

Fw: 📧 WOLA WEEKLY: Racism in Colombia, Human Rights based Drug Policies, and More...

Daniela Chaparro

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To: Daniela Chaparro <dchaparro@wola.org>



Dear WOLA Supporter,

I recently returned from a visit to the Mexico/Guatemala border with WOLA's Board members, where we listened to migrants and refugees talk about their lack of protection. There is much cause for concern and we continue to make recommendations to both the Mexican and U.S governments on access to asylum.

Back in Washington, this week the Organization of American States (OAS) has been holding its General Assembly. For WOLA it has been an opportunity to meet with partners from across the region, to advocate with member states on pressing issues such as drug policy reform, but also to co-sponsor over half a dozen public events with civil society partners, ranging from democratic backsliding in the region, to the [political and human rights crisis in Peru](#) and the fragile peace process in Colombia.

Yesterday, I was honored to take part in an all-female panel about the attacks on democracy ahead of Sunday's general elections in Guatemala. By my side was renowned human rights defender and former Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz, who currently lives in exile in Costa Rica, where she directs the Mexico and Central America office of our partner, CEJIL. Claudia was previously a WOLA Board member, a Senior Fellow and a recipient of the 2014 WOLA Human Rights Award.

In other news, as the U.S commemorated Juneteenth this week, we were reminded that structural racism is still entrenched in our societies. We therefore published a [joint statement](#) denouncing persistent racist and gendered attacks against Francia Márquez, the Vice-President of Colombia.

Also, in her latest blog post, Laura Dib, WOLA's Venezuela Director and a fellow Venezuelan, urges the international community to overcome "[Venezuela fatigue](#)" in order to address the country's humanitarian crisis. We hope you find it interesting.

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

Best,



Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
WOLA President

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 📧 WOLA joined 100 organizations in a [joint letter](#) to Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, in an effort to request that the U.S. facilitate,

streamline, and centralize a system to consider requests for the return of people who have been wrongfully or unjustly deported.

- 🗣️ This week, WOLA's Director for Drug Policy, John Walsh, spoke at the 53rd Regular Session of the Organization of American States General Assembly where he highlighted the need to create drug policies that respect human rights. Learn more [here](#).
- 🗣️ Due to continuous racist, classist and gendered attacks under the guise of political critique towards Vice-President Francia Márquez, WOLA alongside several civil society organizations, [condemned](#) these attacks and call for an open discussion about this treatment and type of attack in Colombia.
- 🗣️ In her latest blog post, Laura Dib, WOLA's Venezuela Director urges the international community to address "[Venezuela fatigue](#)" in order to end the country's humanitarian crisis.



🗣️ This week WOLA President, Carolina Jiménez, [participated in a panel](#) on the inclusion of Guatemala in chapter IVB of the 2022 annual report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



STAND WITH US IN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



🗣️ WOLA's Director for Drug Policy, John Walsh, [spoke](#) at the 53rd Regular Session of the Organization of American States General Assembly.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Jun. 26 Jun | Webinar gratuito

“Situación de los Acuerdos de Paz en América Latina”

Espacio de reflexión para destacar la relevancia fundamental de los Acuerdos de Paz en América Latina como pilares de los sistemas democráticos.

Compra tus entradas

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



Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
WOLA President



Guatemala is not dominated by one individual. Rather, its political, military and economic elites entrench their hold on power through a system described by WOLA as “corporate authoritarianism”.

– *The Economist*, [Press freedom is stifled in Guatemala ahead of an election](#)

“How can one respond to this population without entering into the discussion of categories, but understanding that international protection is for all those people whose life, liberty or personal integrity are in danger and that these people cannot be returned to the place where they do not have protection.” *This quote is in Spanish.*

– *Voz de América*, [“El derecho internacional se ha quedado corto”: el espinoso camino del refugiado venezolano y sus retos](#)



Laura Dib
Director for Venezuela



Stephanie Brewer
Director for Mexico



“The way it’s being discussed normalizes what should be a very abnormal proposal,” Brewer said. “There are already consequences in the bilateral relationship just from the proposals that are out there.”

– *The Hill*, [More Republicans want to take the fight to Mexico’s cartels. Experts say it’s a bad idea.](#)

JOB OPENING

✦ WOLA is looking for its next **Program Assistant for the Central America Program**, which seeks to promote comprehensive reforms to address the root causes of migration and ensure effective and accountable governments in Central America. Learn more [here](#).



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