



WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Monday, September 11, 2023

(Bettmann/Getty Images)

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

September 11 is a day for reflection and has a different meaning for many people around the globe. But for us at WOLA, it is also a time to reflect on the military coup in Chile against democratically elected leader, Salvador Allende. The date is especially important this year as Chile commemorates 50 years since the tragic events of 1973, that led to the torture, execution and forced disappearance of over 40,000 people. And the exile of many more.

At the same time, the date is particularly significant for us as it opened the doors to the founding of WOLA. Joe Eldridge was living in a working class neighborhood of Santiago de Chile on the day the Moneda Palace was struck by bombs. The terrible events of that day would galvanize the human rights movement that we know today. It was Joe's outrage, and the indignation of others, especially in the faith community, that led to the founding of WOLA, the organization that ultimately helped convince Congress to end U.S military aid to the Pinochet government and other human rights abusers.

History is never linear. Today, as authoritarianism, backed by social media and disinformation, continues to rear its ugly head in many countries across Latin America, President Boric of Chile recently announced [a plan](#) to search for over one thousand people forcibly disappeared under the Pinochet dictatorship.

And as WOLA continues to evolve and adapt to the challenges of the 21st century, over the next year, the organization will be hosting several events throughout the region to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. We very much hope that you will be able to join us to honor the courageous resistance and solidarity of the human rights movement in the Americas.

In the meantime, for those of you in Washington D.C, the Embassy of Chile and the Institute for Policy Studies will be hosting a [special ceremony to commemorate the events of 1973](#) at 11 am on September 23 at Sheridan Circle. WOLA is co-sponsoring this event alongside a number of other organizations.

We hope you enjoy this Special Edition of the WOLA Weekly, including an opinion piece in [The Hill](#) penned by Joe Eldridge, as well as interviews with Joe published by [NPR](#) and [EFE](#), an [opinion piece](#) by Chilean Ambassador, His Excellency Juan Gabriel Valdés in [El País](#), [a clip](#) of an intimate conversation between both of them and Senator Tom Harkin held at WOLA's office last week, as well as [an article](#) in The Guardian about the anniversary of the coup quoting journalist and WOLA Board Member, John Dinges, who was in Santiago on September 11, 1973.

It is in this spirit that I would like to thank you for supporting WOLA for half a century and hopefully many more years to come.

With gratitude,



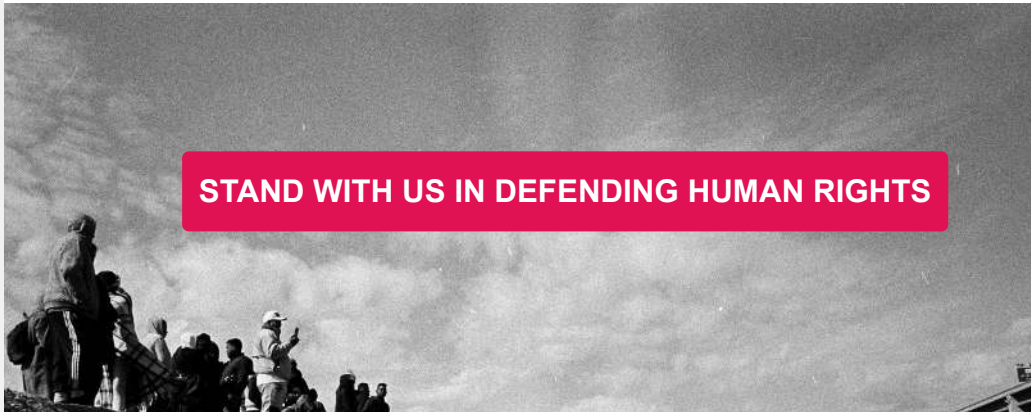
Carolina Jiménez Sandoval
WOLA President

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHILEAN COUP 🇨🇱

- 📰 WOLA Founder, Joe Eldridge, pens a very personal [opinion piece in The Hill](#), about his experience living in Santiago at the time of the coup and witnessing how his neighbors were forcibly disappeared.
- 📰 In this in-depth [NPR feature](#), Joe Eldridge remembers the personal impact the coup had on him, as well as how it galvanized public opinion.
- 📰 Joe Eldridge, speaks in Spanish to [newswire EFE](#) about his direct experience of the coup and WOLA's early days.
- 🎧 WOLA Founder, Joe Eldridge, recalls the violent end to Chilean democracy in this WOLA [podcast](#) recorded ten years ago, which is still relevant today.
- 📰 WOLA Board Member and journalist, John Dinges, speaks about the lasting impact that the Chilean coup had on Latin America in an [interview with The Guardian](#).
- 📰 In a recent [op-ed in El País](#), his excellency, Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés, reflects on the impact that the international community had on Chile. *This article is in Spanish.*
- 📖 Read about WOLA's history [in a short book](#) by WOLA Senior-Fellow, Coletta A. Youngers, written to celebrate WOLA's 30th anniversary. [Download it here.](#)



📍 Senator Tom Harkin, WOLA President, Carolina Jiménez, WOLA Founder, Joe Eldridge, and his excellency, Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés, shortly after a private event in Washington.



