



# WOLA WEEKLY

The Latest on Latin America

Friday, July 14, 2023

(Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

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

July 11 marked two years since the protests in Cuba that led to 1,558 people being arrested. WOLA [commemorated](#) this event and continues to advocate for the release of the 681 Cubans who unjustly remain in jail on charges related to the protests.

Earlier this year, the crackdown on peaceful protests in the fishing town of Caimanera served as yet another stark reminder that the fundamental human right to freedom of expression remains severely limited on the island.

All this is sadly taking place against the backdrop of a grave humanitarian crisis, which the US embargo only exacerbates. WOLA will continue to speak out as both the Cuban and US governments have a role to play in improving the lives of Cuban citizens.

Also this week, WOLA co-signed a [letter](#) urging leaders attending the European Union-CELAC Summit in Brussels next week to discuss the ongoing repression in Nicaragua, as well as human rights violations taking place in other countries around the globe.

In other news, we have continued to [denounce](#) the Guatemalan authorities' attempt to interfere in the electoral process ahead of the presidential runoff set for August 20. The situation is fast evolving. We will keep you informed as best we can.

And finally please Save The Date to celebrate WOLA's 50th Anniversary with us very soon!

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





Best,



**Mariakarla Nodarse**  
Assistant Director for Cuba

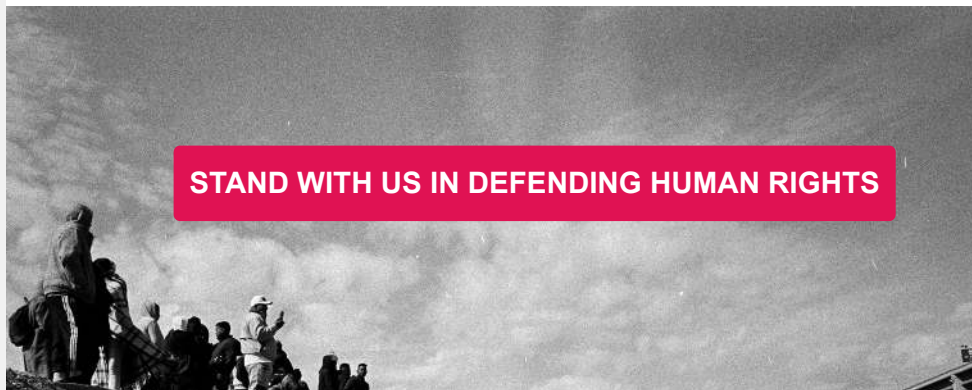
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**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

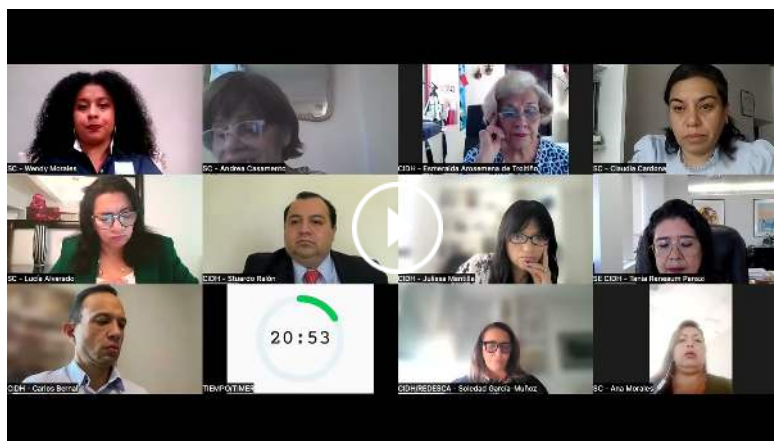
-  This week marks the second anniversary of the July 11 protests in Cuba. WOLA calls on the Cuban government to release all those unjustly incarcerated and respect the right to freedom of expression, assembly, and association. Read more [here](#).
-  On June 25, Guatemala held general elections which had unexpected results. Bernardo Arévalo from Movimiento Semilla is now set to compete against Sandra Torres from UNE in a runoff on August 20. But in a context of democratic backsliding, the situation is uncertain and evolving rapidly. Here are [Five Things to Know About the Guatemalan Elections](#).
-  On July 13, WOLA, alongside eight NGOs, signed on to a [joint statement](#) urging the Guatemalan government to respect the electoral process. *This statement is in Spanish.*
-  Ahead of the upcoming European Union – Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (EU-CELAC) summit, WOLA signed a [joint statement](#) urging the international community to prioritize the human rights situation in Nicaragua.




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### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



-  On July 12, WOLA sponsored an event focused on the "Differentiated Impact of Prison on the Lives of Relatives of Women Deprived of Liberty in the Americas". Watch the full event [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WEEKLY BORDER UPDATE

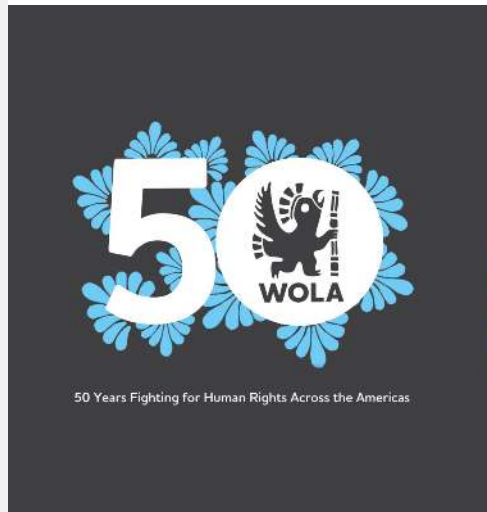


## WOLA Border Oversight

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'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](http://www.wola.org/wola-50th-anniversary)

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

## WOLA IN THE NEWS



**Ana María Méndez Dardón**  
Director for Central America



"With the decision in the electoral tribunal's hands, said Ana María Méndez, the Central America director at the Washington Office on Latin America, 'they have the opportunity to get on the right side of history, vindicate themselves and defend the will of the people.'"

– [New York Times, Guatemala's Election Thrown Into Turmoil After Top Party Is Suspended](#)

"The region as a whole should find a way to adopt measures that make the most of these qualified migrants and the talent that they bring to the table." *This quote is in Spanish.*

– *BBC News*, [TikTok and Title 42 rumours fuel human smuggling at the US border](#)



**Adam Isacson**  
Director for Defense Oversight



**Maureen Meyers**  
Vice President for Programs



"She said her team had observed Mexican immigration officials busing Guatemalans and other migrants back to Guatemala, while transporting others elsewhere in Mexico. 'There is lots of movement of people, and no one has a clear sense of what is going on.'"

– *New York Times*, [Number of Migrants at the Border Plunges as Mexico Helps U.S. to Stem Flow](#)

## JOB OPENING

- 📌 WOLA is looking for its next **Finance and Operations Coordinator**, to make WOLA run smoothly and efficiently for all employees. We are passionate about our work and strive to make our organization a healthy and safe space for all to work and feel appreciated. Learn more [here](#).
- 📌 WOLA's Sally Yudelman Internship Program is looking for its next cohort of interns! Learn how you can join our internship program [here](#).



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