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

Ahead of the summit on Venezuela held in Bogotá this week, we wrote a joint letter to Colombian President Gustavo Petro with recommendations on putting human rights at the center of the dialogue and on finding solutions to the multiple crises affecting Venezuelans, including the lack of rule of law, co-optation of the justice system, rampant impunity, attacks on civil liberties, and grave human rights violations committed by the State.

We also hosted a webinar with Mexican civil society organizations to discuss the recent fire at the migrant detention center in Ciudad Juárez that killed 40 migrants and exposed severe mismanagement and corruption within Mexico’s National Migration Institute. We provided recommendations for improving Mexico’s migration policy and underscored the urgent need for the Biden administration to prioritize access to protection at the border as Title 42 comes to an end. As we explore new means of communicating to a diverse audience, we distributed an audiogram on social media immediately after this event.

Lastly, we celebrated WOLA partner and human rights defender, María Herrera Magdaleno, for her recognition by TIME magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People of 2023 for her leadership in the relentless search for Mexico’s disappeared, including four of her sons.

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

Best,

Maureen Meyer
Vice President for Programs

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- On April 20, 2023, President Petro and President Biden met to discuss climate change, counter narcotics trafficking, regional migration, and more. Read more about this meeting. This article is in Spanish.

- WOLA signed a joint letter to President Petro to ensure that the grave human rights violations committed by the State in Venezuela were addressed during the Bogota Summit. This letter is in Spanish.

- WOLA hosted a webinar with members of Mexican civil society to discuss the fire at a migrant detention center in Ciudad Juárez and how it lies into U.S.-Mexico migration policies. This event is in Spanish.

- This week, WOLA celebrated the recognition of partner and human rights defender, María Herrera Magdaleno, who spoke out against the 100 thousand+ disappearances in Mexico.
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Adam Isaacson, Director for Defense Oversight, speaks on the latest A Fondo podcast, about President Petro’s visit last week with President Biden.

LISTEN NOW

On Earth Day, WOLA highlighted Colombian social leader and 2023 Nobel Peace Prize Award nominee, Jari Nita Silva De Rengifo, who spoke about her work leading reforestation efforts in the Amazon along with other rural women in the department of Putumayo, and her call for climate and drug policies that are respectful of both human and environmental rights.

WATCH THE INTERVIEW

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT
This week, WOLA alongside partner organization, Veteranos por Colombia, hosted a hybrid event and attended meetings on the Hill, with other NGOs, to advance peace, truth, and reconciliation with a focus on gender and afro-descendants in Colombia.

WOLA IN THE NEWS

"The points of agreement represent more or less where the international community was before the conference..."

– Al Jazeera, ‘Very difficult’: Challenges abound after summit on Venezuela

Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
President

*The (Biden) administration recognizes that at this point, they really need Mexico as a partner on its enforcement efforts...*

– Reuters, Mexico's treatment of migrants raises concern ahead of U.S. policy shift
“Guatemala’s justice system has become the repressive branch... against freedom of expression and human rights”

— Prensa Comunitaria
This tweet is in Spanish.
Translation above by WOLA.

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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