UPCOMING EVENTS REFLECTING ON 50 YEARS SINCE THE COUP IN CHILE 🇨🇱

Public Art, Activism, and Historic Memory

Examining culture as a tool for building solidarity and advancing justice on the 50th anniversary of the military coup in Chile

SPEAKERS:

- Francisco Letelier**
Chilean-American artist and writer, creator of Todas Las Manos mural
- Juan Gabriel Valdés**
His Excellency
Chilean ambassador to the U.S.
- E. Ethelbert Miller**
Literary activist, author, poet, and radio host
- Tope Folarin**
Author and IPS Executive Director
- Sarah Anderson**
IPS Global Economy Project Director

Friday, September 22nd • 3:00 - 5:00 PM ET
MLK Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.
In conjunction with the Todas Las Manos mural exhibit at the library, on display Sept. 9 - Oct. 22
Register now: ips-dc.org/chilecoup50th

[LEARN MORE](#)



SAVE THE DATE | WOLA CO-HOSTED EVENT
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 | 11 a.m. - 12:00p.m. EDT
SHERIDAN CIRCLE 23RD ST & MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW
WASHINGTON, DC

SPECIAL SHERIDAN CIRCLE CEREMONY

The Embassy of Chile and the Institute for Policy Studies invite you to attend a special ceremony at Sheridan Circle to mark the 50th anniversary of the military coup that toppled democratically elected President Salvador Allende in 1973. We will celebrate 50 years of international solidarity for democracy and human rights.

The Sheridan Circle is the site of the 1976 assassination of former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier and his Institute for Policy Studies colleague Ronni Karpen Moffitt by agents of the Pinochet dictatorship.



[LEARN MORE](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT






🇨🇱 Last week WOLA hosted a private event for members of the [Partners' Council](#) with Senator Tom Harkin, WOLA President, Carolina Jiménez, WOLA Founder, Joe Eldridge, and his excellency, Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés, as they discussed the personal impact the coup had on their lives as well as their outlook on the region for the future.

[WATCH CLIP OF EVENT](#)

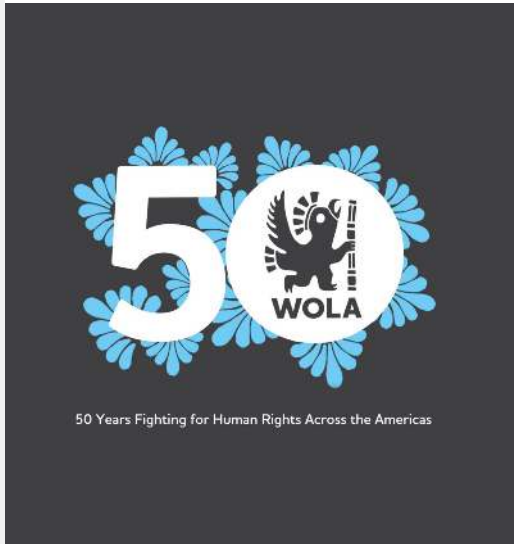


🇨🇱 On March 16, 2023, Carolina Jiménez, WOLA President, and his excellency, Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés, [met](#) to discuss upcoming efforts to commemorate the 50 years of the Chilean coup.

FILMS WE RECOMMEND

-  **The Battle of Chile** (Parts 1, 2 & 3) by Patricio Guzmán (1975)
-  **Missing** by Costa-Gavras (1982)
-  **No** by Pablo Larraín (2012)
-  **1976** by Manuela Martelli (2022)
-  **The Eternal Memory** by Maite Alberdi (2023)

WOLA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY



SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATE WOLA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

WOLA is turning 50! We will host our 50th Anniversary Human Rights Awards and Benefit Gala on:

May 9, 2024
The Hamilton Hotel
Washington, DC

Mark your calendars to honor human rights champions from WOLA's past, present and future.

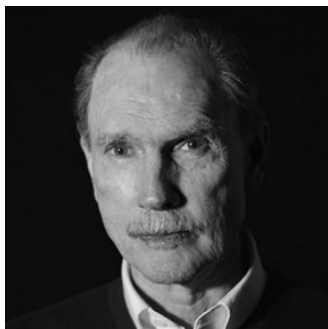
Join us as a Gala sponsor. Partner level sponsors and above will also be invited to an intimate reception on **September 21, 2023 at the Mexican Cultural Institute** to commemorate fifty years since the Chilean coup that led to the founding of WOLA.

The September 2023 reception and the May 2024 Gala will be part of a series of events over the next year to mark WOLA's 50 years of fighting for human rights across the Americas.

www.wola.org/wola-50th-anniversary

In May 2024, WOLA will celebrate its 50 year anniversary and reflect back on the impact that the Chilean coup had on our work. We invite you to join us in celebrating our 50 years!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY](#)



"As my friend John Passacantando said: 'Anger without love is not activism. It is someone who needs to see a therapist.' And that is so true. Indignation is important. But if that is why you are engaged in activism you will burn out. Love will sustain you."

WORDS BY [JOE ELDRIDGE](#)





Copyright © 2023 Washington Office on Latin America, All rights reserved. You are receiving this email because you are signed up to the WOLA mailing list.

WOLA
1666 Connecticut Ave NW
Suite 400, DC 20009
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).