affected by the conflict.




Also this week, a groundbreaking law that promotes alternatives to incarceration for women could go into force in Colombia as early as August 2022 and be implemented before the end of the year.

Finally, WOLA joined organizations calling on the U.S. government to expedite technical and direct disaster relief assistance to Cuba after recent explosions at the Matanzas Supertanker Base and subsequent uncontrolled fire at the country's largest oil storage facility.

Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli
Director for the Andes



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

-  On August 5th, an explosion at the Matanzas Supertanker Base and subsequent uncontrolled fire at Cuba's largest oil storage facility broke out during a thunderstorm. Read our [joint statement](#) as we call on the U.S. for Immediate Disaster Relief, and more.
-  As Colombia braces itself for a new era, a timely opportunity for the U.S. and the international community to renew their commitment to ending racial discrimination and facilitating inclusion in Colombia has risen. Read our recent publication on [Taking Stock and Building a New Future for Colombia's Ethnic Minorities](#).
-  A groundbreaking law that promotes alternatives to incarceration for women could go into force in Colombia as early as August 2022. Read our commentary, [Colombia to Implement Law on Alternatives to Incarceration for Women Heads of Household](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



[Advance the Promises of the 2016 Peace Accord: Civil Society Perspectives on Peace in the Chocó](#) summarizes the findings of WOLA's work with partners in the northwest department of Chocó and includes recommended actions voiced by revictimized ethnic communities themselves.

[READ THE COMMENTARY](#)

LEARN MORE

WOLA Border Oversight

Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

Monitoring Conduct and Accountability in U.S. Border Law Enforcement

In April of 2022, WOLA launched its one-of-kind [Border Oversight Database](#) that has over 200 reports of disturbing instances of human rights violations and abuses against migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. This database has become an essential tool in monitoring, documenting, and publicizing abuses and human rights violations against migrants and asylum seekers.

[CHECK OUT OUR BORDER OVERSIGHT DATABASE](#)

WOLA IN THE NEWS



Ana María Méndez-Dardón
Director for Central America



Expressed WOLA's concern on how the Central America "region has suffered a widespread backlash from powerful pro-impunity sectors and authoritarian leaders, and how Nicaragua has become, let's say, a model."

– *The Associated Press*

JOB OPENINGS

WOLA seeks a **Grant Coordinator** to join our fast-paced and dynamic development team. This creative team works to increase and expand the philanthropic partnerships that make WOLA's human rights advocacy possible. Learn more [here](#).

2022 WOLA Human Rights Awards Ceremony & Benefit Gala

**WOLA HUMAN RIGHTS
AWARDS CEREMONY
& BENEFIT GALA**

To confirm your sponsorship today contact
Jillian Leslie, Director for Individual Giving, at

JLESLIE@WOLA.ORG



Register to Attend

WOLA's 2022 Human Rights Awards Ceremony and Benefit Gala on September 21 is quickly approaching. [Join us](#) for a night to remember as we honor several courageous individuals who have worked tirelessly to promote human rights, democracy, and justice in Latin America.

Interested in taking out an advertisement space in our program this year? For more information click [here](#) or, email our Development Associate, Daniela Chaparro, at dchaparro@wola.org.

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