



WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, September 2, 2022

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

As we approach the eighth anniversary of the Ayotzinapa disappearances—in which Mexican security forces and criminal actors forcibly disappeared 43 teaching students in Iguala, Guerrero—Mexican authorities have taken high-profile actions in the search for truth and justice, including the arrest of a former Attorney General, as evidence accumulates against the armed forces. You can read more in my recent [commentary](#) about these developments.

Paradoxically, at the same time, the president continues to deepen militarization as his government's security model, with his current proposal to the Mexican Congress to transfer the National Guard to full military control and his recent announcement that he wants military deployment in policing tasks to continue [after 2024](#). López Obrador justifies [increasing militarization](#) by stating, among other things, that militarization is a way to avoid corruption. However, the advances in the investigation of the Ayotzinapa case show that the participation of military forces in no way constituted a guarantee against violence or human rights violations.

The Ayotzinapa case is part of a disappearance crisis that has surpassed [100,000](#) victims in Mexico, showing the urgent need to implement the General Law against disappearances and take decisive steps towards ending a crisis that should not exist. Like our [recent campaign](#) against disappearances in Mexico [emphasized](#), dramatically improving investigations of disappearance crimes is not just a pressing human rights issue and an obligation to victims: it is also a way to address larger networks of violence in Mexico.

We continue to express our solidarity and support to all of the families of the disappeared in Mexico and call on authorities to take concrete, measurable steps to ensure access to truth and justice.

Best,

Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico, WOLA



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- A month before the eighth anniversary of the disappearances, various federal institutions have taken new and high-profile actions in the Ayotzinapa case, here are the [Key Points to Understand the Mexican Government's New Actions](#).
- We spoke with WOLA's Director for Mexico [Stephanie Brewer](#) about the present, past, and potential future of militarization as a security strategy in the country and the state of bilateral relations with the United States. Read more [Mexico Deepens Militarization, But Facts Show it is a Failed Strategy](#).

EVENTS:



Join the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and the Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA) for a discussion on the current crisis in Cuba in the event: [A Compounding Crisis: Domestic Shortcomings, U.S. policies, and the Impact on Everyday Cubans](#)

Friday, September 9, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EST
[Register here](#)

LEARN MORE ABOUT DISSAPPEARANCES IN MEXICO:

FOR DISSAPPEARANCES TO END,
JUSTICE MUST BEGIN

The three installments of WOLA's last year's [series](#) on disappearances use official data to explore how Mexico's flagship General Law against disappearances remains under-applied in criminal investigations, leaving thousands of families without justice.

WOLA IN THE NEWS

With new visa restrictions to travel to Mexico as tourists, Venezuelan migrants joined others traveling over land through the dense, lawless jungle on the Colombia-Panama border. "If they can't arrive at Mexican airports, they're arriving by land through the Darien," said WOLA's Director for Defense Oversight Adam Isacson to [The Washington Post](#).

"It has to do with the level of desperation," he noted.



JOB OPENINGS

WOLA is seeking a **Program Assistant!** We are looking for an administrative, entry-level professional to support two directors and their programs with a variety of tasks, including: event planning, clerical duties, database management, webinar and in-person meeting support, and other logistical support. Learn more [here](#).

2022 WOLA Human Rights Awards Ceremony & Benefit Gala

WOLA HUMAN RIGHTS
AWARDS CEREMONY
& BENEFIT GALA
2022
September 21
wola.org/gala

Register to Attend

WOLA's 2022 Human Rights Awards Ceremony and Benefit Gala on September 21 is less than a month away! [Join us](#) for a night to remember as we honor 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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